

I strongly agree that democracy would not only contribute to regional stability and increased economic development of Vietnam, but also grant sorely-lacking civil liberties and basic freedoms to Vietnamese citizens.

I have the privilege of representing Central Orange County, home to the largest Vietnamese-American population in the United States. Last year, I joined over 2,000 of my constituents to rally in support of human rights and democracy in Vietnam. We marched in protest of the human rights abuses and religious oppression by the current government in Thai Binh and Xuan Loc.

I joined my constituents in sending a strong message to Hanoi—a message that these injustices will not be tolerated—a message that the Vietnamese Government must obey, respect and honor human and religious rights in Vietnam. We must remain strong, vocal, and active on our efforts to bring these human rights abuses to the attention of the international community.

I applaud the efforts of the International Committee for Freedom, and members of the international community, who have come together today to commemorate this important day.

INTERNATIONAL CHRONIC FATIGUE IMMUNE DYSFUNCTION SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

**HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 1998*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of May 12, 1998, as "International Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome (CFIDS) Awareness Day." In doing so, I would like to put a human face to and share the story of an individual in my district who suffers from this illness.

I have met with numerous constituents in my district who are afflicted with CFIDS. Many of these people are waging a valiant battle to bring more public attention and resources to bear on the search for a cure. I would like to recognize in particular the efforts of David Samelman, Marcella Feinsod and the Long Island CFIDS Association, and even Marcella's son, Brandon, who is working in his school to raise public awareness of CFIDS.

Medical professionals have not been able to cure this mysterious ailment. Others do not understand and have often misinterpreted CFIDS as a form of depression. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have been investigating CFIDS for years and unfortunately have yet to find an effective treatment. Numerous studies show that biochemically, endocrinologically, neurologically, neuropsychiatrically, and immunologically CFIDS is a separate and distinct disorder from normal depression. It is heartbreaking to see our parents, neighbors, spouses and children, or anyone suffer through the enduring pain and pervasive weakness of CFIDS, with no remedy currently in sight.

One CFIDS sufferer is George Raisglid of East Setauket, NY. George is a retiree and a Holocaust survivor who in 1987 suddenly took ill during a trip to Israel. After months of tests and experiencing clogged ears, sore throat, in-

somnia, poor tolerance to extreme temperatures and loss of short-term memory, he finally found a doctor who was able to provide treatment for the individual symptoms but knew of no remedy for his general malaise.

George later saw an article in the local newspaper for a support group for CFIDS sufferers, and at the meeting learned that most local physicians, not being familiar with the disease, were unsympathetic to patients' problems. In fact, they often refused to acknowledge that the disease existed. Ten years and thousands of dollars later, George was still ill and had to retire early because of his condition. Today George has good and bad days, and he has expressed to me his sincere desire to increase awareness and funding for CFIDS research to help others like him.

There are an estimated two to three million people in the United States like George Raisglid suffering from CFIDS. In my home area of Eastern Long Island, this cruel disease has stricken a disproportionately high number of people. Experts say an estimated 2,000 cases of CFIDS have been diagnosed throughout Suffolk County. Unfortunately this number may be understated because this disease is often mistaken for a variety of other afflictions.

I am committed to supporting every effort to eradicate this horrible malady, and helping those who suffer its disabling effects. The reality is that doctors and scientists have few answers to this mysterious disease. Though still often treated as depression, researchers have unearthed evidence of subtle abnormalities in the immune systems of CFIDS sufferers. This has led to widely held consensus that Chronic Fatigue is the manifestation of an immune system that has turned on the body that it is supposed to protect.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has assured me that it is also committed to supporting research that will lead to the discovery of the cause of CFIDS. Just as importantly, we must emphasize the need to develop effective methods for diagnosing, treating and preventing this crippling disorder. In Fiscal Year 1987 research for the disease was funded at \$780,000. In FY 1997, CFIDS funding was \$7 million, a ten-fold increase over ten years. While this increase is admirable, it still does not compare with \$26 million spent annually on Parkinson's disease research or \$1 billion spent annually on both cancer and heart disease.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing today as "International Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome Awareness Day." Only through raising recognition of this mysterious ailment can we hope to discover a cure and attain some measure of relief for those who are caught in its exhausting grip.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING CHRISTIN JURY, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

**HON. NICK SMITH**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 1998*

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence

she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Christin Jury, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Christin is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Christin Jury is an exceptional student at Union City High School and possesses an impressive high school record. She has been involved with the National Honor Society. Christin is also involved with the high school band and the student council, S.A.D.D., and is a peer monitor. She is a member of the varsity basketball, volleyball, softball and track teams. Outside of school, Christin has been involved as a community service director, volunteers at a soup kitchen, and plays the piano.

In special tribute, therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Christin Jury for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

SAINT AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH 1858-1998

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 1998*

"The future historian of the Colored Race in America will find interesting and edifying materials for his work in the lives and actions of the important element of Colored Catholics in the Nation's Capital."

*Edmond Mallet, 1882.*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Saint Augustine Catholic Church which is celebrating 140 years in the District of Columbia.

Saint Augustine Parish had its origins in the efforts of free blacks to obtain dignity and education. The founding of the church resulted from the efforts of a number of African-American freed men and women who worked with Father Charles I. White to build a school for black children. From 1858 until 1863, fund raising and hard work among a number of black families contributed the essential elements to found a school by 1863.

A fair held on the grounds of the White House during July, 1865, resulted in additional funds and a lot was purchased on 15th Street between L and M Streets, NW where a school and chapel were constructed. Building efforts continued and with the assistance of every element within the rapidly growing "colored Catholic" community, vigorous efforts were pursued to erect the grand edifice that would be the first Saint Augustine's.

In 1874, materials and labor were donated to build a new church. To raise the estimated \$75,000, members of the church choir gave