

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN), the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me this time and commend him for moving so expeditiously on this resolution, and also I want to commend the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) for her incredible work in this area and other areas. I understand she is also very similar, in moving a similar resolution on Crohn's Disease.

Yesterday, in the Nation's capital, we had an amazing function of families across America gathering for the Cancer Research Family Awareness Luncheon. Sam Donaldson was here, himself a cancer survivor. The whole idea behind the luncheon was to honor those who have worked tirelessly to make people aware of what early detection can do to cure it.

My mother is a three-time cancer survivor. In each case, because she caught it early, she was cured with operation rather than chemo or radiation, sort of a miracle. It started in 1960 with breast cancer; in 1980, then lung cancer; and, just recently, with uterine cancer.

The fact that we make people aware of these diseases so that their doctors and moms and dads can spot them when we see them and treat them sooner makes immeasurable difference not only in the care and treatment of these diseases, but very often in life itself. Many cancer survivors were there to tell their stories yesterday about how, because someone took the trouble to talk about these diseases on television, on the radio, on the floor of the House today, somebody paid attention, somebody caught it early, and somebody was better off for it.

Yesterday, for example, a young woman who is an anchor of a San Antonio, Texas television station was honored for the work she did. She discovered she had breast cancer. Instead of hiding the fact, she went on the air with it and actually did a documentary of how she went through treatment, and how they operated on the cancer and how she went through the incredible ordeal of the chemotherapy, losing her hair. She even did an anchor one night, bald, just to show that you can get through these things and you can live and you can survive if you are willing to be brave enough to face these diseases head-on and treat them early and deal with them.

Here, in this case, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) has brought to us a concern of so many families, 50,000 families in America which have someone in their family with tuberous sclerosis. And here is another genetic disease that, if we pay enough attention to it, put a little research money on it, we will find a way to cure it and save an uncounted number of lives not only in America but around the world, and certainly make

life much more comfortable and bearable for those who suffer with that disease today.

Again, I want to congratulate my colleague from New York for her fine work, and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Health (Mr. BILIRAKIS), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), for their excellent cooperation in moving this and similar resolutions forward.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of the concurrent resolution, this Member wishes to add his strong support for H. Con. Res. 25, which expresses the sense of Congress that the Federal Government has a responsibility to raise public awareness of tuberous sclerosis and educate all Americans about the importance of the early detection of, and proper treatment for the disease.

This Member would like to commend the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. TAUZIN], the Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the distinguished gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL], the ranking member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, for bringing this important resolution to the House Floor today. This Member would also like to commend the gentlelady from New York [Mrs. KELLY] for sponsoring H. Con. Res. 25 and for her personal interest in tuberous sclerosis.

Tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) is a genetic disorder characterized by seizures and tumor growth in vital organs such as the brain, heart, kidneys, lungs and skin. Individuals with tuberous sclerosis commonly begin having seizures during the first year of life, and conventional epilepsy therapies often do not control the seizure activity in infants, children or adults. Seizures, as well as brain tumors, contribute to cognitive impairment. As a result, a majority of those afflicted with tuberous sclerosis experience some form of learning disability or behavioral problem, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism or mental retardation.

This Member recently received a letter from his constituents, Mr. and Mrs. Lorenz Niemeyer. The Niemeyer's are the proud grandparents of a 23-month old granddaughter, who was diagnosed with tuberous sclerosis at four weeks of age, having tumors on the brain. The Niemeyer's fear that their granddaughter is severely disabled, both mentally and developmentally.

The toll on the family of a person with tuberous sclerosis is enormous. Care for a tuberous sclerosis patient often requires on-going treatment that involves multiple medical specialists, speech, occupational and other therapists, as well as those skilled in the proper care and educational and emotional development of a medically and mentally disabled individual.

House Concurrent Resolution 25 expresses the sense of the Congress that the Federal Government has a responsibility to raise public awareness of tuberous sclerosis and educate all Americans about the importance of the early detection of, and proper treatment for, tuberous sclerosis. In addition, the resolution urges an increase in funding for research on tuberous sclerosis. Finally, H. Con. Res. 25 urges the National Institutes of Health to take a leadership role and to provide a five-year research plan in the fight against tuberous sclerosis.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, this Member urges his colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 25.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 25, which expresses the sense of Congress regarding tuberous sclerosis. This measure urges increased federal aid for research and calls on the Director of the National Institutes of Health to help develop a five-year research plan for tuberous sclerosis. H. Con. Res. 25 also declares that all Americans should take an active role in the fight against this genetic disorder.

