

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

1958, Roseville was incorporated as a city and Arthur Waterman was elected as its first mayor.

In conjunction with a fireworks display, entertainment, and other birthday festivities on June 20, Roseville officials will dedicate a new addition to the city's library, demonstrating that even as they commemorate the past, the people of the City of Roseville are committing themselves to the needs of the future.

Mr. President, I invite my colleagues to join me in offering congratulations and best wishes to the residents of Roseville, Michigan, on this important occasion.●

ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH GRAND BANQUET

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an important event in the State of Michigan. St. George Antiochan Orthodox Church will be holding its Grand Banquet on Saturday, June 20, 1998, at the Troy Marriott Hotel.

This event promises to be the high point of the 1998 Midwest Regional Parish Life Conference, hosted by St. George Church, June 17–21. It will be presided over by Metropolitan Philip Saliba, the Hierarch of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. I want to extend my warmest wishes to everyone at St. George Antiochian Church. The banquet, as well as the 1998 Midwest Regional Parish Life Conference will undoubtedly be very successful.●

HARRISON LIM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHARITY CULTURAL SERVICES CENTER

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today, I would like to call to the attention of the Senate and the nation the exceptional work of Mr. Harrison Lim, founder and executive director of Charity Cultural Services Center in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Harrison Lim immigrated to the United States in 1970. He established the original Charity Cultural Services Center (CCSC) in San Francisco in 1983 and opened a second, San Jose based CCSC in 1991. Drawing from his own experiences and challenges as a newly arrived immigrant, Mr. Lim created CCSC to help speed and ease the transition of newcomers to life in America.

CCSC is the embodiment of Harrison Lim's belief in the importance of community and self-sufficiency. Among the many services CCSC provides are English language instruction, job skills training, counseling and placement, and juvenile outreach. These programs are working. The Center's Employment Training and Placement Program, which trains chefs, bartenders and waiters, boasts a placement rate of over 90 percent. The Center's Families in Transition Program is out in the community every day addressing the needs of at-risk young people through

such things as academic tutoring, counseling, volunteer opportunities, self esteem and confidence building, recreational activities and parental involvement.

Mr. Lim's personal story is one of determination, dedication and triumph. He and his wife and three children left Hong Kong to care for Harrison's ailing mother and begin a new life in California. Although he was a respected teacher and journalist in his native land, he ran into many obstacles upon his arrival to America. He had difficulty with the language and was forced to accept jobs well below his skill and education levels. Tragically, he also encountered people and businesses unwilling to give him a chance to succeed simply because he was new to this country.

But Harrison Lim persevered and has not only succeeded, he has prospered. Appropriately, this prosperity cannot be measured in dollars and cents. To be truly understood, it must be seen in the light of the many thousands of lives he and his Charity Cultural Services Center have made richer over the years.

Twenty-eight years ago Harrison Lim travelled to a country renowned for freedom and opportunity. By pursuing a life and career true to his own values and those of his adopted country, Harrison Lim has made the American Dream a reality for his family and for countless others. He has my utmost respect and admiration.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL (RETIRED) JAMES C. PENNINGTON

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I would like to acknowledge a great American, a wonderful patriot and fellow Georgian, Major General James C. Pennington, United States Army, Retired, and President of the National Association for Uniformed Services. General Pennington died June 5th at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, where he had a speaking engagement addressing the veterans and military health care systems.

General Pennington was born in Rocky Ford, Georgia, and spent most of his life soldiering—first in the military and then in a military association. Entering the armed forces during World War II, he worked his way up through the ranks from private to major general. During his distinguished 37-year military career, he always made taking care of the troops his top priority. He was very proud to defend this great Nation.

General Pennington's fight for soldiers did not cease with his retirement from the military. In fact, it just allowed him to expand the effort on behalf of the National Association for Uniformed Services. He passionately and tirelessly pursued benefits for veterans and the health care promises made to military retirees.

Shortly after I was elected to the United States Senate, General Pen-

nington came to my office to enlist my support on this critical health care issue. This past year, I made military health care my number one legislative priority. In the National Defense Authorization Bill for Fiscal Year 1999, I cosponsored a military health care initiative which seeks to improve the quality and accessibility of health care for our veterans and military retirees. It is because of men like General Pennington that this issue has been brought to the forefront of our attention as legislators. All veterans owe a debt of gratitude to him.

General Pennington's life is testimony to the fact that we still have American heroes. Let us remember him and continue his crusade in fulfilling our commitment to our soldiers.●

HONORING THE OAK LAWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the extraordinary work of nine fifth graders and their teacher from the Oak Lawn Elementary School in Cranston, Rhode Island. On Friday, June 5, these students became the first civilians in the 223-year history of the U.S. Navy to name a naval ship.

In February, the Navy challenged America's school children to name its newest oceanographic survey vessel. Out of 1,600 submissions, the Navy ultimately chose the name proposed by these young Oak Lawn students: the USNS *Bruce C. Heezen*.

Bruce C. Heezen was a pioneer in oceanographic research. During his career, Heezen identified the rift at the center of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, discovered ocean turbidity currents and formulated theories about ocean crust formation. He dedicated his life to exploring the world's oceans, providing future oceanographers with an invaluable knowledge base upon which to build. Heezen died in 1977 while aboard the Navy's nuclear research submersible enroute to further study the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

These fifth graders dedicated tremendous time and energy to this project. Not only did they learn about oceanography, but they also shared their new knowledge with their fellow students at Oak Lawn Elementary. Now, with the naming of this new vessel, the USNS *Bruce C. Heezen*, the work of these outstanding young scholars will enlighten all those who look upon this great ship. I commend Amanda Baillargeon, James Coogan, Meagan Durigan, Stephen Fish, Patricia Gumbley, John Lucier, Sara Piccirilli, Dana Scott, Rebecca Webber. I also want to recognize their teacher, Ms. Marilyn Remick, who has been expanding the minds of students for 28 years.

The USNS *Bruce C. Heezen* is a fine and fitting name for the Navy's newest oceanographic survey vessel. Rhode Islanders and all Americans should be proud that students like those at Oak Lawn Elementary are keeping Heezen's memory alive to inspire future oceanographers. I hope the fifth graders of