

help all of us deal with this unique crisis, without penalizing them for their efforts. With January 1, 2000 fast approaching, more information rather than less—shared sooner rather than later—may be the difference between inconvenience and disaster.

I am pleased to see the Administration has proposed similar legislation to address this issue. It is a worthy effort, although it may fall short in some areas. For example, the Administration bill protects statements that are good-faith mistakes but does not include protection for statements shown to be true. The bill introduced today by myself and Mr. DREIER will protect all Year 2000 disclosure statements, giving companies incentives to provide more information, not less.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we can quickly pass this timely legislation during this Congress, and I look forward to working with the Administration and others on this important issue. Also, I welcome suggestions on how we may improve the legislation introduced today. The Y2K challenge is extensive and the stakes are very high. I believe the legislation we have introduced here today is a critical step in successfully meeting that challenge.

I hope my colleagues will join me and Mr. DREIER in supporting this bill.

**PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERANS
HEALTH CARE AND RESEARCH
ACT OF 1998**

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, for the past seven years, since the Persian Gulf War ended, our veterans have suffered from a myriad of symptoms with no end in sight—dizziness, severe headaches, chest pain, shortness of breath, aching joints and depression, to cite just a few examples of what they are going through.

Seven years ago, when the Persian Gulf War ended, a hearing was held here in Washington to investigate reports that Persian Gulf Veterans were suffering a series of mysterious symptoms. But there were no veterans at the witness table in the Committee room. So in 1992, I held a hearing in Boston to gather testimony from sick veterans who could tell me about their health problems. At that time, sick veterans were being called malingerers or worse, by the Defense Department. People didn't believe they were really sick.

But by early 1993, it was clear that there was a problem. Literally hundreds of veterans were calling my office to report of symptoms ranging from skin rashes and respiratory problems to kidney failure and cancer that they believed were linked to service in the Gulf conflict. The Pentagon continued to deny any link but was forced to take a closer look at the facts once countries that were members of the Persian Gulf Coalition began reporting exposures of their own troops to chemical and biological weapons.

Finally, in April 1996, the CIA released a report showing solid evidence that thousands of chemical weapons had been stored at Khamisiyah and that our troops may have been exposed to those deadly agents after the allied forces bombed the storage facilities.

Now here we are, seven years after the war. We've financed 103 research projects, at a cost of \$49 million dollars, and we've had a presidential panel study the veterans health problems. But DoD and VA have not answered the veterans' questions about what caused them to get sick and when they will get effective treatment.

The veterans are frustrated, and rightly so. They still suffer from a myriad of illnesses like stomach disorders and painful muscles and joints, to name just a few of them. The veterans don't want to hear the argument that their illnesses are caused by stress.

When I talk to the veterans, they tell me they do want to know what caused them to get sick, but they also want research to be done to find effective treatment into exposure to biological and chemical agents. That is what they believe is the key to the problem.

These are brave men and women who answered their country's call at a time of need. They deserve a full accounting of how their service might be linked to these horrible illnesses that have so devastated their family lives and careers.

So based on the discussions I've had with Persian Gulf veterans over these seven years, I am pleased to have participated in negotiations to create a bi-partisan bill, HR 3980, "The Persian Gulf War Veterans Health Care and Research Act of 1998" with Chairman BOB STUMP, Ranking Member LANE EVANS, Health Subcommittee Chairman CLIFF STEARNS, and Health Subcommittee Ranking Member LUIS GUTIERREZ.

I don't believe we have had a focused, coherent federal research strategy. HR 3980 will give the Persian Gulf Veterans confidence that priority is being given to researching their exposure to biological or chemical weapons, and the resulting effects on their health, so that effective treatment can be found and administered, to fight the detrimental effects of this exposure on the veterans' health.

Through this bill, we will ensure priority is given to exposure to biological and chemical weapons by setting up a Public Advisory Committee to advise the Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board on what kind of research to target. I am pleased that members of this Advisory Committee will represent groups that were formed specifically to help Persian Gulf Veterans. Their active participation on the Committee will ensure that adequate, targeted research into exposure to biological and chemical agents will be done.

Physicians at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and at the Pentagon, don't have a training program to become updated on how to administer the latest treatment protocols as they become available from research findings. This is essential, and is badly needed. I am pleased that HR 3980 includes provisions to provide training to physicians at VA and the Pentagon, so they can give the best possible care to our Persian Gulf veterans.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this bill provides a provision I sought to publish treatment protocols on the Internet and in peer-reviewed medical journals because many Persian Gulf veterans receive health care in the private sector. If we publish the research findings, private sector physicians who treat Persian Gulf Veterans will have access to those treatment protocols.

