

I commend Breann's parents for making a decision that allowed John to live. I am grateful to Breann for her gift to John. We need more heroes like Breann. With awareness about organ and tissue donation, more organ transplants can save and enhance lives.

Join me in bringing awareness to National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week, April 21–27, 2002.

IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CUTS BY THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION IN THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION'S (CDC) CHRONIC DISEASE PROGRAMS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the House to increase funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) chronic disease programs including the CDC's diabetes control program. The diabetes control program has been successfully implemented in 16 states and we must continue to build on this success by assuring its implementation in all 50 states. Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that by 2010, it is estimated that over 10 percent of the population will have diabetes. In addition, current data suggest that diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death for Americans living along the U.S.-Mexico border and the third leading cause of death for Mexicans living on the other side of the border. It is estimated that nearly 30 percent of residents along the U.S.-Mexico border have diabetes and that one third don't even know they have the disease. Prevention of diabetes and its deadly complications are keys to fighting this horrible disease.

Chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and arthritis are the leading cause of death in the United States, killing seven out of ten Americans. The costs of chronic diseases are staggering, with more than 70 percent of health care expenditures in the United States going to combat or treat chronic diseases. By 2020, it is estimated that \$1 trillion, or 80 percent of health expenditures, will be spent on chronic diseases.

Unfortunately, President Bush's budget calls for a \$175 million cut in the CDC's chronic disease budget. With cuts of these magnitudes, the CDC will not have the resources it needs to combat the pending diabetes epidemic. I urge my colleagues to support a \$350 million increase in the CDC's chronic disease budget and to send a clear message that combating diseases such as diabetes must remain a national priority.

HONORING JOE SESTO

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen, Mr. Joe Sesto, upon the celebration of his

90th birthday. Mr. Sesto has been an extraordinary asset to the City of Santa Maria, California, as well as to Vandenberg Air Force Base, since he arrived on the Central Coast in 1950.

Even at the age of 90, it is difficult to find anyone who is as active in the community as Mr. Sesto. He continues to serve on several community boards, and at a recent Santa Maria Chamber of Commerce annual meeting, was dubbed "Mr. Santa Maria." Mr. Sesto received the Golden Medallion Award for being the Chairman of the Local American Heart Association, and was the President of the Santa Maria Chamber of Commerce in 1954. He has also been the Chairman for the Ways and Means Committee for the Construction of the Marian Medical Center, which is the primary hospital in Santa Maria. Mr. Sesto has served on the County Grand Jury, the County Arts Commission, the County Health Commission, and the City of Santa Maria Planning Commission. He was the Chairman for the Development of the Cultural Facilities, Chairman for the Bond Drive to Build Hancock College Performing Arts Theater and past President of the Robert Goddard Chapter of the Air Force Association.

Mr. Sesto is also the Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee and has served as liaison to Vandenberg Air Force Base since its inception in 1957. He has received national, state and local awards for his Air Force Association activities, including the highest civilian award given by the Air Force, "The Exceptional Service Award." In 1990, Mr. Sesto was named the Honorary Missileer at the Missile Competition, and the base auditorium was named The Sesto Auditorium in 1986.

Joe Sesto has shared his glorious sense of humor and generous heart with his fellow central coast neighbors for many, many years. He and his wife Philomene, who have been married for 67 years, can only be described as true pillars of the Santa Maria Valley. I am blessed to know this wonderful individual, and urge my colleagues to join me in wishing him birthday greetings on this joyous occasion.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF
PHILLIP AMBRIS SUSTAITA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to the memory of Phillip Ambris Sustaita, the loving father of my friend, Luisa Sustaita. It is with much sadness that I inform my colleagues of the passing of a great individual, a man who filled our world and the lives of those around him with love, compassion and family values.

Luisa's father, Phillip, was born on May 10, 1921 in Denver, Colorado, and passed away on March 17, 2002 at the age of 80. Phillip Sustaita bravely served his country during World War II as a member of the United States Navy. Afterwards, Mr. Sustaita began a 40-year career as a Stationary Engineer with National Ice and Cold Storage. He lived in Sacramento, California for 60 years.

Phillip Ambris Sustaita was a hardworking man and pioneer who raised his family with love especially his daughter Luisa who was

very special to him. Luisa and her father shared a very close relationship. Throughout Luisa's life her father was a constant source of love and support. He was a father, mentor and best friend to her. Luisa will long remember the wonderful things he brought to her family and to the lives that he touched. Phillip was and remains a tremendous figure in the thoughts and memories of his loved ones. His loss will be felt most deeply.