At least two children born each day will be affected with tuberous sclerosis (TS). Nearly one million people worldwide are known to have TS. TS does not discriminate against any race or ethnic group.

According to a report released by the Tuberous Sclerosis Association, preschool children with TS develop intellectual and behavioral problems. The intellectual development varies greatly. Approximately 40% will not have global (affecting all areas of intelligence) intellectual impairments. The remaining may have mild, moderate, or severe mental retardation.

It appears that children under the age of five years with moderate to severe mental retardation will remain mentally retarded to this degree into adulthood.

Problems with behavior are some of the most common difficulties experienced by children with TS. Poor expressive language, poor development of social skills, motor impairments, and hyperactivity or inattention are a few examples.

As this bill prescribes, early intervention is most effective. It has been found that during the first five years of life, developmentally disabled children tend to fall farther and farther behind children their own age who do not have developmental difficulties. These declines in the rate of intellectual development of disabled children and reduce with early intervention.

Mr. Speaker, let us work together to raise awareness of tuberous sclerosis and help children with this disorder to live a normal life. I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 25.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 25, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL HANSEN'S DISEASE PROGRAMS CENTER

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2441) to amend the Public Health Service Act to redesignate a facility as the National Hansen's Disease Programs Center, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2441

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL HANSEN'S DISEASE PROGRAMS CENTER.

(a) REFERENCES IN PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.—Section 320(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247e(a)(1)) is amended by striking “Gillis W. Long Hansen’s Disease Center” and inserting “National Hansen’s Disease Programs Center”.

(b) PUBLIC LAW 105-78.—References in section 211 of Public Law 105-78, and in deeds, agreements, or other documents under such section, to the Gillis W. Long Hansen’s Disease Center shall be deemed to be references to the National Hansen’s Disease Programs Center.

(c) OTHER REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Gillis W. Long Hansen’s Disease Center shall be deemed to be a reference to the National Hansen’s Disease Programs Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2441.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2441, changing the name of the Gillis W. Long Hansen’s Disease Center housing the National Hansen’s Disease Program to The National Hansen’s Disease Programs Center.

This change is necessary to avoid further confusion in mail delivery between the former location of the NHDP and its current location. Mail is often misdirected, delaying important research and legal documents. Name confusion has also delayed critical patient medical information.

NHDP continues to treat some 6,000 people in the United States with Hansen’s disease. Receiving patient medical records is critical to that treatment. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The National Hansen’s Disease Programs in Baton Rouge, Louisiana is the only institution in the U.S. exclusively devoted to the complex infectious disease known as Hansen’s disease. Hansen’s disease can cause nerve damage, resulting in the loss of muscle control and the crippling of the hands and feet.

Fortunately, considerable progress has been made over the last 40 years to treat successfully the majority of Hansen’s disease cases. There are roughly

6,500 cases of this disease in the United States.

In the 105th Congress, the National Hansen’s Disease Programs, located in the Gillis Long Disease Center in Carville, Louisiana was relocated to Baton Rouge. Although the programs moved from Carville to Baton Rouge, they still bear the name Gillis Long Hansen’s Disease Center. Likewise, the Louisiana National Guard in Carville is named the Gillis Long Center.

As a result of these two facilities sharing a name, the National Hansen’s Disease Program has suffered from unnecessary postal delays. This bill clears up confusion and reinforces the unique function of the Baton Rouge facility by renaming it the National Hansen’s Disease Programs Center.

H.R. 2441 is straightforward legislation. It is located in the State of the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN), and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN).

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, again my thanks to the chairman for yielding me this time.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 2441, sponsored by my friend and colleague, the gentleman from the great State of Louisiana (Mr. BAKER).

The National Hansen’s Disease Programs has a long history of excellence, beginning with the humane treatment rather than detention of those with leprosy in the late 1800s, the development of the treatment for leprosy in the 1940s, and the current extension of research to tuberculosis and diabetes. It has been an important part of Louisiana’s great history and this Nation’s great history. Countless lives were changed in what many called the “Miracle of Carville.”

