

citizens and patients have gained immensely by knowing Dr. Paul Salmen and for that we owe him a debt of gratitude.

IN HONOR OF SISTER PAT MYER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to Sister Pat Myer upon her departure from the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Manhattan for Albany where she will continue her lifelong dedication to helping others.

For decades, Sister Pat has been one of the main rocks of leadership in the East Harlem community, an area that I had the honor to represent as a member of the New York City Council. When a neighborhood crisis arose, Sister Pat, in her quiet and dignified manner, worked to solve the problem. She would peacefully direct a solution to any situation.

Although one would most often find Sister Pat at the Convent of the Sacred Heart on East 91st Street, where she served as a school administrator. One was just as likely to find her out in East Harlem working with the community.

Sister Pat Myer was always at the heart of the important movements in the community, whether it was fighting crime or drugs or simply improving the neighborhood. Among her many endeavors, Sister Pat helped facilitate a Tactical Narcotics Team in the neighborhood, helped to save Metropolitan Hospital from severe cutbacks, fought zoning laws to prevent the destruction of the East Harlem neighborhood, and led the great fight to "Save the Tenements," East Harlem's important affordable housing.

An East Harlem resident since 1976, Sister Pat's active involvement in the community came in many different forms. For five years she served as the chair of the Pleasant Village Block Association. She established a neighborhood watch program and helped to shut down places of ill repute. These efforts earned Sister Pat a Snap Award from the City of New York.

Her community work did not end there. She chaired the Economic Development Committee of Community Board Eleven; she was involved with the Little Sisters of the Assumption Health Center; she worked on the Big Picture Committee, which looked at East Harlem's larger problems; and she became active with the Neighborhood Advisory Committee's Department of Youth and Community Development where she helped to secure federal funding for community projects.

Sister Pat Myer's efforts have made the East Harlem neighborhood a better place to live. The people of Albany should feel blessed to have a woman like Sister Pat in their midst.

I will miss the phone calls I used to receive from Sister Pat whenever she saw a problem arising in the community. She reached out to anyone who needed help and made a difference in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring to your attention the outstanding work of Sister Pat Myer. It has truly been an honor to work with such a dedicated and caring woman over the years. Her unwavering dedication to make her

community a better place will always be felt and appreciated. East Harlem and New York City will greatly miss the special touch of Sister Pat Myer.

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR ALLAN SAXE

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of Arlington, Texas's most civic-minded residents. Professor Allan Saxe was honored Saturday as Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County's Volunteer of the Year. Allan has been delivering meals to the elderly for 20 years, but that is just the beginning of his charitable activities.

Over the years, Allan has selflessly given away hundreds of thousands of dollars to community causes throughout Arlington. Whether it's the Saxe Museum or one of the two baseball fields that bare his name, you can't go far in the Arlington area without coming upon something honoring Allan's good works. There are so many things named after Allan in Arlington that even her says he can't keep track of them all.

Allan has taught political science at the University of Texas at Arlington for many years. He has a strong attachment to the city and adds great color to our community. He is a regular columnist for the Star Telegram, and his opinionated columns often invoke intense responses from readers. Allan is also widely known for giving away much of what he has to charity, including all of a very large inheritance.

This latest honor confirms Allan's status North Texas benefactor, both in terms of his time and money. Allan is simply one of those people that every community wishes they had more of. I am pleased to call him a friend, and am pleased to have him in my Congressional District.

Allan, congratulations on being named Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County's Volunteer of the Year. This is another great honor in a life full of them.

GEORGE L. PLUMLEE WRITES AN ESSAY WORTH READING

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to commend to my colleagues an essay authored by my constituent George L. Plumlee, a senior at Parker High School in Parker, AZ. George was the first place district winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Competition. His essay on the contest theme of "My Service to America" reminds us that our freedoms are not to be taken for granted, and that freedom is something we all must work for each day. Service to America means that we must be personally responsible for the protection and perpetuation of our freedoms that make America strong. Every person can make a contribution in even

the smallest of ways to continue fighting for the freedoms we all enjoy. I commend George's essay to my colleagues attention.

"MY SERVICE TO AMERICA" 1998-99 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

I am very proud and thankful to be an American living in the United States. To me, having the right to be an American should be earned, or at the least, nurtured and contributed to on a constant basis. If we expect our country to remain strong and free, I believe all Americans should contribute some type of service to America. I see "My Service to America" as a daily effort to support the country that I love, and the country that gives back to me all the wonderful gifts it does, such as freedom. Freedom is the most precious thing a man can have. America's freedom has been hard won by the sacrifice of its many veterans, and stays free because they are still there doing their duty, rain or shine, day or night, everyday.

