

for they made the best team.

Like a cowboy ready to draw
Sitting in his electronic easy chair he was
armed with a remote in each hand with
a push of a button it would boost him
to stand.

Chocolates or ice cream along side
he surfed the channels with all of his might.
He watched the TV news that kept him in
light

For lady luck he did look like searching
through the pages of a great new book.
A favorite machine he did have it was the
slot called one-eyed jacks.

Like life, it was a gamble bells and whistles
sometimes would ramble.

His family his pride and joy as if they were
a child's new toy.

He puffed up his chest bigger than the rest.
Filled with love he would always brag.

Like a lion I must boast proudly of this man
we called dad, husband and friend.
Until the very end a handsome Irish
man.

Full of dignity, pride, peace, and grace some-
times as delicate as fine lace, always,
and even with his failing health he
gave us a wealth of gifts to carry in our
hearts.

Numerous wonderful "I Love You's" as if he
couldn't tell us enough from this man
he who sometimes played tough.

Hand dances, singing the Rose of Tralee, con-
versations, or just smiles, and those
beautiful dancing Irish eyes all never
to part.

His golden heart of love stopped beating and
with that a part of ours did too, but his
legacy of love for family, involvement
and vitality for life will continue to be
an inspiration to us.

In life he was teaching us in his passing he
taught us.

Rest in the peace and love of the Lord, Dad,
and meet us at heavens gate when it is
our turn.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on June 22, 23 and 26, 2000, had family commitments and missed rollcall votes 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323 and 324. I ask that the record reflect that had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 315, 316, 317, 318 and 319. Also the record should reflect I would have noted "no" on rollcall votes 320, 321, 322, and "aye" on rollcall vote 323 and "no" on rollcall vote 324.

MCNULTY, HIGGINS HONORED FOR OLD KING COAL DAY PROGRAM

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Carol McNulty, a teacher at Edward Mackin Elementary School in Wilkes-Barre, and the Newspaper in Education program of the Citizens' Voice, which is run by Debby Higgins. Carol and Debby will be coming to Washington to receive an award from

the Newspaper Association of America for their Old King Coal Day project.

The NAA will present them with one of its Newspaper Innovators in Education Awards on July 14, and they will also be participating in a week-long educational seminar as guests of the NAA. They in turn will present the Old King Coal Day program to Newspapers in Education people from across the country.

This project began as a way to teach a new generation of children about the history of Northeastern Pennsylvania, especially the role that the anthracite coal mining industry played in the region's development. Through the efforts of many people, Old King Coal Day became a reality on Sept. 23, 1999 at Edward Mackin Elementary School.

Students listened to speeches about the Molly Maguires and breaker boys, watched presentations about mining tools and equipment, and learned about the area's coal heritage. The organizers felt the day was a success and are planning a second Old King Coal Day for September at the Pringle Street Elementary School in the Wyoming Valley West School District. This spring, I visited with the students at Mackin elementary and can attest to the enthusiasm Ms. McNulty has generated. Old King Coal Day stimulated the students to seek a postal stamp honoring coal miners. On their behalf, I recently submitted to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee the petitions that the students circulated, bearing more than 2,000 signatures.

One of the fourth-grade students, Stephen Grobinski, whose great-great-grandfather was killed in a coal mine, wrote an especially moving letter to the head of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee explaining why a coal miners stamp would be important to him. I would like to have this letter reprinted in full below

DEAR DR. VIRGINIA NOELKE: We want you to issue the stamp, because we want to honor the dead miners. How would you feel if your dad, grandpa, uncle, and your friends died in a mine? My great, great grandpa died in the mines. How do you think other people feel? I don't feel happy. They probably feel sad that their dads, grandpas and uncles died.

We did lots of projects for "Old King Coal Day." We did it to honor all the miners. I know somewhere in your heart you feel sad. If you don't, I can't understand why. People say that children can make a difference, and that is our goal.

One thing I want to know is why did you say no to all the people that asked you to issue the stamp? I hope you listen to us. If you say yes, I know that all the little people like me can make a difference in our lives. I said little people could make a difference because all my life I gave up, but this time I'm not going to give up! This is one thing that I want to accomplish! I want a stamp to honor the coal miners. Please, say you will grant my special wish.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN GROBINSKI.