They say a man is measured by the lives he touches. Through the Grace of God he Phillip Ambris Sustaita touched many lives. Phillip was widely admired by family, friends and colleagues. He was hard working, dedicated, committed, disciplined, loving and supporting. He was everything one would want in a father, husband, and grandfather. He demonstrated his commitment to marriage and his family he provided love and ongoing support to his children, grandchildren and played an active role in raising them. He was a strong person, the backbone to his family. He possessed honesty, strength, leadership and courage. He was considered a true friend in every sense of the word. Luisa's mother, brothers and sisters and numerous nieces and nephews, join her in mourning the loss of their father.

And so Mr. Speaker, I submit this loving memorial and join with all of those whom he loved in extending my prayers along with Barbara to Luisa and hope that she may find peace and comfort during this time of sorrow. Phillip Ambris Sustaita leaves his legacy in the heart of his beloved daughter, Luisa Sustaita, and all those who knew him.

IN HONOR OF MR. THOMAS A. CRAIGG, JR., SERGEANT, USMC RETIRED

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to stand before you and my colleagues today as I talk to you about a man who, in accordance with his great service to our nation, will receive two honors that have been years in coming.

In 1940, Mr. Thomas Craigg enlisted in the Marine Corps. When War broke out in 1941, Private First Class Thomas Craigg was on the Philippine Island of Luzon and Marines were under Army command distributed along the Bataan Peninsula.

On the morning of February 24, 1942, "the Commanding Officer of Charlie Battery, mounted a patrol of 75 Marines and Sailors to investigate an enemy Japanese force. The patrol encountered an enemy, which was far superior in number and well equipped troops with heavy machine guns and supporting mortars. The Commanding Officer dispatched a runner to the nearest antiaircraft battery for reinforcements with instructions for the gun captain to report to the commanding officer's position on the bluff overlooking Lapiay Point. Private First Class Craigg arrived with his 13-man squad and engaged two enemy gun emplacements, which had the main body pinned down and were dropping mortar and howitzer rounds among the patrol. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Private First Class Craigg repeatedly exposed himself to

enemy fire providing clear and concise guidance to his squad and effectively eliminated one gun position. He laid down covering fire, which enabled the patrol to disengage from the main enemy force and withdraw to another position."

Following Private First Class Craigg's heroic actions, his Commanding Officer informed him that he was going to officially recommend him for the Silver Star Medal. Unfortunately, Mr. Craigg's Commanding Officer was killed in action before this recommendation could be made. Thankfully, Mr. Speaker, while Mr. Craigg's Commanding Officer could no longer retell the story of his courageous actions that Day in 1942, others never forgot what he did, and as a result, I am proud to say that on March 30th, Mr. Craigg will be awarded the Silver Star Medal for "extraordinary heroism in the face of extreme danger."

Amazingly enough Mr. Speaker, Mr. Craigg's story does not end here. Shortly after this battle, Private First Class Craigg would be captured by Japanese forces on the Bataan Peninsula only to escape a short time later and make his way via boat to the island of Corregidor where he would engage the enemy in battle once again.

After 28 days of further fighting however, the Marines and Sailors on Corregidor were ordered to surrender and they were taken back to Bataan where Private First Class Craigg would survive the infamous Bataan death march. Mr. Craigg was eventually sent on a brutal trip to Japan where he would spend more than two years working in coal mines while enduring severe starvation and beatings. As a result of the beatings he received, Mr. Craigg will also be receiving his third award of the Purple Heart on March 30th.

Despite his traumatic experience as a prisoner of war, Mr. Craigg returned to the ranks and participated in the historic American invasion at Inchon, Korea with the 7th Marine Regiment. In October of 1963, Mr. Craigg retired from the United States Marines Corps with the rank of Gunnery Sergeant.

After his retirement, Mr. Craigg's passion for the armed service did not wane. He became very involved in his local chapter of the Disabled American Veterans and from 1981-1983 served as State Commander.

Though born in Arkansas, Mr. Craigg made the wise decision of marrying a North Carolinian, the late Anne Toler. The Craigg family also includes 5 children: Beverly, Joan, David, Carroll Wayne and Thomas III. Mr. Craigg now resides in Jacksonville, which is also fittingly the home of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

There are few words to aptly praise the courage, sacrifice, and heart it takes to serve his country the way Mr. Craigg did during his twenty-two years in the United States Marine Corps. As an American, I am deeply grateful for the sacrifices made all those years ago. As a man, I am awed by Mr. Craigg's dedication to his community, his country, and, of course, his family. And as a United States Congressman, I am humbled by the privilege of being allowed the opportunity to share the accomplishments of Gunnery Sergeant Thomas A. Craigg, Jr.

We salute you, Mr. Craigg. Your most recent awards have been a long time in coming, but it is well deserved. God Bless you!

TAXPAYER PROTECTION AND IRS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my concern with H.R. 3991, the Taxpayer Protection and IRS Accountability Act, because of the "527" provision hidden inside of it. This provision is a feeble attempt by the GOP leadership to gut campaign finance reform by attaching a controversial provision to a popular and passable taxpayer protection bill.