As individual citizens if we do not contribute to our country, I believe it will eventually weaken and not be the strong country it has been for so long. I feel there are many ways I can give "My Service to America". If I cannot serve in the armed forces of our country, there are still many ways to support and contribute to make my America function and stay strong. Through out my first 12 years of school I have been active in not only school activities, but have volunteered many times to serve the community with civic and charitable functions. America is a big country, and has a lot going on, but I believe it all starts with the common citizen living in Little Town, U.S.A. If a person does not bother to vote, they are giving up a right that has been earned in blood and lives. It is apparent in so many countries around the world today what happens, or does not happen when you have the right to vote as a free people. Without the right to vote and decide your own destiny, every part of your daily life is controlled by only one person or a small group of people. If educators do not give their very best in educating our children, we will not have properly prepared citizens to become our educators and leaders of tomorrow. Even mechanics and bus drives are important for the same reasons. What makes our system work is everybody doing their share of supporting our way of life even in the smallest of ways.

When I was younger I did not give much thought to all the freedoms we have in America, and how we got or kept them. I was just a kid running around having fun. Then I remember my dad started telling me how and why we are free, and how so many Americans sacrificed so much for our country. I am being honest when I say I used to get so tired of Dad preaching this to me so many times. But Dad had, and was doing his duty to his country by being a Master Sergeant in the United States Marines, and by passing on to me the values that make America what it is today. I am extremely proud of my dad for many reasons. Today when I see many people not doing their share to support America, it reminds me of when I was a little kid, just running around having fun. All Americans need to be educated and informed on a regular basis why we are free, and what it means to be an American and the responsibilities that entails. I believe my dad has served his country in every possible way. Because of my dad, when I see our flag flying, or hear the National Anthem, my pride and emotions start to swell. When I see our flag flying it is not just a piece of material with a pattern on it. It is the symbol of our country and stands for all the sacrifices made by our veterans to keep us free. In movies or on TV when I see all the white crosses at Arlington National Cemetery, or American

flags on grave markers in common cemeteries, I am reminded of why we are free. Those brave and honored Americans gave the ultimate "See to America".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Monday, April 12, 1999, and Tuesday, April 13, 1999, attending a family funeral, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 78 through 82. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 78, "yes" on rollcall vote 79, "yes" on rollcall 80, "yes" or rollcall 81, and "yes" on rollcall 82.

HONORING HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER VONDA HIGGINS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Houston Police Department Officer Vonda Higgins, who is being honored as the Honorary Chairlady of the Top Ladies of Distinction on April 10, 1999. Officer Higgins is certainly deserving of this honor.

Mr. Speaker, police officers across the country show courage and bravery everyday. Vonda Higgins displayed this courage as an undercover narcotics officer protecting Houstonians from the evils of drugs. For five years she worked in this role to stop criminals from dealing drugs and ruining lives and neighborhoods. Vonda Higgins loved her work and was passionate about her work.

On February 4, 1998, Officer Higgins was working to stop drug dealers from overrunning an area on Bellaire Boulevard where children played, Buddhists worshipped, and families lived. On that day, while trying to apprehend a criminal, Officer Higgins was shot by an assailant. The bullet entered her neck and paralyzed her. She is now in a wheelchair.

Mr. Speaker, Vonda Higgins now faces a new challenge in life. She is facing that challenge with the same dignity, courage, passion, and integrity that she displayed while on the job. She is supported by loving parents and a new dog, "Latin," named after a fellow police officer.

Fortunately, the perpetrator of this despicable act of cowardice was charged and sentenced to 24 years in prison. The effects of Vonda Higgins and the efforts of the Houston Police Department have stopped the scourge of deadly drugs into the area on far west Bellaire Boulevard. Instead of criminals and needles, flags and balloons fly in front of the landscaped entrance of the Arbor Daily Ashford.

Mr. Speaker, Vonda Higgins is an inspiration to all of us working to make this world a better and safer place for our children and our neighbors. We wish her Godspeed as she recovers from this terrible tragedy. We wish her the best and with hard work and determined prayers, we know she will overcome.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE PAUL WILLIAM TANNER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, northwest Indiana lost an outstanding citizen last month. Paul William Tanner, Sr., who devoted his life to our county, passed away on March 10, 1999.