The NAA award, which is a monetary prize, will be shared by the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, which participated in the First Old King Coal Day, and the Citizens' Voice NIE program.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is also worth noting that Carol McNulty has been named The Citizens' Voice Teacher of the Year. Both Carol McNulty and Debby Higgins are to be commended for their fine work with our young people and for ensuring that our history is passed on to future generations.

I also congratulate the Newspaper Association of America for creating this program to encourage newspapers to become more actively involved in schools. Our democracy depends on well-informed citizens, and this program helps to develop our young people into the active citizens of tomorrow.

I am pleased to call the service of Carol McNulty and Debby Higgins and their well-deserved honors to the attention of the House of Representatives, and I send my best wishes for continued success.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information, and Technology held a particularly important hearing on the implementation of the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act (P.L. 105-246). That hearing was held under the very able leadership of our distinguished colleague from California, STEPHEN HORN. Chairman HORN has shown unwavering support and a deep personal commitment to bring to justice Nazi war criminals through the full declassification of documents in possession of the National Archives and Records Service. His strong leadership was essential in the passage of the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act two years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the current Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Congressman JIM TURNER, and the former Ranking Member, Congressman DENNIS KUCINICH, for their unwavering commitment to declassification issues in the pursuit of Nazi war criminals and human rights offenders around the world. Special recognition and appreciation should also be given to Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY, who introduced the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act in the House and who has been a leader on these issues.

Mr. Speaker, the successful implementation of any bill passed by Congress must be measured against the goals we set out to achieve. The goal of the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act is to declassify and make public any remaining documents in U.S. possession concerning Nazi crimes, criminals and looted property. At the same time this "right to know" must be balanced against legitimate reasons to continue to withhold certain documents. Since we are dealing with documents that are now half a century old, however, there clearly should be a bias in favor of declassification.

In compliance with Section 2 (b)(1) of the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act, President Clinton issued Exec. Order 13110 on January 11, 1999, which created the "Nazi War Criminal Records Interagency Working Group (IWG)." This organization was established to resolve the conflict between the policy requirement for public disclosure with the need for confidentiality of records and documents because of national security requirements. I want to pay tribute to the members of the IWG. No matter how well intended and carefully crafted legislation is, the people who are chosen to implement it have a great impact upon assuring that the intention of the Congress is met. The efforts of the IWG have been outstanding.

The Members of the IWG are Chairman Michael J. Kurtz of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Thomas H. Baer of Steinhardt Baer Pictures Company, Richard Ben-Veniste of Weil, Gotshal & Manges, John E. Collingwood of the FBI, former Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzmann, Kenneth J. Levit of the CIA, Harold J. Kwalwasser of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), William H. Leary of the National Security Council staff, David Marwell of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Eli M. Rosenbaum of the Office of Special Investigations at the Department of Justice, and William Z. Slany of the Department of State. In addition, a Historical Advisory Panel composed of seven outstanding historians supports the IWG in their endeavors. Two historians, in particular have played a critical role in the work of the IWG—Dr. Richard Breitman and Dr. Timothy Naftali.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a mammoth undertaking. In its interim report on the implementation of the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act—a report which is mandated in Sec. 2 (c)(3) of the Act the IWG reported that all agencies completed a preliminary survey of their records which could potentially be covered by the Act's requirement for declassification review. In the first year of its operations, the IWG has screened over 600 million pages of material to identify potentially applicable files, principally at the CIA, Department of Defense, FBI, and archival records in the National Archives. During this initial screening, some 50 million pages of material meeting the criteria of the legislation has been identified and is being further screened to determine if declassification is covered by terms of the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act.

This process is massive and tedious. An enormous amount of material needs to be categorized, catalogued, and systematically searched. In the all too frequent absence of an existing catalogue system responsive to the special focus outlined in the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act, a line-by-line review of many, many documents has often been required.

Mr. Speaker, additional problems have occurred when documents are found which were given to the United States by allied foreign intelligence services with the understanding that the United States would not publicly disclose them. Special permission to make such documents public in many cases has required careful negotiation.

Despite these problems, in its short life span, the IWG has released 400,000 pages of documents which are now available to the public at the National Archives and Records Administration. In addition, the IWG has published "finding aids" to the records on Nazi war crimes and Holocaust-era assets which are housed at the National Archives in College Park in order to make the released documents more easily accessible and useable to the general public.