In the 105th Congress, we passed a bill transferring ownership of the Gillis W. Long Hansen’s Disease Center in Carville, Louisiana from the Department of Health and Human Services to the State of Louisiana and moving it to Baton Rouge. The NHDP has continued its fine work in Baton Rouge instead of Carville, but the Carville facility has retained the name the Gillis W. Long Hansen’s Disease Center. As required by law, the new facility in Baton Rouge is also called the Gillis W. Long Hansen’s Disease Center.

You can imagine the confusion. The bill simply straightens out the confusion, to make sure the mail goes to the proper party, and changes the name of the NHDP to the National Hansen’s Programs Center to eliminate that confusion. It has the support, by the way, of our good friend, former Congresswoman Long, who is Gillis’ widow, and a dear friend of ours, and I urge the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER), who is responsible for this legislation.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and wish to express my appreciation to both gentlemen for their courtesies in facilitating such prompt consideration of this important matter.

For those not familiar with the fine institution in Louisiana, in Carville, known as the Gillis W. Long Hansen’s Disease Center, it is in fact a very historic facility which has provided immeasurable service to many people throughout its longstanding history.

It is important that the Congress favorably act on this important name change today, for a very simple but important administrative reason. The National Hansen’s Disease Programs have been relocated from the Carville facility to a new institution at the Summit Hospital within Baton Rouge. However, under the current regulatory provisions, that secondary site must also be designated as the Gillis W. Long Center, therein creating problems for the patients of the new Hansen’s Disease Programs in Baton Rouge.

Even simple matters such as delivery of mail now is necessitated to go through the Carville Academy site, as opposed to going directly to the National Hansen’s Disease Center Programs.

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This name change facilitates that. However, it in no way diminishes the importance of the Gillis W. Long Center, where there has been an extraordinary change over the past several years in the scope and direction of that valuable property.

For well over 100 years, it was the target for treatment and research for Hansen’s disease. But in an act passed by this Congress a few years ago, ownership of the facility was transferred to the State of Louisiana and a youth at-risk education program has been created there. In this brief time since the program’s initiation, the Youth Challenge Program has seen 3,582 students graduate from this new programmatic activity. What is remarkable is the likelihood of these individuals completing their high school education was seriously in question.

After exposure to this fine program, 3,500 students have successfully completed the educational curricula. Twenty-four percent of our graduates have gone on to engage in military service, while another 50 percent have been employed or are in some job training program, while the remaining 20 percent have gone on to higher education pursuits. Some 13 percent have gone on to college.

It is a remarkable program which carries on in the random tradition of Congressman Gillis Long, a tireless servant of the American public, and his spouse, a former Member as well, Cathy Long, who is well aware of this name change.

This programmatic activity is in the highest of American principles. We give nothing away except a chance; and young people from across our great State who are unlikely to be successful in any other endeavor, come here to find renewed hope and opportunity through discipline, education, and job training. It, in fact, is carrying on the mission of the Sisters of Charity who served countless numbers of hopeless social outcasts for many years at the Hansen's Disease Center. They too have signed on to the program at Carville Academy, seeing the hope and vision that this opportunity creates for the innumerable graduates of this fine program.

To both chairmen, I ask that the House do concur in this recommendation.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2441.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING MAUREEN REAGAN ON THE OCCASION OF HER DEATH AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO HER FAMILY

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 60) honoring Maureen Reagan on the occasion of her death and expressing condolences to her family, including her husband Dennis Revell and her daughter Rita Revell, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. J. RES. 60

Whereas the Congress is greatly saddened by the tragic death of Maureen Reagan on August 8, 2001;

Whereas Maureen Reagan's love of life and countless contributions to family and the Nation serve as an inspiration to millions;

Whereas Maureen Reagan was a remarkable advocate for a number of causes and had many passions, the greatest being her dedication to addressing the scourge of Alzheimer's disease;

Whereas in 1994 when former President Ronald Reagan announced that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, Maureen Reagan joined her father and Nancy Reagan in the fight against Alzheimer's disease and became a national spokesperson for the Alzheimer's Association;