It is my hope that HR 3980, "The Persian Gulf War Veterans Health Care and Research Act of 1998" will restore the veterans' con-

fidence in our government's efforts to make them well again, will give them a fresh start, and will take the needed steps to finally solve the Persian Gulf veterans' health problems.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House of Representatives on August 6, 1998 for rollcall votes 406 to 416. Had I been present, the following is how I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 406 "YEA"; Rollcall No. 407 "NO"; Rollcall No. 408 "NO"; Rollcall No. 409 "NO"; Rollcall No. 410 "NO"; Rollcall No. 411 "AYE"; Rollcall No. 412 "AYE"; Rollcall No. 413 "NO"; Rollcall No. 414 "AYE"; Rollcall No. 415 "AYE"; and Rollcall No. 416 "YEA".

WHITE HOUSE REMARKS OF
OFFICER GERRY FLYNN

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the stirring and insightful remarks of Lowell Police Officer Gerry Flynn at a White House Rose Garden event yesterday, on the importance of preserving and strengthening the Federal Brady Law. Officer Flynn spoke eloquently about the price we pay as a society when guns find their way into the wrong hands and the need to extend the Brady five-day waiting period. I congratulate Officer Flynn for the honor bestowed upon him in being invited to speak at the White House in front of the President, and I congratulate him upon seizing that opportunity to do the entire city of Lowell proud. I am submitting Officer Flynn's White House remarks for the RECORD, so that his words may remain with all of us.

STATEMENT OF LOWELL POLICE OFFICER
GERRY FLYNN AT THE WHITE HOUSE ON THE
BRADY HANDGUN LAW

Good morning. As National Vice-President of the International Brotherhood of Police Officers (IBPO) and President of the Lowell Police Patrolmen's Association, it is truly an honor and a privilege to be here with you this morning. On behalf of those of us in law enforcement, it gives me great pleasure to speak in support of an issue of such enormous importance as "The Brandy Handgun Law."

Robert F. Kennedy once said, "It is a responsibility to put away childish things, to make the possession and use of firearms a matter undertaken only by serious people who will use them with the restraint and maturity that their dangerous nature deserves and demands. For far too long, we have dealt with these deadly weapons as if they were harmless toys. It is past time that we wipe this stain of violence from our land."

Yet, thirty years after his death by a handgun, we are still attempting to wipe the stain of violence from our land—except the stain of violence has now spread into the classrooms occupied by our children.

Today, in every city in this country, there are children in schools with handguns. Children who are exposed to violence on a daily basis, children who feel they need protection more than they need an education. Children who should be enjoying life rather than taking one. "The Brady Handgun Law" provides hope for these children and their families.

For those who say that "The Brady Law" infringes on the rights of the American people to keep and bear arms; ask them what right does any American have to go into "The House of the People" and kill two brave men.

For those who say that "The Brady Law" is too costly to the American taxpayer; ask them what price would they pay to ensure that their families would not have to endure what the families of Capitol Police Officers Jacob J. Chestnut and John Gibson have endured.

For those who say "The Brady Law" is too confining and restricts would-be gun owners; ask them if they believed restrictions are more confining than the one Jim and Sarah Brady deal with on a daily basis.

In closing, I concur with Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL.) when he states, "We cannot allow the gun lobby to override those in law enforcement and endanger American families."

We must continue to have a mandatory waiting period which allows local police departments throughout the country to conduct their own background checks. Currently, over 95% of this nation's law enforcement officers use this system on a voluntary basis because we know the waiting period provision contained in the original "Brady Law" saves lives!

However, this November an amendment sponsored by the NRA, shall mark a change in "The Brady Law's" waiting period. For those of us on the Lowell Police Department this November shall also mark the hollow 20th anniversary of the last Lowell Police Officer killed in the line of duty. He too was killed by a handgun, while responding to an armed robbery at a pharmacy.

So, Mr. President, Members of Congress, on behalf of slain Lowell Police Officer Christos G. Rouses and my two fallen brothers from the Capitol Police, we urge you to support this legislation in order to extend "The Brady Law's" waiting period.

Thank you and God bless the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL
GARMON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, Mr. Paul L. Garmon, of Rockwall, Texas. Many Americans have served their country proudly wearing the numerous uniforms of our great armed forces, and more Americans continue to serve our great nation as civilians. One of these great Americans is retired Lieutenant Paul L. Garmon.

Last fall Mr. Garmon was honored as Fort Hood's Honorary Retiree during its yearly Retiree Day activities in San Antonio, Texas. In his remarks at the retreat ceremony, Mr. Garmon recognized the service that veterans have given to their country but reminded them that they can continue to serve by serving their community—through their local civic

clubs, associations, churches and volunteer organizations.

