

THE CONCUSSION TREATMENT
AND CARE TOOLS (CONTACT) ACT

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure today to introduce the Concussion Treatment and Care Tools (CONTACT) Act. This bipartisan legislation provides our schools and coaches with the tools needed to ensure that student athletes receive the proper care for sports-related concussions. I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation as soon as possible.

On October 16, 2008, Ryne Dougherty, a 16-year-old from Montclair, New Jersey, tragically died from a brain hemorrhage after returning to play football without fully recovering from a concussion sustained earlier in the season. Unfortunately, this is not the first story of a young athlete losing his or her life early to a head injury.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, as many as 3.8 million concussions related to sports and recreation are estimated to occur in the United States each year. After sustaining one concussion, an athlete becomes as much as four to six times more likely to sustain a second concussion, and if an athlete is allowed to return to play without fully recovering from a concussion, they may face tragic consequences.

Repeat concussions can result in cumulative neurological damage and have been shown to significantly worsen long-term outcomes including depression and other psychological problems. In rare cases, a repeat concussion can trigger "second impact syndrome" which can be marked by the swelling of the brain, permanent brain damage, or even death. Because damage to a maturing brain can be catastrophic, it is even more important to ensure that the proper care is provided to young athletes.

Fortunately, repeat concussions and "second impact syndrome" are highly preventable if sensible guidelines and procedures are adopted. Many college and professional athletic associations—including the National Collegiate Athlete Association, NCAA, the National Football League, NFL, and the National Hockey League, (NHL)—and other national provider organizations—including the American Academy of Neurology, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the National Athletic Trainers' Association, and the Brain Injury Association of American—have all adopted guidelines for the management of concussions. Despite education efforts by CDC, however, much of this information has not made its way to our local middle schools and high schools.

Furthermore, pre-season and post-concussion testing technologies are widely used in college and professional sports to provide a baseline against which coaches and providers can determine when athletes are ready to return to play. These technologies are widely available and fairly affordable at as little as \$500 a year. Unfortunately, these tests are not commonly used in middle and high school sports.

By providing coaches, athletes, and parents with the tools and information needed to identify and understand the signs, symptoms, and

implications of concussions, we can help to prevent needless deaths and countless injuries. The CONTACT Act will convene experts and stakeholders to establish a consensus set of concussion management guidelines and provide states with the resources to adopt, disseminate, and ensure the implementation of concussion management guidelines for student athletes.

Madam Speaker, Congress must act now to pass this vital piece of legislation, so that we may provide our young athletes with the safety and protections that they deserve.

HONORING THE TOP DOG ALUMNI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate all of the 2008 Top Dog Award recipients from California State University, Fresno. All award winners were honored on Friday October 10, 2008 at the Awards Gala at the Save Mart Center in Fresno, California.

The Top Dog Award is a great tradition for CSU Fresno. It allows the University to honor alumni that continue to give back to the University. There are three award categories: Distinguished Alumnus Award, Outstanding Alumni Awards and the Arthur Safstrom Service Award.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is the highest honor given to an alumna of the University. The award is based on scholarship, leadership and service to CSU Fresno, the San Joaquin Valley and the State of California. It has been established to provide special recognition to an individual who has distinguished themselves through outstanding achievement during their post-collegiate career. The University President and the Alumni Association present the award.

For 2008 the Distinguished Alumnus Award is being given to Nat DiBuduo, class of 1972. Mr. DiBuduo has strong roots in the Central San Joaquin Valley as a vineyard and winery owner. He attended CSU Fresno where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Science/Viticulture and a minor in Business. He is also a graduate of the California Ag Leadership Program, holds a Certified Pest Control Advisor's license and a Department of Real Estate sales license. He has worked as an independent consultant overseeing farm management of 24,000 acres of winegrapes, nuts and vegetables. Today, he is President of Allied Grape Growers; a local organization that works with over 500 grower members from throughout California to competitively market the crops. During his time at CSU Fresno, he was student body vice president, but his service to the community did not stop there. He generously gives to his alma mater, and serves on the boards of the Ag One Foundation and the Fresno State Alumni Association.