Whereas Maureen Reagan served as a tireless advocate to raise public awareness about Alzheimer's disease, support care givers, and substantially increase the Nation's commitment to research on Alzheimer's disease;

Whereas Maureen Reagan helped inspire the Congress to increase Federal research funding for Alzheimer's disease by amounts proportionate to increases in research funding for other major diseases;

Whereas Maureen Reagan went far beyond merely lending her name to the work of the

Alzheimer's Association: she was a hands-on activist on the association's board of directors, a masterful fund-raiser, a forceful advocate, and a selfless and constant traveler to anywhere and everywhere Alzheimer's advocates needed help;

Whereas at every stop she made and every event she attended in her efforts to eradicate Alzheimer's disease through research, Maureen Reagan emphasized that researchers are in a "race against time before Alzheimer's reaches epidemic levels" with the aging of the Baby Boomers;

Whereas Maureen Reagan stated before the Congress in 2000 that "14 million Baby Boomers are living with a death sentence of Alzheimer's today";

Whereas despite her declining health, Maureen Reagan never decreased her efforts in her battle to eliminate Alzheimer's disease;

Whereas during the last six months of her life, from her hospital bed and home, Maureen Reagan urged the Congress to increase funding for Alzheimer's disease research at the National Institutes of Health;

Whereas Maureen Reagan said, "The best scientific minds have been brought into the race against Alzheimer's, a solid infrastructure is in place, and the path for further investigations is clear. What's missing is the money, especially the Federal investment, to keep up the pace."; and

Whereas Maureen Reagan's remarkable advocacy for the millions affected and afflicted by Alzheimer's disease will forever serve as an inspiration to continue and ultimately win the battle against the illness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress, on the occasion of the tragic and untimely death of Maureen Reagan—

(1) recognizes Maureen Reagan as one of the Nation's most beloved and forceful champions for action to cure Alzheimer's disease and treat those suffering from the illness; and

(2) expresses deep and heartfelt condolences to the family of Maureen Reagan, including her husband Dennis Revell and her daughter Rita Revell.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the joint resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.J. Res. 60 honoring Maureen Reagan. I would like to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) for sponsoring this resolution. Maureen Reagan was once described by one of her critics as one who was "not schooled in the ways of holding her tongue." Thank goodness she was not

because we are all better off as a result of her powerful words.

Her desire to contribute to our Nation started at a young age when in 1952 she knocked on doors for Dwight Eisenhower. That early enthusiasm stretched into her adult life. She promoted American businesses abroad in the early 1980s, represented the United States at the U.N. Decade for Women Conference in 1985, and chaired the Republican National Committee as well as the Republican Women's Political Action League.

More than all of this impressive and important work, however, what stands out most as an inspiration to millions of Americans is her tireless dedication to addressing the plague of Alzheimer's disease. The chairman of the Alzheimer's Association board of directors called her the Joan of Arc of Alzheimer's. Anyone whose life has been touched or will be touched by the disease owes her a debt of gratitude. Even at the end of her life she disregarded her own failing health in order to educate people about Alzheimer's and speak in favor of increased funding for research. As Ms. Reagan said, "We are in a race against time before Alzheimer's reaches epidemic levels."

Today, 4 million people are living with Alzheimer's; and this number will grow as the baby boomer population ages. Research is essential to a cure for Alzheimer's, and funding is essential to research. The experts are gaining ground, and the course for future science is clear. Before this disease puts an incredible strain on our Nation's public health system, we must take the initiative, Maureen Reagan's initiative, and confront this scourge with a commitment to finding a remedy.

Mr. Speaker, the Secret Service agents who guarded Maureen Reagan in life and who carried her casket at her funeral had given her the code name "Radiant." I believe there is not a more fitting description of her life, her work and her memory. Mr. Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting H.J. Res. 60 in honoring Maureen Reagan, her work and her courageous spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), for his work on this resolution, H.J. Res. 60, recognizing Maureen Reagan as one of the country's most effective advocates on behalf of Alzheimer's disease and expresses the House condolences to her family.

Maureen Reagan is the daughter of former President Ronald Reagan and his first wife, actress Jane Wyman. She died in August of this year after a courageous 5-year battle with malignant melanoma. She was 60 at the time. Since her father's diagnosis of Alzheimer's in 1994, Maureen Reagan was