

across the Nation to establish protocols to talk to parents about vaccines. We can save lives, and we must do so together.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE HONORABLE ALAN NUNNELEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROUZER). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker on February 9, 2015, appointed the following Members of the House to the committee to attend the funeral of the late Honorable ALAN NUNNELEE:

The gentleman from Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON

The gentleman from Ohio, Mr. BOEHNER

The members of the Mississippi delegation:

Mr. HARPER

Mr. PALAZZO

Other Members in attendance:

Mr. MCCARTHY, California

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS

Mr. ADERHOLT

Mr. NEUGEBAUER

Mr. CONAWAY

Mr. MCHENRY

Mr. FLEMING

Mr. THOMPSON, Pennsylvania

Mr. WALBERG

Mr. BENISHEK

Mrs. BLACK

Mr. DENHAM

Mr. FLORES

Mr. HULTGREN

Mr. MCKINLEY

Mr. WOMACK

Mr. HUDSON

Mr. MESSER

Mrs. RADEWAGEN

FUNDING ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, "Alzheimer's," a word that brings fear and trauma to families all across America and, indeed, around the world. Tonight we are going to spend our time talking about this dreaded disease for which there is no known cure and which always ends in death.

I would like now to turn to my colleague, this being a bipartisan Special Order hour, unusual to be sure, but absolutely appropriate given the fact that this illness affects virtually every American family. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) for organizing this Special Order for 1 hour to talk about the blight that we face here in America, and I am sure in many other countries around the world, known as Alzheimer's. I note the flyer that the gentleman sent around, a beautiful picture

of him and his wife, Patti Garamendi, and some other family members, one of whom I am sure has had this difficulty themselves. So again, from the bottom of my heart and my constituents, I thank you for taking the time to organize this Special Order.

Alzheimer's robs an individual of a most valued possession—their memory. But we will not forget the them. I have met with many families across the Sixth District of Virginia who have been impacted by Alzheimer's, and it has been my honor to represent them by being a member of the bipartisan Congressional Alzheimer's Task Force.

Tonight I would like to take a moment to thank the men and women who care for those suffering from Alzheimer's—the spouses, children, grandchildren, friends, doctors, and nurses who assure them who they are, where they are, and affirm for them their dignity as an individual. Though their memories and clarity may fade, who they are is not truly gone. And we will not forget those suffering from Alzheimer's.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to promote bipartisan policies that will benefit the fight against this dreaded disease of Alzheimer's.

I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time to participate.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for joining us and for his commitment to this very serious issue. There are approximately 5.1 million Americans who have Alzheimer's today, and it is expected to substantially grow. As the baby boomers come into their latter years, we would expect to see as many as 13 million Americans with this disease in the years ahead. It will be an incredible challenge for this Nation.

I now yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) for him to join us and share his thoughts on this issue.

Mr. HIGGINS. I thank the gentleman from California for bringing this issue to the House floor, underscoring the urgency of investing, through the National Institutes of Health, proper funding to find a cause and, thus, a cure for Alzheimer's. As the gentleman said, 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's. It is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States. Death from Alzheimer's increased 68 percent between the years 2000 and 2010, while deaths from other major diseases decreased.

The cost to the United States is over \$200 billion a year. Without a breakthrough, treatment will cost \$1 trillion a year by the year 2050. We are still seeking an adequate level of funding. For every \$100 that the National Institutes of Health spends on Alzheimer's research, Medicare and Medicaid spend \$26,000 caring for those who have the disease.

In Congress we have two pieces of legislation: the Alzheimer's Accountability Act, which would ensure that Federal priorities and goals for Alzheimer's research actually reflect what

scientists believe is needed; and the HOPE for Alzheimer's Act, which would provide Medicare coverage for the clinical diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and for care planning of newly diagnosed Americans.

But all of this, as the gentleman from California pointed out, becomes localized and becomes very personal. The origins of Alzheimer's are unknown, but the end is absolutely certain. It ends in losing your cognitive ability, your dignity, and, ultimately, your life.

In western New York, we have approximately 130,000 people who are impacted by Alzheimer's: 32,000 people who are afflicted, and 96,000 who love and provide care for the afflicted. That number is expected to triple by 2015.

The Alzheimer's Association of Western New York works year-round to highlight the effect of Alzheimer's disease and to help people and caregivers touched by this disease.

One of the people who was touched by this disease is Nancy Swiston, a constituent who lost her mom, Grace Swiston, who bravely fought the disease for 10 long years. Today, Nancy volunteers with the Alzheimer's Association of Western New York to be a voice for those suffering from the disease and the families who care for those with Alzheimer's. Nancy's story is one of too many families across the Nation we share, but we commit to fighting with her to raise awareness in funding for a cure that we will all embrace one day.

I thank the gentleman from California again for committing us to this important issue.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. HIGGINS, thank you for sharing your thoughts on this dreaded disease for which there is no known cure and there is no way to diagnose it until it is present. You cannot get ahead of this illness, but there are ways we can make progress. You pointed out what has happened over the last decade with extraordinary research efforts, and this chart really lays it out there as to where we are.

For breast cancer, we have seen a decline of 2 percent in breast cancer deaths; prostate cancer, an 8 percent decline; heart disease, a 16 percent decline; stroke, 23 percent decline; and then one of the great victories, HIV/AIDS, a 42 percent decline in the number of deaths. This is the result of research, an extraordinary amount of research going on, not only in the United States but around the world, resulting in significant drops in the death rates for those diseases.

On the other hand, Alzheimer's, where we have just over \$500 million of research, we have seen a 68 percent increase in the death rates. This is the story of Alzheimer's. This is the challenge that we face. This is the challenge that every American family faces and our communities. We will talk more about this a little later.

The cochair of the Alzheimer's Task Force here in the Congress of the