

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as National Breast Cancer Month. Today, 3 million American women are living with the disease—2 million who have been diagnosed and 1 million who do not yet know they have it. These women are our sisters, daughters, coworkers, neighbors, and friends.

But there is good news. Due in large part to federally funded research, we know more than ever about what causes breast cancer and how to more effectively treat the disease. In fact, since 1990, we have increased Federal funding for breast cancer research by nearly 600 percent. We also have made tremendous progress in increased access to mammography, which is the most effective way to diagnose breast cancer early. If detected and treated early, breast cancer has one of the highest survival rates.

I also want to pay tribute to the many wonderful organizations that provide support to breast cancer patients and their families, like Y—Me in my home State of Illinois. These organizations offer invaluable services to the millions touched by this disease and have been crucial in bringing this issue to the forefront of the healthcare debate.

October may be National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, but every day of the year this issue deserves our attention. I thank my colleagues for their support, and encourage them to continue to work for the millions touched by this disease.

IN MEMORY OF 1LT DAVID R. BERNSTEIN OF THE U.S. ARMY

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man, First Lieutenant David R. Bernstein, who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. He died on Saturday, October 18, 2003, when his patrol was ambushed in Taza, Iraq. First Lieutenant Bernstein was just 24 years old.

For me, the news of David's death was particularly shocking and hard to bear. I had the honor and privilege to nominate this fine young man to the United States Military Academy at West Point, a nomination that he accepted and fulfilled with exceptional honor, ability and accomplishment.

First in his class at Phoenixville High School, where he excelled in swimming as well as academics, David was the Valedictorian of his High School Class of 1997. Upon entering West Point, he continued on his path of personal excellence by maintaining an arduous schedule of academics, training and sports, activities that distinguished him, and earned him the respect and admiration of his

superior officers, instructors, and fellow cadets at the Academy. He graduated 5th in his class at West Point, and was one of the brightest stars among an incredible constellation of talent that graduated from the Academy in 2001.

Soon after graduation from West Point, David volunteered for Army Ranger School. He excelled there, acquiring additional skills and advanced training, and became Ranger qualified. Having a pick of assignments based on his standing at West Point, David chose duty close to the hot spots in the world, and joined the Army's 173rd Airborne Infantry Brigade, the storied "911 squad" of Europe, headquartered at Camp Ederle in Italy.

As a member of the 1st of the 508th Regiment of the 173rd, Lieutenant Bernstein, parachuted into Northern Iraq in the early morning darkness on March 27 of this year, one of only approximately 1,000 soldiers from the 173rd sent to secure the Bashur airfield in the north of Iraq. As those who followed the war well know, this small band of soldiers performed magnificently and heroically behind enemy lines to establish the important "second front" in the struggle to liberate Iraq and the world from the grip of Saddam Hussein.

This brave and gifted officer shouldered the burdens of command with uncommon ability, intelligence and grace. He was a natural leader who inspired those in his command, always leading by example and with an unwavering commitment and dedication to his men and to the service of his country.

He last spoke with his parents, Richard and Gail Bernstein, only a week before his death. The call was brief, lasting less than 10 minutes, because of the long line of soldiers waiting their own turn. In that short call David told his parents of the pride he felt for his men and their mission. He also conveyed his own sense of pride in being able to answer the call of duty by serving as an Army officer. As his father has said, David was "a soldier who appreciated serving his country."

In his final moments, even though mortally wounded and under continuous enemy fire, Lieutenant Bernstein maneuvered his way to the driver's seat of his Humvee and moved the vehicle off of a soldier in his command who was trapped under its wheels and badly wounded. His unselfish act of bravery likely saved the life of his comrade.

All of Pennsylvania mourns the loss of this brave and good young man who will be laid to rest this Friday, October 31, 2003 at West Point. Our hearts go out to his parents, Richard and Gail, to his sister Michelle, to his brother Doug, and to all of his friends and loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, First Lieutenant David R. Bernstein, exemplified the spirit of service that has made this nation great. It is proper to remember and honor a man of such worth and character with great respect for what he stood for. Our pride in David shall live on—his life, his courage, his sacrifice and strength of character. The example of his citizenship and dedication to duty will be his enduring legacy. Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the memory, life and service of First Lieutenant David R. Bernstein, and in sending our heartfelt condolences to his family, his friends, and community.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JUNIOR, NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE LAND EXCHANGE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank my colleagues for their support of the "Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site Land Exchange Act," H.R. 1616 and the bill to extend the authority for the construction of a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr., S. 470. These bills extend the authority for and make possible the construction of a national memorial commemorating the achievements of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his commitment to the struggle of civil rights for all Americans.

Dr. King dedicated his life to the realization of full equal and civil rights for all Americans irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation. He stood on the front lines in the struggle against social injustice, discrimination, and inequality, often at great risk to himself. Despite numerous death threats, Dr. King never wavered in that commitment.

Madam Speaker, the Lewis and Sarbanes bills are a win-win situation for all parties involved. The National Park Service currently owns a vacant lot that does not have any significant historic value. The city of Atlanta would like to acquire this land for the sole purpose of encouraging commercial development within its city limits. In addition, the land on which the National Historic Site Visitor Center and Museum currently sits is land-locked and lacks adequate emergency access. Exchanging this land within the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site for property in which the National Park Service could establish easy access to the Visitor Center and Museum would be mutually beneficial to both parties. This would simultaneously resolve the National Park Service's access issue and give the city of Atlanta much needed commercial space.

Madam Speaker, once again I am proud to support both bills—the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site Land Exchange Act and the bill to extend the authority for construction of the MLK Memorial. I would like to give a special thanks to my colleagues Mr. LEWIS and Senator SARBANES for their leadership in sponsoring these important pieces of legislation and in helping to keep the dream alive.

TRIBUTE TO THE GREATER WILKES-BARRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PROGRESS

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce as they celebrate the region's progress over the past 50 years at their annual dinner Thursday, October 30 at the Wachovia Arena in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.