

own country, let alone stop communism in another but he went willingly because he believed what his country believed. All this came in an insane package at one time and his life was havoc. He went, for his country, and fought, for his country, and died, for his country.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is important to this nation not because of the name or the location but because of the honor and symbolism. Some may think that it is such a trifling way to give thanks to those who gave their lives to this country. It's not the tomb that gives thanks but the people who visit it and the honor one feels as they place a wreath at the foot of the monument because of what it stands for. The people visiting it is more of an honor than any marker could be. Our country is made up of symbols and monuments of freedom and love. The tomb is a symbol of life, not death, because the people who visit it keep the memory, of ones who died, alive.

I believe I should present the wreath at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to honor that young boy 18 to 19 years of age. To honor all the people in situations different or similar as this. They went, for their country, and fought, for their country, and died, for their country. I go, for their honor, and cry, for their honor, and remember, for their honor.

When June rolls around, I will thank that boy. Who is this boy? It doesn't matter who this boy is, if he is from rural America or Urban America, from mountains or sea. It matters not if he was a farmer or an iron worker; He is our nation's son. That boy made me realize what a great country we live in. The USA is not the country because of the land; the people make the country. When I leave, I will pat myself on the back and be proud because of that boy.

TOMB ESSAY

(By Athanasia A. Anagnostou)

Why is it that I'd like to lay a wreath down at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier? Truthfully, I'm not sure. It may possibly be the chill which runs down my spine when I contemplate about how many citizens of America have lost their lives, fighting for what they believe in. Laying a wreath at the Tomb is an important way to commemorate them, no matter how small it may seem.

Even though my parents weren't born here, they came to America for the same reasons as everyone else—to live a better life. America, "The melting pot, land of opportunity" is what it's called. And why? Because we fought to make America into a symbol for all of these things. From the Revolutionary war to Vietnam, soldiers have all lost their lives for the "American Dream." Since I've had family members fighting in American Wars, I've often wondered how they and others summoned up the courage to risk their lives so that things may be better for everyone. I've imagined how crushing it must have been for parents to bid their beloved children farewell when they went off to battle, never to see them again. However, I've also pondered about the amount of lives that inevitably will be lost in the future wars with people still striving to make this country fit for the "Life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness" of its citizens.

So in conclusion, I say that it is not important as to who lays down the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, but that deceased soldiers are commemorated by all of us, even if only in our hearts and minds.

TOMB ESSAY

(By Michael Nickerson, Jr.)

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier represents patriots who fought bravely for this

country and their bodies were never found. It would be a great honor to place the wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This tomb honors the thousands of people, who fought bravely and died to preserve the rights of the next generations, but their bodies were never found or identified.

My father fought in the Vietnam War. This was never declared a war, and many of the soldiers that returned were shunned by their fellow country men, and even their own country. Many of the Vietnam vets didn't receive the same privileges as other war veterans. My dad doesn't talk a lot about the war. I know the memories bother him. He was one of the lucky ones that made it home with only a leg wound. Every now and then he mentions some of his friends that never made it home. It makes it even harder for friends and families when their loved one's are MIA's, POW's, or their bodies have never been identified or returned. The Vietnam Wall and The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier helped heal some of my father's wounds.

I would love the opportunity to place the wreath on the tomb site of these brave and unidentified soldiers. I would be saying good-bye and thank you, not only to my dad's friends, but to all the men and women who died from my freedom. I would also be honoring all the men and the women who fought for this country.

THE MEDICAL DEVICE REGULATORY MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1997

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medical Device Regulatory Modernization Act of 1997, along with my colleague, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO. This legislation will improve and streamline the Food and Drug Administration's [FDA] regulation of medical devices. This is a bipartisan initiative to provide additional resources to the FDA for reviewing innovative devices and modernizing FDA regulation of the device industry.

Currently, the FDA limits choice, access, and opportunities for patients. As the rest of the country moves into the 21st century, we must make sure the FDA moves with us. When the lives of millions of people are hanging in the balance, inefficiency doesn't cut it. For example, if the FDA had approved the drug interleukin-2 as quickly as it had been approved in Europe, the lives of 3,500 kidney cancer patients might have been saved. If the FDA had approved the drug misoprostal, which helps to treat gastric ulcers, up to 15,000 deaths might have been prevented.

The Medical Device Regulatory Modernization Act of 1997 sets forth a formal mission statement to provide reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness and to review devices in a manner that does not unduly impede innovation or product availability. In regards to investigational device exemptions [IDE's], the bill would require that the FDA set clear terms under which doctors could use devices in clinical trials for other compassionate purposes. It will require FDA officials to meet with medical device applicants early in the IDE process to clarify company goals and agency expectations.

This legislation would also allow the FDA to recognize national and international performance standards by publishing them in the Federal Register and allowing companies to self-certify to the standards. Penalties would be levied for falsification of data, and certification data would be available for FDA inspection.

Under our bill, the uses of a device specified by the FDA during clinical trials must be consistent with FDA expectations of uses during the premarket approval [PMA] process, unless the agency determines there could be harm to public health.

The bill also calls for independent review for most class I and II devices, except for permanently implantable or life-sustaining products. This frees FDA resources from reviewing less complex new devices so these products could reach consumers sooner, allowing the FDA to devote more personnel to reviewing cutting-edge technologies and get those devices to the market quicker.

The FDA was formed in 1972 to enforce the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act. Safety was important then and is just as important today. But delay does not mean safety. The current practices of the agency do not enable the FDA to benefit patients and consumers because decisions simply take too long. Congress needs to act, and as a result patients will receive much needed medication and medical devices more quickly.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Members of this body to join Congresswoman ESHOO and I in supporting this important piece of legislation to streamline and improve the Food and Drug Administration's regulation of medical devices.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEW YORK UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding performance of New York University's 1997 National Champion women's basketball team. After compiling an incredible record of 29 wins and 1 loss, New York University went on to a heart-stopping, last-minute victory over Wisconsin-Eau Claire in the Division III National Championship game.

Led by Head Coach Janice Quinn, the winningest coach in New York University's women's basketball history, and team captains Jen Krolikowski and Marsha Harris, the Violets brought N.Y.U. its first basketball national championship ever. Marsha Harris' last-second layup to seal the Violets' come-from-behind victory also brought the city of New York its first basketball national champion in almost 20 years.

The players, coaches, and athletic staff were rewarded for their hard work and dedication with a momentous achievement. The Violets' championship is a great accomplishment for New York University athletics, the university itself, and the entire community. I am proud to have New York University within my district.