The "527" provision would have opened a loophole in the recently passed campaign finance bill by permitting thousands of dollars of campaign contributions to escape public disclosure. The problem lies in the bill's provisions to exempt state and local 527s from Federal reporting as long as they are required to report "substantially similar" information at the state level. My problem with that is who would be the judge of what "substantially similar" means? The bill makes it easier for federal candidates and party officials to solicit funds and coordinate campaigns with 527s. The bottom line is that this provision would make it extremely difficult to track these groups and their activities.

I want a real solution that would ease the federal filing requirements while closing all loopholes. I cannot allow all of our progress made from passing the campaign finance bill to be underscored by voting for a bill with a poison pill inserted into it. The amount of hard work and support put into the campaign finance reform bill cannot be allowed to be undone by passing H.R. 3991.

A TOWN MEETING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to inform you about a very important and exciting Town Meeting for Young People that I held at the University of Vermont on Monday, April 8, 2002. This meeting brought young people together from all over the state of Vermont to discuss some of the most pressing issues facing our country. Fifteen high schools and youth organizations and about 100 students attended this all day event and provided some excellent and well-researched testimony that I intend, at a later date, to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I want to thank UVM President Edward Colodny for welcoming the students to UVM, and I want to thank the University for their hospitality. I also want to thank Professor Huck Gutman for spending the entire day with the students and me and doing an excellent job in flushing out their ideas.

Let me at this time mention to you who was at the event and some of the topics that they addressed. Let me also suggest that other Members might be interested in putting on similar events in their congressional districts.

The young people of this country have a lot to say, and I think that it's important for members of Congress to listen to them.

Following are the names of the students who participated in the Town Meeting and their schools or youth organizations: Jessica Walters and Falinda Hough from the Lund Family Center discussed problems relating to Teenage Drinking; Dan Hill from YouthBuild Burlington discussed Affordable Housing issues; Becca Van Hrn, Eli Brannon and Sam Parker from Proctor High School talked about "Free Trade not being Fair Trade"; Lee Goldsmith, Greg Howard and Robby Short from Mt. Anthony High School spoke about Student ID cards; Ruth Blake from Straight Talk Vermont talked about the Teen Expressions Dance Company; Troy Ault, Reid Garrow, Stefanie Gray, Danielle Harvey and Andrea Shahan from Straight Talk Vermont discussed the Problem of Child Labor, Erica Hollner, Katie Kervorkian, Kerry McIntosh and Bethany Wallace from Mt. Anthony High School talked about being pen pals with students in Pakistan; Matt Alden from the Craftsbury School spoke about Underage Drinking; Candace Crosby, Kim Dickenson, Katie Lanigan and Gladys Wong from Spaulding High School discussed the issue of Inadequate Financial Aid for College; Steph Bernath, Nicolette Baron, Alan Blackman and Halie Paradee from Lamoille High School talked about the rights of Abenaki Indians in Vermont; Marcia Lo Monoco, Sarah Kunz, Delia Kipp and Colin Robinson from Brattleboro High School talked about CLEA-Child Labor Education Action and their trip to Guatemala; Joseph Ferris from Rutland High School talked about the importance of Amtrak; Sean Fontaine, James Nichols and Krystal Turnbaugh from YouthBuild Burlington discussed issues related to Juvenile Justice; Katie Blanchard, Cady Merrill, Jesse Butler and Stephanie Horvath from Rutland High School talked about the issue of Abortion and parental involvement; Kelly Green from Craftsbury School talked about the Cost of College and the Burden of Debt; Peter Hicks, Kristy Lamb, Brittany Hickman, Evan Worth and Nick Smith from Lamoille High School discussed Education Reform; Travis Buck from Mt. Abraham High School talked about Genetically Modified Foods; Elizabeth Echeverria and Damon Rooney from Craftsbury School spoke about Labor Exploitation; Jessica Predom and Autumn Rozon from the Boys & Girls Club of Vergennes discussed Teen Image issues; Daniel A. May from Rutland High School talked about Student Representation on School Boards; Amy Canton, Shana Griffin, Ashley St. John and Jamie Walbridge from Spaulding High School discussed Graduated License issues; Megan Sullivan, Matt O'Brien, Rebecca Emmons, Alex McKenzie and Carson Gazely from Harwood High School talked about educational funding and Other Peoples Children-National Act 60;

Heidi Neil and Martha Mack from Mt. Abraham High School addressed the issue of Teen Smoking; Keith Blow, Jessica Davis, Jessica Oakes, Shirlaine Miller and Ruhin Yuridulla from Spaulding High School talked about their concern regarding Income Taxes for Student Workers; Chastity Norris and Kim Lunna from Mt. Abraham High School gave their views on the need for a National Civil Unions; Amy Downs and Anissa Coward from YouthBuild Burlington talked about Affordable Childcare; Lindy Stetson from Mt. Abraham High School