Mr. Garmon also praised the modern-day army. "Today we have the best equipment that modern technology can produce," he stated. "To man this equipment, we have the best educated, the healthiest, and the most dedicated soldiers that we have ever had. We also have some of the greatest leaders among our general officers that we have had since World War II." He paid tribute to three officers who had a great impact on his military career and his civilian life—Capt. Homer Kiefer (later Major General Kiefer), 2d Lt. Charles Brown (later Lt. General Brown), and Lt. William C. Westmorland (later General and Chief of Staff).

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of and with respect for this great American, Paul Garmon, and let us conclude this session with Mr. Garmon's closing prayer: "I pray that our nation will remain strong and free until the trumpets of the Lord shall sound and time on earth is no more. God bless all of you, and may God bless America."

WISCONSIN UNVEILING OF THE
ORGAN DONATION AWARENESS
POSTAGE STAMP

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, August 14th, the Wisconsin Donor Network, the Wisconsin State Fair, and the United States Postal Service will sponsor the Wisconsin unveiling of a U.S. postage stamp highlighting organ donation awareness. I appreciate this opportunity to share with my colleagues the story of this unique partnership.

The Wisconsin Donor Network is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. The Network's information materials and presentations to community and professional groups send a powerful message about the need for and effectiveness of organ donation, and its multicultural information programs address the distinctive transplant needs and donation concerns of metropolitan Milwaukee's African American, Latino, and Asian communities.

Wisconsinites have answered the call for more organ donors, making an impressive commitment to give the gift of life. I am proud to note that, compared to organ donation promotion efforts by similar organizations nationwide, the Wisconsin Donor Network ranked sixth in 1997, and fourth in 1996.

Our colleague, U.S. Senator MIKE DEWINE, of Ohio, proposed an organ and tissue donation stamp, in 1996. The Postal Service rose to the occasion and produced a beautiful and compelling design previewed last year at a Capitol Hill ceremony by then-Postmaster General Marvin Runyon. I commend the Postal Service for its partnership in this important effort to raise our nation's consciousness concerning the critical importance of organ and tissue donation.

The Wisconsin State Fair has also been a strong supporter of the Wisconsin Donor Network's efforts. The Network's organ and tissue donation awareness booth at last year's State Fair was overwhelmingly successful, reaching thousands of State Fair visitors, and the State

Fair has welcomed the Wisconsin Donor Network back again this year. I can think of no better forum for the stamp's Wisconsin unveiling than this year's State Fair.

Mr. Speaker, the organ donation awareness postage stamp is a powerful symbol. It provides a daily reminder that a simple selfless act can make the difference between life and death for another person. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Wisconsin Donor Network, the Wisconsin State Fair, the United States Postal Service, and Wisconsin donor families and transplant recipients, on the occasion of its issuance.

RECOGNIZING EDWIN J.
KORCZYNSKI FOR HIS VOLUNTEER SERVICE

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the heroic volunteer efforts of a constituent of mine from Chicago, Illinois, Mr. Edwin J. Korczynski.

On September 11, 1997, a fire erupted at an apartment building in the City of Northlake, Illinois, which resulted in severe damage to the structure. Fortunately, a constituent of mine, Edwin J. Korczynski, had spent the entire previous day planning an all-department HAZ/MAT drill, and upon learning about the fire, went to the scene and worked to coordinate volunteer efforts to serve the victims of the fire.

Mr. Korczynski's volunteer efforts were crucial and have been recognized by the City of Northlake, the Polish American Police Association and others as an outstanding example of heroism and public service.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing Mr. Korczynski for his brave and community-oriented actions.

A SALUTE TO MAJ. GEN. PAUL G.
REHKAMP

HON. DAVID MINGE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, I stand to honor Maj. Gen. Paul G. Rehkamp. Recently, General Rehkamp, of Marshall, Minnesota, retired from the Army Reserve after more than 35 years of service to our country.

In 1989, General Rehkamp assumed command of the 88th Army Reserve Command. He chose a new motto for the command: "The Right Place to soldier." These words have followed the command ever since—and they also identify General Rehkamp's career.

While a part of the 88th ARCOM, General Rehkamp was Chief of Staff, and Deputy Commander, before becoming Commander in 1989. He was in command during key events that proved to be profound changes for the Army Reserve. He led units from the 88th Army Reserve Command as they were called to active duty for Desert Shield/Desert Storm. For this and other reasons, General Rehkamp's leadership shined through and allowed the 88th to survive downsizing of the Army Reserve.