

NATIONAL EYE DONOR MONTH

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, since President Ronald Reagan declared the first celebration in 1983, the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) and its 97 member eye banks have designated March as National Eye Donor Month—an opportunity to honor eye donors and corneal recipients, and increase awareness of the need to donate eyes.

Through corneal transplants, over 1,000,000 people have had their sight restored since the EBAA's inception in 1961. This is precisely why it is so important to educate the general public about the donors and their families who afford life-changing corneal transplantations for over 50,000 people annually.

Of the EBAA's 97 member eye banks, five are located in Pennsylvania, and they have a deep-rooted commitment to restoring sight by providing corneas for sight-saving transplant procedures. In 2010, charitable eye donations made by Pennsylvania residents allowed our state eye banks to provide in excess of 2,900 corneal transplants to help our fellow Pennsylvanians regain their sight, and almost 1,200 corneas for research and educational purposes.

The Pennsylvania eye banks' efforts have not gone unnoticed, changing the lives of thousands of Pennsylvanians through the selfless gifts of donors and their families.

The Center for Organ Recovery & Education in Pittsburgh will soon offer surgeons pre-cut corneal tissue, which will greatly enhance post-operative recovery time for those recipients undergoing Endothelial Keratoplasty.

In Hershey, the Gift of Life Eye Bank educates the public about eye donation and coordinates the recovery and allocation of corneas for transplant. Serving the eastern half of Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware, the Gift of Life Eye Bank also supports research into the causes and cures of blinding eye conditions.

Located in the City of Brotherly Love, the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley recently acquired the latest technological device to prepare donated cornea tissue for the most modern, highly-effective surgical techniques.

For over 52 years, the Lions Eye Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania in Erie has been dedicated to sight restoration. In November 2011, they accomplished a first; procurement of a cornea from a living donor and successful transplantation into a young man from Philadelphia.

Celebrating 55 years of eye banking, the Northeast Pennsylvania Lions Eye Bank in Bethlehem is a charter member of the EBAA, and to date, has placed over 25,000 corneas for transplantation.

Even with the tremendous advancements eye banks have made in corneal transplantation, much remains to be done to offer more people the opportunity to receive life-changing corneal transplants.

I encourage all Americans to register to become eye donors. Inform your family of your wishes; designate yourself as a donor on your driver's license; and register as an eye donor through your state donor registry.

I urge my colleagues to work with their local eye banks and the EBAA to promote the im-

portance of eye donation and its life-enhancing effects on corneal recipients.

During March 2012, let us remember the donors whose gifts of sight make corneal transplants possible, celebrate the corneal recipients whose lives are forever changed and work with the EBAA and its member eye banks to continue restoring sight worldwide through public education and ongoing advancements in corneal transplantation.

A TRIBUTE TO CHARITY STRASZHEIM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Charity Straszheim of Story City for receiving a coveted Fullbright award to study and conduct research abroad this academic year.

The Fullbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. This program is known as America's flagship international exchange program. First established by Congress in 1946, the Fullbright Program has served the purpose of building mutual understanding between American citizens and the rest of the world. Appropriations from the United States Congress, participating foreign governments, and private sector contributions fund the Fullbright Program. The program has exchanged over a quarter of a million people in more than 155 countries, since its inception. Pamela's host country for the 2011–2012 academic year is the Czech Republic.

To receive a Fullbright award is truly a great honor. Recipients of this award must demonstrate significant leadership potential in their chosen field and are selected on the basis of their academic or professional achievement. The experiences provided by this program ensure that tomorrow's leaders are both knowledgeable about the world and well-rounded.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent future leaders like Charity from the great state of Iowa in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating her for receiving this prestigious award. I wish her the best of luck in her studies and future career.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES LENARD MALLON

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the Hon. KAY GRANGER to honor and remember Mr. James L. Mallon, a baseball coaching legend at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. Coach Jim Mallon passed away on Sunday, February 28, 2012 following complications from heart surgery.

After five years with the San Francisco Giants organization and the completion of his Masters degree from Baylor University, Coach Mallon began his collegiate coaching and

teaching career at Southwestern University in 1971. Under his leadership, his teams won multiple championships. Most notably, in 1984, his team finished third in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) World Series. During his 33 years, he had an impressive record of 1,197 wins against 601 losses. In 2005, he received the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from Southwestern University and was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in 1992 and the Hall of Fame at Southwestern University in 2010.

Aside from his successful career, Coach Mallon positively impacted the lives of countless students. Those he coached knew firsthand of his passion for baseball, his caring nature, and the candid yet valuable advice he offered, which guided so many of them through life in the face of difficulties. He was loved, admired, and respected by all who knew him. Indeed, Southwestern University and the baseball community have suffered a great loss. Coach Mallon is survived by his loving wife, Jane; his sons, Jeff and Jarret; and a multitude of friends throughout the State of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, we ask the House of Representatives to join us in mourning the loss of Coach Mallon and in offering his family and friends our sincere condolences. May the peace of God be with those he loved and sustain them through this hour of sorrow.

RECOGNIZING DR. WILLIAM EISENHARDT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON to recognize Dr. William Eisenhardt, President of the California Maritime Academy, as he retires after nearly 46 years of public service and 11 years as President of the Academy.

Dr. Eisenhardt is a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and a 1966 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he earned academic stars in engineering. During the Vietnam War, he served as a naval flight officer, earning the Air Medal and Navy Commendation Medal among other personal and unit decorations. After his active duty service he attended Duke University, where he earned his Masters and Ph.D. degrees while also teaching as a visiting professor.

Before coming to the California Maritime Academy, Dr. Eisenhardt spent 18 years at the Maine Maritime Academy as a faculty member, Commandant, and then Provost. Upon leaving, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of science in recognition of his accomplishments in international maritime education and his service to the Maine Maritime Academy.

Dr. Eisenhardt is a career educator with a lifelong dedication to maritime education. He began his 11 year Presidency at Cal Maritime in July 2001 and his accomplishments are numerous. Under his leadership, the Cal Maritime Academy has increased its exposure to a variety of external audiences. Dr. Eisenhardt's efforts have resulted in Cal Maritime being listed by both U.S. News and World Report and