

with brush and trees—Tomasi watched a young sergeant named Black gather together several soldiers who spoke German and French, and climb up on a hedgerow waving Red Cross flags.

The men were shouting in three languages that they were a medical team and were trying to bring aid to both American and German soldiers.

Apparently they were successful, and managed to bring wounded from both sides back for medical attention.

"Sgt. Black, after the war, married Shirley Temple," Tomasi laughed.

Tomasi has a lot of stories from the years he served as a surgeon with the 2nd Battalion of the 116th, his regular unit. From the time they sat foot on the deadly beaches of Normandy, all the way to Berlin, Tomasi traveled with the soldiers, offering what medical attention he could.

Tomasi recalled helping a cow give birth, and the time he delivered a human baby girl along the shores of the Elbe river while nearby the crippled city of Berlin finally caved in from the relentless attack of the Russian army.

Six years later, while working in his clinic on Barre Street in Montpelier, Tomasi received a letter from the German woman he helped, and a picture of that young girl.

"Our unit liberated the first town in Germany," Tomasi said with pride, although he couldn't recall the name of the town. "We were all sort of optimistic then."

Tomasi, who was born and raised in Montpelier, attended medical school at the University of Vermont, graduating in 1942.

After a year of internship in Waterbury, Conn., he flew through a quick four weeks of field officer's training, and was soon shipped off to England to prepare for the massive American D-Day invasion.

While in England, Lt. Tomasi trained for the assault along a beach called Slapton Sands, where many Americans got their first taste of war.

"They warned us that German torpedo boats . . . were there. We practiced there anyway," said Tomasi. "Two weeks later, the 4th Battalion practiced there and lost 200 men."

Not long afterward, Tomasi and his company crossed the English channel aboard the ocean liner Thomas Jefferson, and were soon deposited from a landing craft into the cold sea water to half-walk, half-swim into shore. The 29th was one of the first divisions of soldiers to attack the coast.

The captain of Tomasi's company was immediately wounded, and had to be sent back to the ship.

"I was the only officer there," Tomasi recalled. "We landed where we shouldn't have landed. There was a burning building so the Germans couldn't see us, so we all got in fine."

Only when he tried to describe what happened on the beach, did Tomasi run out of words, saying it was impossible to describe it to anyone who had not seen it for themselves.

"There were so many people there that were killed," he said, "It was terrible. We had to stay on the beach and take care of the people."

Tomasi remembers unique events from the war, preferring not to dwell on the horror: He slipped easily into a story of the time he was out at night riding in a jeep driven by a corporal, searching for a missing sergeant.

An American tank lurched up behind them, and a gruff voice boomed out.

"What the hell are you doing out here, don't you know this is no-man's land?"

It was the corporal who told Tomasi the man shouting was General George S. Patton, who told them to return to their unit and promised to find the sergeant himself.

Tomasi remained near Berlin until the end of the war, then returned home to Montpelier, where he set up a practice, raised a family and remained until the present. Tomasi's son, Tim, currently serves on the Montpelier City Council.

He will probably walk, Tomasi said, with members of the American Legion in the annual downtown Barre Memorial Day Parade at 11 a.m., although Memorial Day activities don't stir up any particular emotions for him.

"I just think that it's nice that people take a few minutes to remember," he said.●

SCHOOL SAFETY AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, immediately following the tragedy that occurred at Thurston High School in Springfield, Oregon, Senator WYDEN and I went to the floor of the Senate to express our great sadness and outrage that a community in our state would be subject to such an act of violence. Perhaps what is equally disturbing, is the fact that Oregon is not alone. From Jonesboro to Springfield, the virus of school violence has been indiscriminate.

While we will never forget these tragic events, it is time for us to turn our grief and our anger into action. I believe it is our responsibility as legislators, governors, school officials, law enforcement, parents and students to work together to determine the sources and solutions to this complex problem.

To address this issue, Senator WYDEN and I have introduced legislation, S. 2169, to encourage states to require a holding period for any student who brings a gun to school. If states pass a law requiring the 72-hour detainment of a student who is in possession, or has been in possession, of a firearm at school, they will receive a 25 percent increase in funding for juvenile violence prevention and intervention programs.

As we have learned from recent events, students who bring guns to school are suspended temporarily because communities often lack the personnel and resources to detain them in juvenile justice settings. By providing states that pass laws requiring detainment an increase in funding for prevention programs, schools will have additional resources to address the growing severity of violence and juvenile delinquency. States may use such additional funds for prevention and intervention programs that include professional counseling and detention in local juvenile justice centers.