Throughout his life, Mr. Tanner served as an exceptional example of a good American. As a United States Army World War II veteran of the North African campaign against General Rommel, Mr. Tanner demonstrated the enduring qualities of loyalty, honor, devotion, and service to our country.

While serving in the Armed Forces during World War II, he suffered shrapnel wounds and was captured by the Germans. Following his capture, he was forced to march to Tunis, the capital of Tunisia, from where he was flown to Italy, where he remained for about a month. During his stay in Italy, he was fed one small bowl of cabbage daily. From Italy, he was forced to march to various countries, including Austria and Germany. As a prisoner of war, Mr. Tanner was required to work on a farm thrashing barley, and while performing this difficult manual labor, he inhaled thick dust which weakened his lungs. He contracted tuberculosis, which led to a lifelong debilitating battle with bronchitis and emphysema. After gaining his freedom and returning to the United States, Mr. Tanner completed his college education and became a public school teacher. His weakened lungs forced him to take an early retirement and led to his eventual death at the age of 76.

Mr. Speaker and my distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in commending Mr. Paul William Tanner, Sr., for his dedication to this country. His family and friends can be proud of his strong devotion and service to the United States. He will be missed by all who loved him.

H.R. 1285, THE CANCER SCREENING COVERAGE ACT OF 1999

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a very important bipartisan piece of health legislation—H.R. 1285, The Cancer Screening Coverage Act of 1999 (CASCA). This bill was recently introduced by myself and Representative SUE KELLY. It provides coverage for cancer screening to private insurance patients.

Cancer is extremely prevalent in the United States. It is the second leading cause of death in the United States and, according to the Centers for Disease Control, almost half of these deaths are among women. One out of every 4 deaths is from cancer. The American Cancer Society has said that approximately 563,100 Americans will die from this disease this year. That's 1,500 cancer-related deaths per day. Everyone is at risk. Men have a 1 in 2 lifetime risk of developing or dying from can-

cer and women have a 1 in 3 lifetime risk. Those are pretty high odds.

Cancer also costs both individuals and our society a great deal. The National Institutes of Health has estimated that cancer has an annual lost productivity cost due to premature death of \$59 billion.

Since 1990, approximately 5 million people have died from cancer. In this day and age, getting diagnosed with cancer is not necessarily a death sentence. Treatments are being improved every day and the overall survival rate has increased dramatically in the last decade. However, according to the American Cancer Society, treatments are most effective if cancer is caught at an early stage. Early detection has been a particular problem for minorities. Cancers among African Americans are more frequently diagnosed after the cancer has metastasized.

The first step that needs to be taken to reduce the number of cancer related deaths is to increase access to screening exams in the private sector. We have already increased access for those over 65. In 1997, Congress gave Medicare patients many of the same benefits that are included in my bill. Americans under the age of 65 deserve this same benefit.

Cancer screening and early detection offer many benefits. Screening is the search for disease in persons who do not have symptoms or who do not recognize that they have the disease. Early detection can extend life, reduce treatment, and improve cancer patients' quality of life. When conducted regularly by a health care professional, screening examinations can result in the detection of cancers of the breast, colon, rectum, cervix, and prostate at earlier stages, when treatment is most likely to be successful. More than forty percent of all cancer cases occur in these screening-accessible cancer sites.

Another benefit is that screening tools allow for the detection of cancer in its early form, when treatment costs are less expensive. With an increased availability of screening, the economic and social costs of cancer are kept to a minimum. We know that cancer screening and early detection not only improve the chance of survival and quality of life but also save money. For example, patients diagnosed through colon cancer screenings at a cost of \$125-\$300 have a 90% chance of survival. Yet, if a patient is not diagnosed until symptoms are apparent, the chance of survival drops to 8% and care during the remaining 4-5 years of life can cost up to \$100,000. Similarly, the initial cost of treating rectal cancer that is detected early is about \$5,700. This is approximately 75% less than the estimated \$30,000-\$40,000 that it costs to initially treat rectal cancer that is detected further in its development. As a society, we can't afford not to screen.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read into the record a statement by a woman who spoke about her own life saving experience with cancer screening at a press conference I recently held in New York City on this bill. This woman had the most advanced form of pre-invasive cervical cancer. If she had waited only a little longer for her screening, it may have been too late.

"Hi, my name is Theresa Nygard. I am someone who knows first hand the benefit of cancer screening tests. In November 1991, nine months after the birth of my second child,