Mr. Speaker, while the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act authorizes the funds necessary to conduct all this work (Sec. 2(b)(d)), the IWG did not receive any appropriations for its heroic effort. The Office of Special Investigations (OSI) of the Department of Justice made available \$400,000 for IWG support from an appropriation related to the Act. The National Archives, which is charged by the President with the administrative support of the IWG, will

provide from its own budget nearly \$1 million in staff and other support services by the end of FY 2000. This support falls far short of what is required to satisfy the requirements of the Act.

In addition, the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act imposes a "Sunset Provision" of 3 years after enactment of the bill (Sec. 2(b)(1)). Mr. Chairman, I believe that the monumental task we as Members of Congress have given to the IWG cannot be fully completed in this time. Additional time certainly will be required.

Mr. Speaker, let us never forget why these very able people work extremely hard to bring justice to victims and survivors of the Holocaust. It is simply unconscionable that war criminals can escape justice—many times by hiding in the U.S. It is essential that we work so that family members of the victims of Hitler's tyranny can know the fate of their loved ones, and that assets illegally seized from the victims not remain forever hidden.

Mr. Speaker, as this review clearly demonstrates, we have made incredible progress in opening up United States archives to records relating to the war crimes and the crimes against humanity that were perpetrated by the government of Nazi Germany.

The Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act (Sec. 2(c)(1)) defines Nazi war criminal records as those pertaining to persons who have committed their crimes under the direction of, or in association with the Nazi government of Germany, any government in occupied territories established by military forces, any collaborator government, or any government which was an ally for the German Nazi government. This broad definition clearly includes—and the Congress intended that it include—records relating to the Imperial Japanese government and atrocities that were committed under its responsibility throughout Asia.

I welcome and fully support the decision of the IWG to move now to wartime records relating to Imperial Japan in an effort to bring to light the war crimes that were committed by units of the Imperial Japanese military forces during World War II. The task of dealing with the Japanese records are more difficult. This requires the assembly of a whole new team of scholars and historians, and different language capability is required for these documents than is required for the Nazi German records.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the members of the IWG for their remarkable efforts. I also commend Chairman HORN for holding the hearings to review the implementation of the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act. The task which is established in the legislation is an important one as we work to bring a conclusion to this chapter in our history.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE CONCERNING USE OF ADDITIONAL PROJECTED SURPLUS FUNDS TO SUPPLEMENT MEDICARE FUNDING

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA) and programmatic changes by the Health Care Financing Admin-

istration have resulted in America's health care providers undergoing great fiscal adversities. BBA-compelled reductions to the Medicare program have resulted in cost reductions far greater than anticipated. Mr. Speaker, since the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, which I supported, cuts in payment rates to Medicare health care providers have been far more significant and onerous than anticipated. As a result, many health care plans have withdrawn or are being forced to withdraw from the Medicare+Choice program because of inadequate reimbursement rates, particularly in rural areas.

Since passage of the BBA in 1997, Medicare spending is projected to have been reduced by more than \$226 billion—nearly \$123 billion more than Congress intended with the passage of the BBA. To alleviate some of these reductions, Congress passed, with my support, the Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999 (BBRA). Nevertheless, according to the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) projections, reductions to the Medicare program are more than four times the \$15 billion Congress added as part of the BBRA.

For years, I have been saying we can and must do more to address this healthcare problem. Today, with the CBO estimating that the non-Social Security surplus to the federal budget will exceed \$40 billion, the Congress has no excuse but to address this healthcare problem.

This measure expresses the "sense of Congress" that the House of Representatives that, upon receipt of midyear Congressional Budget Office (CBO) re-estimates of the non-Social Security surplus, should promptly assess the budgetary implications of such re-estimates and provide for appropriate adjustments to the Medicare program during this legislative session.

I would note that just last week, President Clinton proposed \$21 billion over five years and \$40 billion over ten years in restorations for these providers. Regrettably, the flawed Republican prescription drug bill that passed the yesterday failed to include restoration of these BBA cuts, as the President has advanced.

The Democratic Medicare prescription drug plan, that the Republicans were scared to allow this body to vote on yesterday, included these payment restorations. This resolution is a belated recognition by the Republican leadership that the improved budget outlook with larger projected surpluses not only makes these payment adjustments possible, but makes them essential.

Mr. Speaker, in light of economic performance that far surpasses any expectations, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in further relieving some of the unanticipated effects of the BBA 1997 and join me in supporting H. Res. 535.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM FAIRNESS ACT OF 2000

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the National Flood Insurance Program