Mr. President, it has been said that "the foundation of every state is the education of its youth." If we do not fulfill our promise of providing a strong and safe foundation for our students, education will not be possible. I believe this legislation is an important step in building a strong foundation, and I encourage my colleagues to join Senator WYDEN and me in cosponsoring S. 2169.●

MEDICARE HOME HEALTH EQUITY ACT

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to join 16 of my colleagues in cosponsoring S. 1993, the Medicare Home Health Equity Act. I want to commend my colleague from Maine, Senator COLLINS, for taking the lead on this extremely important issue. This legislation will go a long way toward ensuring that seniors in Wisconsin continue to have access to the quality home health services they need, and that home health providers in low-cost States like Wisconsin receive fair and equitable reimbursement for the valuable services they provide.

Mr. President, I have long supported efforts to expand access to home health care. This important long-term care option allows people to stay in their homes longer, where they are often most comfortable, while they receive the skilled medical care they need. Home care empowers people to continue to live independently among their families and friends. It is of added value that in many cases, home care is also more cost-effective than institutional-based care. For those seniors whose medical needs can be met with home-based care in a cost-effective way, we should do everything we can to make sure that they have the choice to continue to stay in their homes and received care through the Medicare home health benefit.

I realize that the Medicare changes Congress made last year in the Balanced Budget Act were necessary in order to help prevent Medicare from going bankrupt. Home health is the fastest growing component of Medicare and it was imperative that we bring costs under control. However, I am deeply concerned that the Interim Payment System created in the BBA will inadvertently penalize those States, like Wisconsin, that have historically done a good job in keeping costs low.

The IPS established in the BBA is based on a technical formula which pays home health agencies the lowest of three measures: (1) actual costs; (2) a per visit limit of 105% of the national median; or (3) a per beneficiary annual limit, derived from a blend of 75% of an agency's costs and 25% regional costs. Without going into the details of this complicated formula, this in effect means that agencies that have done a good job keeping costs and utilization low will be penalized under the IPS. At the same time, those agencies that provided the most visits and spent the most per patient will be rewarded by continuing to receive higher reimbursement levels that the agencies that were more efficient. Although the IPS would reduce reimbursement for everyone, Wisconsin agencies have already been successful in keeping costs low, and there is no fat to trim from their reimbursement.

The proposed IPS would be devastating for home care in Wisconsin and would likely drive many good providers from the Medicare program. Already, I

have heard from Wisconsin agencies who have had to let staff go, limit new patients, and who honestly don't know how they will be able to afford to operate under the IPS. This will severely hurt Wisconsin's seniors, many of whom will now have to enter nursing facilities because far fewer home health services will be available for them.

Mr. President, this was not my intention when I voted for the Balanced Budget Act last year, and I believe that we must now work to make the IPS more equitable for seniors and providers. The Medicare Home Health Equity Act will accomplish this by changing the formula on which IPS is based. The new formula would be based 75 percent on the national average cost per patient in calendar year 1994 (\$3,987) and 25 percent on the regional average cost per patient in calendar year 1995. This change would bring more equity between States and would ensure that low cost States like Wisconsin are not penalized for being efficient. Most importantly, this change will ensure that seniors in Wisconsin continue to have access to the quality home health care services they need and deserve.

Mr. President, I understand that several more of my colleagues are also working on legislation that would bring greater equity to the Interim Payment System. I am cosponsoring this legislation not only because it is good for Wisconsin and other low cost States, but also because it is my hope that by bringing attention to this issue, we can all work together to find a fair solution for all States. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important issue during the remaining months of the 105th Congress.●

RECOGNITION OF CHERYL POEPPING

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, on behalf of all Minnesotans, I would like to congratulate Cheryl Poepping from Cold Spring, Minnesota. Cheryl was recently named the Minnesota state winner in the Citizens Flag Alliance Essay Contest. The topic of her award winning essay is "The American Flag Protection Amendment: A Right of the People . . . the Right Thing to Do."

I am submitting Cheryl's winning essay and ask that it be printed in the RECORD. I agree whole-heartedly with her endorsement of the flag protecting amendment and appreciate the words she chose to convey her message. Cheryl is an outstanding young American, and I am proud to count her among my constituents. Again, I offer my sincere congratulations.