The Outstanding Alumni Awards recognize CSU Fresno alumna for outstanding accomplishments in their field and to present such alumni to current CSU Fresno students as examples of exceptional achievement. The Alumni Association works in conjunction with the deans of CSU Fresno's eight schools/colleges, as well as the dean of student affairs

and the athletic director to identify and select candidates for the awards.

This year there are twelve Outstanding Alumni Awards from the various schools, colleges and divisions. The honorees are:

Dr. Robert C. Cannell (class of 1986) from the College of Agriculture Sciences and Technology. Dr. Cannell is the supply chain director for McDonald's USA and is responsible for the quality and safety of the restaurant chain's beef and pork.

Brad Lewis (class of 1980) from the College of Arts and Humanities. Mr. Lewis is a Pixar Animation Studios producer, whose movie "Ratatouille" received Oscar, Golden Globe and Clio awards.

Kern Donis (class of 1991) from the Athletics Department. Ms. Donis is a former Bulldog softball star; she played for two national titles. She is now deputy chief for the Fresno Fire Department.

Steve Heinrichs (class of 1968) from the Craig School of Business. Mr. Heinrichs is a managing partner of Bulldog Capital Partners, a venture fund that invests in new business ideas and companies with potential to contribute to the Central San Joaquin Valley economy.

Darlene Spano (class of 1969) from the Kremen School of Education and Human Development. Ms. Spano has been an elementary school teacher in Fresno for 32 years. She had embraced computer technology early enough to educate and assist her students and colleagues.

Dr. Vida Ilderem (class of 1982) from the College of Engineering. Dr. Ilderem is the vice president of physical and digital realization research at Motorola Laboratories, the applied research arm of Motorola.

Mabelle Selland (class of 1950 and 1972) from the Division of Graduate Studies. Ms. Selland's community service includes the preservation of the old Administration Building at Fresno City College, the Veterans Memorial Auditorium restoration and active participation in numerous organizations.

Pamela Loewen (class of 1966) from the College of Health and Human Services. Ms. Loewen has followed a career in military and public health nursing with extensive service to the University's Department of Nursing as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Kendall Manock (class of 1951) from the Henry Madden Library. Mr. Manock is a local attorney and has been instrumental in obtaining materials for the Library's Central Valley Political Archive. He has also worked on many other library initiatives.

Dr. Roy James Shlemon (class of 1958) from the College of Science and Mathematics. Dr. Shlemon has a consulting geological practice that focuses on sites for nuclear power plants, waste facilities, large dams and residential developments throughout the world.

Thomas Williams (class of 1970) from the College of Social Sciences. Mr. Williams is the chairman and CEO of Universal Parks and Resorts, part of the NBC Universal division of GE.

Ambassador Phillip Sanchez (class of 1957 and 1972) from the Division of Student Affairs. Ambassador Sanchez retired as a newspaper publisher after government services included two ambassadorships and directing the War on Poverty as the nation's highest-ranking Latino government official.

The third award is the Arthur Safstrom Service Award; it is awarded to an alumna or

friend of CSU Fresno who has given outstanding service to the Alumni Association and/or the University. This year the award is presented to Dr. Arnold and Dianne Gazarian. The Gazarians' generous donations to the university have included a gift to the Smittcamp Alumni House, the Friends of the Madden Library, the President's Fund and the Craig School of Business to establish the Arnold and Dianne Gazarian Real Estate Center. The couple has also provided incentives to attract others' gifts for the Haig and Isabel Berberian Endowed Chair in Armenian Studies. Beyond the campus, the Gazarians are benefactors of the Berberian Community Hospice Patient Services Center as well as the Homeless and Transitional Living Center in Modesto, California.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate all of the Top Dog Award recipients for their individual contributions. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the honorees many years of continual success.

RECOGNIZING DR. JAMES NAVIN
OF HONOLULU, HAWAII

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. James Navin, MD, FCAP. Dr. Navin, a resident of Honolulu, has made many valuable contributions to the field of medicine not only in Hawaii, but throughout the United States.

Dr. Navin began his medical career with the United States Army and has also served in the United States Army Reserve as well as the Hawaii Army Reserve National Guard, serving both Tripler General Hospital and Fort DeRussey. Dr. Navin is a recipient of the Bronze Star, as well as the Army Commendation Medal.

