

nation more perfect in its realization of our founding principles. We are still the shining beacon of hope and liberty for every nation in the world and every man, woman, and child on this planet.

Finally, we must always remember that in our 226 year history, America has prevailed over many more powerful enemies than the ones we face today. It took the lives and sacrifices of countless numbers of Americans. It took money. It took time. It took patience. And it took perseverance. But we prevailed. Make no mistake about it, my fellow Americans, America will prevail again today.

God bless you, my friends, and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNITION OF GAREN AND SHARI STAGLIN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Garen and Shari Staglin for their many contributions to the mental health community. As founders of Napa Valley's Music Festival for Mental Health, they have raised community and regional awareness about the importance of mental health services, as well as millions of dollars for mental health research and treatment programs.

Approximately one in five Americans are affected by some form of mental illness. Underfunded research programs and professional shortages, however, mean that those who are suffering from mental diseases and disorders cannot always get the treatment they need.

As long-standing supporters of the mental health community, Garen and Shari Staglin saw this unmet need and made a personal commitment to support programs that research and treat mental illness. Garen and Shari actively work as both fundraisers, and educators, increasing community and national knowledge of mental disease as well as generating the funding that allows substantial progress in research and treatment.

Through the Music Festival for Mental Health, Garen, Shari, their family and their supporters have raised over \$8.6 million since 1995. Funds have been donated to a variety of mental health research and treatment programs including those focusing on brain disorders, schizophrenia, depression and bipolar disorders.

Garen and Shari have made a critical difference—but they have done so in the shadows. Not seeking any personal recognition for their efforts, they have advocated tirelessly on behalf of suffering people who may have never heard their name. They are not seeking fame or credit or even thanks; they would much prefer the spotlight to shine on the mental health community.

Desired or not, recognition is sincerely deserved. Garen and Shari's efforts have funded treatment programs, as well as the research that generates the medicines upon which many of those treatments are based. They have improved the lives of countless individuals, and they have done so with a quiet compassion and a singular focus that has prompted the involvement of their family, their friends and their community in their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Garen and Shari Staglin. I congratulate them on the phenomenal success of the Music Festival for Mental Health and I join the mental health community in thanking them for their outstanding efforts on behalf of mental illness.

PANCREATIC ISLET CELL TRANSPLANTATION ACT OF 2002

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2002

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus I am pleased to introduce the Pancreatic Islet Cell Transplantation Act of 2002.

I know first-hand about the difficulty involved in managing this disease, as my daughter was diagnosed with diabetes when she was six. I have hope in the rapid pace of research in this area and believe that one day soon there will be a cure for my daughter and the millions of Americans with diabetes. The legislation we are introducing today is an important step toward this goal.

It is a promising time for research on diabetes, and those suffering from the disease and their families are filled with hope. One of the most exciting recent advances, and the focus of this legislation, is pancreatic islet cell transplantation. Many have hailed the breakthrough in this area as the most important advance in diabetes research since the discovery of insulin in 1921.

In 2000, researchers in Edmonton, Canada were successful in isolating islets from donor pancreases and transplanting those cells into a person with diabetes through an injection. These injected islets then begin to function and produce insulin, and this procedure appears to offer the most immediate cure for diabetes. This procedure has become known as the Edmonton Protocol and of the approximately 100 patients who have been transplanted using variations of this protocol, nearly 80 percent remain insulin independent beyond two years. The research is moving forward quickly, and researchers around the world are trying to replicate and expand on this success and make it appropriate for children. As of January 2002, there were 68 islet transplantation centers around the world.

I am proud that exciting advances are underway in the state of Washington. Recently, a clinical research team at the JDRF Center for Human Islet Transplantation in Seattle has performed the first three human islet transplants in the Northwest. All of these individuals were suffering the effects of advanced diabetes complications prior to receiving the transplant, and all three have now achieved critical post-transplant success in the management of their blood sugar levels. I am heartened to know that the Seattle program plans to continue their research in the future.

The Pancreatic Islet Cell Transplantation Act of 2002 contains three provisions that I believe will help to move this research forward. The first section of the bill provides a regulatory incentive to organ procurement organizations (OPOs) to procure additional pancreases. One of the major challenges in promoting research on and transplantation of islet cells is the shortage of pancreases. Approximately 2,000

pancreases are donated each year, and only approximately 500 of those donated are available for use in islet cell transplants. Clearly, this is not nearly a large enough supply considering that millions of Americans have diabetes. Currently, OPOs do not receive credit from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), towards their certification, for pancreases retrieved and used for research or islet transplantation. The OPOs do receive credit for pancreases retrieved and used for whole pancreas transplants. This creates a disincentive for OPOs to retrieve pancreases for research or islet transplantation. My legislation attempts to provide an incentive to OPOs by directing CMS to provide credit to OPOs for pancreases retrieved and used for research and islet transplantation.

The second section of this legislation creates a federal inter-agency committee to coordinate efforts in the area of islet transplantation and to make recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services on regulations and policies that would advance this exciting area of research.

Ultimately, the goal is to expand the human clinical trials, demonstrate success over a longer period of time, and move islet cell transplantation from an experimental procedure to standard therapy covered by insurance and appropriate for all individuals with diabetes. The third section of this legislation directs the Institute of Medicine to conduct a study on clinical outcomes and comprehensive cost-utility analysis that will be important in moving towards this goal.

I encourage all of my colleagues to join with me in supporting this important legislation.

PRESERVING THE LEGACY OF AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2002

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues for your support of H.R. 3815, the Presidential Historic Site Study Act, a bipartisan bill I offered earlier this year.

This bill simply begins the normal process for preserving an important American presidential landmark. American Presidents are a hallmark of our society. The way in which Americans forever remember leadership of the "greatest nation" is through their policies, their words, and through the people and places that have shaped their lives. We place a great significance on the homes of Presidents because they are a part of our nation's history. They are where our leaders formed the beliefs and values that shaped their decisions and legacies. Anyone who has visited Mt. Vernon, Monticello, or Abraham Lincoln's birthplace at Spring Creek has felt a sense of the historic value of where they stood and what they saw. The birthplace home of President William Jefferson Clinton holds a piece of our presidential history, and it is only fitting for it to be designated as a National Historic Site.

I share the unique opportunity of being the Representative of former President Clinton's birthplace home, Hope, Arkansas. In fact, I am a 1979 graduate of Hope High School. In that small town called Hope, President Clinton was educated and encouraged by a loving family in