The essay follows:

THE AMERICAN FLAG PROTECTION AMENDMENT: A RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE . . . THE RIGHT THING TO DO

(By Cheryl Poepping)

Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady was quoted as saying, "Neither the ACLU nor the media gave us free speech—our veterans did." For over 200 hundred years Americans had the

right to protect the flag but in the cases of Texas v. Johnson in 1989 and U.S. v. Eichman in 1990 the court ended this power and stated that it was a "First Amendment right of citizens to burn flags in protest." (Goldstein 85). This allowance undermines the very thing that veterans strove for, freedom. Which is why H.J. Res. 54 was introduced by Gerald Solomona. This resolution is a constitutional amendment proposed to prohibit the desecration of the flag (Packard http). To many the flag is not just a symbol but rather representation for all the men who died defending and supporting this country. By allowing this to continue we not only undermine 200 years of history but we also destroy patriotism and respect for the country and our veterans.

The flag is a symbol of patriotism. Sown not only for those living but those who have sacrificed to make this country what it is. The flag is "a beacon of democracy and hope in a world plagued by turmoil and depression (Packard http)." The flag allows people to believe in the country and promotes a level of respect for everything the country stands for. Without patriotism the values of the country will decline. Many feel the greatest tragedy in flag burning is the mutilation of the values it embodies and the disrespect to those who have sacrificed for those values (Brady http). This amendment understands that when someone desecrates the flag, such acts are perceived as attacks on patriotic self sacrifice (Presser http).

If you went to Arlington Cemetery how many men do you think died defending a cause as noble as democracy? The answer is obvious, all of them. They did not die to protect themselves or even the ones they loved, but to protect all future generations and to ensure what this country is based on freedom. These veterans deserve the honor that defending the flag has given them. To these veterans we will be saying with the passage of the flag protection amendment that we will honor them through not allowing the desecration of the symbol they united in defense to protect. Protection of the flag comes directly from the citizens where 80% support the amendment (Presser http) stating that we as citizens feel that "You—the United States—have done a whole lot for us, and therefore we are going to do this for you, we are going to protect you against public indignity. (National Review 75)." Maj. General Patrick Brady stated that, "I hope they (the voters) will have the compassion to defer to those great blood donors to our freedom, those men and women we honor on Veterans Day, many whose final earthy embrace was in the folds of Old Glory." This quote emphasizes the importance of this symbol to our veterans and our country, displaying the need for its protection.

Many oppose the constitutional amendment saying for the first time in history they are limiting the freedoms of Americans. This is not true. It is not a dagger struck out at the first amendment, but rather a indication that popular sovereignty is vital and active in this country. This question demonstrates the struggle over what kind of country we want to be (Presser http). The First Amendment has come to protect many ideals that when it was written it has no intention of protecting. The proposed amendment would merely clarify that the First Amendment never presupposed citizens the right to desecrate the flag (National Review 76). Flag burning is not speech. It is an act that has no association with the first amendment or what it preserves (Brady http). In fact in the 1880's the initial flag protection acts were institutionalized and later in 1984 extended laws were enacted to safeguard our flag from intentional public desecration (Packard http). Let it be understood that

such champions of liberty such as Earl Warren and Hugo Black expressed their opinions that flag desecration was not protected under the First Amendment (Presser http).

Flag desecration is an act that does not represent anything wholesome or respectable about our country. We as citizens of this country now have the opportunity to amend this injustice done to us by the passage of The American Flag Protection Amendment. All responsible citizens should voice the opinion that flag desecration goes against the ideas the United States was conceived to uphold. The First Amendment was never designed to allow these grossly offensive acts to occur. This amendment would uphold the honor bestowed on those that fought for this country. It would allow the loved ones of those who died to know that this country is noble and worth sacrificing their life for. As Stephen B. Presser stated "Disrespect, division, an disunity are not characteristic of a lovable people." With the passage of this amendment we will prove not only to ourselves but also to the world that the United States does not exemplify any of these negative characteristics.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH AN- NIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF ROSEVILLE

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the City of Roseville, Michigan, which is celebrating its 40th birthday on June 20, 1998. Residents of Roseville are justifiably proud of their community's growth throughout the last 40 years.

People have lived in the area known today as Roseville since before Michigan became a state in 1837. In its early years, Roseville was an agricultural area and its people were predominately farmers. In 1836, William Rose was appointed postmaster in the area and he established a permanent office in 1840, which he named the Roseville Post Office in honor of his father, who was a hero of the War of 1812. Thus the area received its name, though Roseville was not officially incorporated as a village until 1926.

From its humble beginnings, Roseville has grown into an increasingly attractive place to live for people moving to the Detroit area. While it had previously been considered a small suburb of Detroit, in the 1950s Roseville's population increased dramatically. In 1950, the population of the village of Roseville was 15,816. By 1960, more than 50,000 people called Roseville home. In