

The Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act will expand psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis research and ensure access to care and treatment for these diseases. Despite the serious adverse effects that psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis have on individuals and families, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis are under-recognized and under-funded by our nation's research institutions and public health agencies. On average, the NIH has spent less than one dollar for each person with psoriasis in the last ten years. H.R. 1188 calls on the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases to expand and intensify research on psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and to coordinate those efforts with the NIH. The bill directs the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop a patient registry to collect much-needed longitudinal data on psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis so we can begin to understand the long-term impact of these conditions and evaluate the effects of various therapies.

Of serious concern is that people with psoriasis are at elevated risk for a myriad of comorbidities, including, but not limited to, heart disease, diabetes, obesity and mental health conditions. To help address this, H.R. 1188 authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to convene a summit of researchers, public health professionals, representatives of patient advocacy organizations and policymakers to review current efforts in research, treatment, and quality-of-life maintenance being conducted by federal agencies whose work involves psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and their related comorbidities. Lastly, the legislation also directs the Secretary of HHS to commission a study from the Institutes of Medicine to evaluate and make recommendations to address health insurance and prescription drug coverage as they relate to medications and treatments for psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

I thank the National Psoriasis Foundation for all of its efforts and leadership over the last four decades, and am grateful to the Foundation and its members and staff for their ongoing commitment to improving the quality of life for those with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis in my district. I also would like to personally thank my constituent, Cristy Boisvert, for all her work.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NAVAL
AVIATION TORPEDO SQUADRON
THREE

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, the men and women who served their country during World War II deserve our deep respect and reverence. The Naval Aviation Torpedo Squadron Three (VT-3) embodies the spirit and achievement of this era, through their bravery and sacrifice. Today we honor their sacrifice.

VT-3 served valiantly in the Pacific while assigned to both the carriers *Yorktown* and *Saratoga*. While on the *Yorktown*, the squad-

ron was pivotal in the victory at the battle of Midway. The squadron lost many pilots and planes, but the VT-3 squad regrouped and still participated in the Pacific theatre.

In the Philippines, South China Sea, and Japan, the VT-3 squad flew with valor. They provided air support in the invasions of Leyte, Luzon, and Iwo Jima. They flew missions over Hong Kong and Okinawa, as well as taking part in the first strikes on Tokyo.

They are an example of exemplary service and heroism. The squadron earned four Presidential Unit Citations, six Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medals and the prestigious silver star was awarded to Lt. Frank F. Frazier for his actions in the battle of Formosa.

The Naval Aviation Torpedo Squadron Three fought valiantly to defend our Nation, flying some of the most difficult and dangerous missions in the Pacific Theater. Through their sacrifice, our Nation endured, earning our lasting honor and respect.

As a Member of the 110th House of Representatives, I hereby commend the members of the Naval Aviation Torpedo Squadron Three for their gallantry and service during World War II and we extend to them our sincere best wishes in the future.

AMERICAN FAMILY FARM AND
RANCH PROTECTION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to join with my colleague, Representative PHIL ENGLISH, to introduce the American Family Farm and Ranch Protection Act," which will help conserve and protect our nation's vital lands, farms, and ranches.

The voluntary placement of a conservation easement on private land is a very effective and successful tool for protecting and conserving our Nation's open spaces and sensitive lands.

In 1997, in order to encourage the conservation of sensitive lands and farms, Congress enacted an estate tax exclusion for land placed under a conservation easement. Unfortunately, the original bill capped the exclusion at \$500,000. Our bill would update and increase this estate tax exclusion to \$5 million.

Given the significant rise in land values over the past decade, the increased exclusion provides a meaningful and in many cases necessary increase in the estate tax incentive as a way to encourage and allow individuals to place conservation easements on their land.

Our Nation's family farmers, whose most significant asset is often their land, provide a glaring example of why this legislation is needed. When the owner of the farm dies, surviving family members are often forced to sell all or a significant portion of the farm just to pay the estate tax bill. This legislation would help ensure that families are not forced to sell the farm and that their land resources are available for agricultural use by future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent Thursday afternoon, September 29 on very urgent business.

Had I been present for the two votes which occurred I would have voted "no" on H.R. 3567, rollcall vote No. 922; I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3567, rollcall vote No. 923.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE ORANGE
COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Orange County Chamber of Commerce in Montgomery, New York as it celebrates two significant events in the history of its organization. The Chamber is marking the 10th Anniversary of the merger of Orange County's two major chamber organizations, which united to form the current Chamber of Commerce on this day in 1997. Additionally, the Chamber is commemorating the 125th anniversary of the formation of one of the predecessor chambers in 1882.

In recent years, Orange County has consistently ranked as one of the fastest growing counties in New York State. As this growth has occurred, the Orange County Chamber of Commerce has provided critical leadership in creating and supporting an environment in which business will succeed while also working to enhance the quality of life throughout Orange County's communities. The Chamber continues to serve as a consistent and effective advocate for businesses throughout Orange County and the Hudson Valley region.

Through their committed efforts and diligence, the Board of Directors and staff at the Chamber have expanded its membership to nearly 2,400 businesses and individuals, making it one of the ten largest in the State of New York and the largest between Long Island and Albany. This strong network of community and business leaders coupled with the technical support, expertise and promotional services provided by the Chamber has contributed to the ongoing expansion of business opportunities in Orange County.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to salute the Orange County Chamber of Commerce on the anniversary of these important milestones. I'd like to congratulate Chamber President John A. D'Ambrosio, outgoing Board President Kunwar Nagpal, and incoming Board President Jim Smith for their leadership and hard work. I'd also like to recognize the Board of Directors, staff, and members of the Chamber for their dedicated efforts to make Orange County, New York a better place to live, work and visit.