

bravely for freedom's cause. I know that those who seek the true meaning of duty, honor, and sacrifice will find it in dedicated servants like Marine Corporal Randal Rosacker.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express my deep sense of gratitude for the sacrifice of this young Marine and his family. Throughout our history, men and women in uniform have fought our battles with distinction and courage. At the dawn of this new century, the United States military has once again been called to defend our freedom against a new and emerging threat. Marines like Randy embody America's determination to lead the world in confronting that threat, and Marine Corporal Rosacker's devotion to that cause will not be forgotten. Randy has done all Americans proud and I know he has the respect and admiration of all of my colleagues here today.

SMALLPOX, EMERGENCY PERSONNEL PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4613.

It is imperative as we prepare our communities for biological and chemical warfare that we do all that we can to encourage health professionals to be vaccinated for smallpox and ensure that they are taken care of if they fall ill or die due to the vaccination. That is the least we can do for those who may be called upon to protect us at home.

I support a smallpox vaccination compensation policy—but it has to be done right the first time. The bill before us does not provide for adequate education, prescreening, and surveillance for nurses, first responders and other health care professionals who take the vaccine. For example, members of the armed services who received the smallpox vaccine were entitled to personalized education and free and confidential prescreening prior to the administration of the vaccine. This important process properly screened out one-third of the potential recipients. The recent deaths of vaccine recipients with heart disease only underscore the need for a strong education, prescreening, and surveillance effort—the CDC and government agencies need to be given the tools to track and eventually screen out individuals who are at risk.

As the husband of a nurse, I understand the commitment that health care professionals have to their patients and their communities. I know that most of them are eager to provide their expertise to help protect their neighbors should the unthinkable occur. It is unreasonable and unfair, however, to ask them to risk their lives and health, and that of their families, without guaranteeing that the federal government will take care of them in the event of an adverse event. Health care professionals are anxious about taking the vaccine—and for good cause. The smallpox vaccine has a long record of negative side effects to both vaccinated individuals and secondary contacts. It is absolutely essential those individuals who are vaccinated understand the risks of the vaccine and have confidence in their govern-

ment to care for them should they become ill or die—this is the least we can offer them.

H.R. 1463 includes an unacceptable lifetime cap on wage replacement and fails to ensure that funds will be available in the future for the compensation fund. It does not guarantee that states will have the money to implement the program or that compensation benefits will be paid—instead, this legislation forces these health care workers to fight for funds each year in the appropriations process. It is unfair and insulting to ask them to compete each year with other national spending priorities and our ever-growing national debt.

I support a substitute that would provide guaranteed funding to individuals injured by the smallpox vaccine. It would also implement a strong screening and follow-up regime, and includes language that will alert workers to the most likely side effects and speed up the qualification process. This proposal provides greater security, both psychological and financial, for health care workers and other first responders who are being asked to take this vaccine to help their communities.

It is a shame that the House leadership would not allow this substitute to be debated on the floor. I believe that bringing up such important legislation on the suspension calendar, which is ordinarily reserved for non-controversial legislation, is a thinly-veiled partisan ploy. This important issue deserves a robust debate. Nurses, first responders, and other health care professionals who volunteer to take the smallpox vaccine, at great risk to themselves and their families, deserve more than lip service and empty promises.

LESBIAN AND GAY IMMIGRATION RIGHTS TASK FORCE ANNUAL MEETING

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force, which holds its Annual Meeting this weekend in Washington, DC. The LGIRTF advocates for the rights of HIV positive immigrants, persons seeking asylum because of sexual orientation, and bi-national couples.

The Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force grew out of a small group of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund attorneys, who, in 1993, held a meeting at the New York City Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center. Over 50 persons attended and expressed interest in forming a group to address immigration issues affecting lesbians and gays.

In December 1994, the LGIRTF was incorporated in New York City. The LGIRTF began publishing *The Status Report* the following year. Implementation of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 in 1997 increased the need for Gay and Lesbian specific immigration services. By 1998 the LGIRTF ceased being an all-volunteer organization and in 1999 the LGIRTF hired its first attorney. The LGIRTF has grown from one chapter to an international organization with 19 chapters in the United States, including Washington, DC and Europe.

We, who live in our Nation's Capital and are taxed without representation, feel a special affinity to any other group that is denied the full rights and privileges, which most United States citizens enjoy. While any straight married couple may petition for permanent residence for a spouse and his or her children, Lesbians and Gays cannot petition for permanent residence for their life-partners.

I remind the House that we have the ability to correct these inequities: passage of the "No Taxation Without Representation Act" and the "Permanent Partners Immigration Act."

I ask this House to join with me in welcoming the members of the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force to Washington, DC.

SAN JACINTO, CA CELEBRATES 115 YEARS AS A CITY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to congratulate the citizens and community leaders of the city of San Jacinto, CA, who on April 9, 2003 will celebrate 115 years of cityhood. I am happy to report, Mr. Speaker, that the friendly folks in San Jacinto have managed to preserve their past while preparing for a future as one of the fastest growing cities in California.

The San Jacinto Valley is in Riverside County, California, about 90 miles southeast of Los Angeles, in the shadow of 10,804-foot Mt. San Jacinto and the beautiful surrounding mountains. For thousands of years it has welcomed human habitation, including the ancestors of the Soboba Indians, whose reservation is adjacent to the current city of San Jacinto.

When Spanish explorers moved into California, they soon discovered the valley and by the 1770s it was a stop on Anza Trail, one of the oldest serving the Spanish colonies in California. The padres of the Spanish missions named the valley in honor of St. Hyacinth (San Jacinto in Spanish), one of the early Dominican apostles, and established an outpost there in 1820.

In 1842, Jose Antonio Estudillo received a land grant to the entire valley from the Mexican government. They built the Estudillo Mansion in downtown San Jacinto, which is today considered one of the most important historic structures in inland Southern California. In the 1860s, the Estudillo family began selling off portions of the rancho, and a small American community began to form. In 1868, local residents petitioned to form a school district, and by 1870 a store and post office had been established. In 1883, the San Jacinto Land Association laid out the modern city of San Jacinto at Five Points. The Santa Fe railroad arrived in 1888, and the city was incorporated that same year, making it the oldest incorporated community in Riverside County.

The community has primarily been an agricultural town for much of its history, and is still home to several large dairy operations. It has also worked closely with the neighboring city of Hemet to sponsor the famous Ramona Pageant, an outdoor play on early California history that is now in its 80th year. Most recently, the city has seen the beginnings of