

We can see where it has helped there has been sweeping change in the Congo, Liberia, and Kenya. These and other cuts to the African accounts have put our Nation's global leadership role at risk. Today Japan, and the European countries provided more aid and support than the United States has done in the last 2 years combined.

Restore the small amount of money to the African Development Fund. It will ultimately save money and lives. We have a moral responsibility to do so.

This is right for America!

PUTTING CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY
ON PAR WITH INSURANCE COV-
ERAGE FOR OTHER DISEASES

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Substance Abuse Treatment Parity Act, a bill to give alcoholics and drug addicts more access to treatment by prohibiting health insurers from placing discriminatory caps, financial requirements, or other restrictions on treatment that are different from other medical and surgical services.

As a grateful recovering alcoholic, I've seen first hand the value of treatment for people who are chemically dependent. As someone who stays close to recovering people and treatment professionals in Minnesota, I've been alarmed by the dwindling access to treatment for people who need help. That's why I believe it is time to put chemical dependency on par with insurance coverage for other diseases.

Alcoholism and drug addiction are painful, private struggles with staggering public costs. In fact, the direct and indirect costs of alcoholism alone in this country exceed \$90 billion each year. Assuring access to treatment will not only combat this insidious disease—it will save health care dollars in the long run. Treatment helps people stay healthier longer and saves the health care system money.

The empirical evidence supports what I already know as a recovering alcoholic—providing treatment is good preventive medicine.

A Minnesota study to extensively evaluate its treatment programs' effectiveness found that Minnesota saves \$22 million in annual health care costs because of treatment.

A California study reported a 17 percent improvement in health conditions after treatment—and dramatic decreases in hospitalizations.

A Rutgers University study found that untreated alcoholics incur general health care costs that are 100 percent higher. It also found that after treatment, days lost to illness, sickness claims, and hospitalization dropped by half.

A report printed in the 1992 Journal of Mental Health Administration sampled 63,873 hospitalized alcoholics and found medical complications are far more severe among those not treated for alcoholism.

This legislation will help eliminate barriers to treatment—without significantly increasing health care premiums. We have the empirical evidence to support this assertion: A Milliman and Robertson study released today found full

and complete substance abuse treatment parity would increase per capita health insurance premiums by only one half of one percent—without even considering the obvious savings that will result from treatment.

And just like the mental health parity provision of last session, this legislation waives the requirements if premiums increase by more than 1 percent. It also exempts small businesses with fewer than 50 employees.

Mr. Speaker, removing barriers to treatment is a huge step in the right direction. Parity for substance abuse treatment is the right thing to do. It's also the cost-effective thing to do. I urge my colleagues in the House to support this important legislation and look forward to working with all Members in both the House and Senate in passing this bill.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
1998

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2159) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. RODRIQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I want each one of us to ask ourselves:

Can we go back to our districts and justify to our sons and daughters that we have to cut school loans, while at the School of the Americas, we have more than enough money to teach people like Manuel Noriega?

Can we go back to our districts and justify over \$200 million of hard-earned, taxpayer money spent on the School of the Americas, while we tell our senior citizens they must tighten up their belts?

And what do we have to show for our money? We have six dead Jesuit priests, four raped nuns, nine students and their professor murdered, death squads in El Salvador, death squads in Honduras, murder of United States citizens in Guatemala, manuals on how to kidnap and torture. One can go on and on. Can we go back to our places of worship and justify this?

Newspapers from our districts across this country all tell us "it is time to close this school." The San Antonio Express News editorial stated in April, 1995:

The [millions of dollars] a year the U.S. Army School of the Americas costs to operate would be better spent on aid for foreign students at U.S. colleges than at this breeding ground for human rights abusers.

If we do not stand up for this amendment * * * what do we stand for?

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS
COLLELUORI, WINNER OF GENO-
VESE DRUG STORES'S "FLIGHT
OF ACES" CONTEST

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Ward Colleluori, of Centereach, Long Island, the winner of Genovese Drug Stores' Flight of Aces" essay contest. By focusing on the valor of the all-black Tuskegee Airmen fighter unit during World War II, Thomas Colleluori has helped to preserve an important, but little known piece of our American history.

Thomas' research for his essay revealed details of the role that the Tuskegee Airmen had in saving the life of his grandfather, Mario Colleluori, and the other American crewmen aboard a B-24 bomber that was under attack by German fighters during World War II. Those details so moved the 15-year-old student that he has chosen to share his contest award with one of the surviving members of the segregated unit.

On Friday, August 29, when Genovese honored the "Flight of Aces" contest winners by flying them in a formation of historic World War II bombers from Republic Airfield on Long Island, there was more than just a history lesson delivered. Thomas Colleluori, a white Long Island teenager took the opportunity to say "thank you" to George Bing, a black Brooklyn grandfather and surviving member of the Tuskegee Airmen fighter unit that saved his grandfather's life during World War II.

More than 50 years later, with his grandmother Mary Colleluori on hand, Thomas expressed his gratitude to George Bing by inviting him to sit in the position once occupied by his grandfather, during the nostalgic flight aboard one of the last remaining airworthy B-24's.

The purpose of Genovese Drug Stores essay contest was to honor the courage and sacrifices of America's veterans and retired defense workers, while encouraging today's generation of students to discover the historic legacy created by their parents and grandparents. Through his research, Thomas Colleluori learned how the Tuskegee Airmen fought prejudice as often as they did the German Luftwaffe. But it was skill and courage in battle—not the color of their skin—that mattered when his grandfather's bomber came under German fighter attack. Though more than 50 years later, that lesson remains with Thomas and lives on in the words of gratitude expressed in his essay, and in his thanks to George Bing and all Tuskegee Airmen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting Thomas Ward Colleluori for his passionate efforts to preserve the heroic legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. May his and future generations of Americans learn from the invaluable lessons that Thomas discovered about family, duty, and race.

MY GRANDFATHER'S LEGACY OF DUTY

(By Thomas Ward Colleluori)

My name is Thomas Ward Colleluori. I am very proud to be the grandson of two WWII veterans. My Grandpa Mario Colleluori was a Radioman/Waist Gunner on B-24 heavy