He is the current president of the Hawaii Society of Pathologists, and a member of a variety of pathology related specialties, including the Hawaii Medical Association, the Honolulu County Medical Society, the College of American Pathologists and the American Society of Cytopathologists.

I came to know Dr. Navin as a passionate healthcare advocate in the 1990s. I worked closely with him and the national pathology organizations to increase the reimbursement for a common but vital medical test. With his commitment, tenacity, and capacity to bring people together we succeeded legislatively. More importantly, we ensured that life saving medical testing was conducted according to best practice.

An accomplished author, Dr. Navin has been published in over 30 medical publications, including the Hawaii Medical Journal. He has been recognized by the American Pathology Foundation as the American Pathologist of the Year, 2000, and has been recognized several times as one of the Best Doctors in Hawaii.

Dr. Navin will be stepping down as a member of the College of American Pathologists' Political Action Committee, but we are confident he will continue to be a strong voice for pathology. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding physician for his commitment to patient care.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING
THE LIFE OF JOSEPH R. BURNS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of an exemplary American citizen, a friend, a comrade in arms during our service together on the frontlines of the Korean war, and a true hero—Joseph R. Burns, who passed away on November 9, 2008.

Joseph R. Burns was born on August 21, 1930, in Charity Hospital, New Orleans, LA. Joe dedicated his life to protecting the freedom of this great country through his many years of public service. Joe served in the U.S. Army during the Korean war conflict and underwent extreme hardships as a prisoner of war for 33 months and 11 days.

After his service in the U.S. Army, Joe continued to build his career in public service by obtaining a position as El Paso's Deputy Sheriff and creating programs to help children. Joe's faith in his religion and love for service manifested itself when he performed his duties and responsibilities of a deacon at the Unity Missionary Baptist Church, and when he served as a senior usher for the church.

Although Joseph R. Burns has passed, his legacy in public service will not go unnoticed. His calm demeanor and quiet spirit will never be forgotten. He was a great influence to his family, his community, and our country. Joseph R. Burns is a national hero who will be greatly missed.

He is succeeded by his beloved son Tyrone J. Burns, his family, and friends.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF VERNON A.
LOSH II OF SONOMA COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor Chief Vernon A. Losh II, who is retiring this month as chief/department director of the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Services. He has held the position since June, 1999, and also served concurrently for over 5 years as fire chief of Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District.

Chief Losh has had a long and distinguished career in fire and emergency services, starting in 1974 with the South Placer Fire Protection District where he eventually held every rank from volunteer firefighter to full-time battalion chief. He came to Sonoma County in 1995 as deputy chief/fire marshal for the Department of Emergency Services and became Chief a few years later with responsibility for all aspects of the Department's work. He deftly managed 23 full time employees, over 350 volunteers, and a budget of \$7.5 million.

With extensive education in emergency management, including being one of the first 12 people certified in the State of California as

a fire chief, Chief Losh has shared his expertise for years as a community college fire service instructor and also as chair of the Santa Rosa Community College Fire Tech Advisory Committee. A long list of professional affiliations—from local to international—is a testament to both his spirit of community volunteerism and the high regard with which he is held by his peers. He has been president of the Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association, Sonoma County Department Heads Association, and the Northern California Firefighters Association, to name a few.

Shortly after the anthrax and 9–11 terrorist attacks on our country, we met with Vern Losh and other Sonoma County officials. We were particularly impressed by the level of emergency preparedness as well as by plans to continuously upgrade and improve equipment and procedures. These efforts, directed by a coordinated leadership effort, clearly paid off when much of the County was affected by severe flooding a few years ago. The response was swift and organized, mitigating what could have been a serious disaster.

The Losh family is also a source of pride to Vern. His wife Teresa is an accountant at the Sonoma County Office of Education and marathon walker for several charitable causes; his son Allen is a Specialist in the Army serving as a combat medic ready to be deployed to Iraq on Thanksgiving Day; his daughter Whitney is a student at San Francisco State in the Public Health field. Whitney just finished her first marathon for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society.

Perhaps since, as his biography states, he "currently serves as the Grand Emperor of the Cosmic Order of Fire Gods, an honor he has held since birth," Vern Losh won't fully retire. He plans to continue as Chair of the Sonoma-Mendocino Red Cross, Chair of the Volunteer Fire Fighter Committee of the California State Fire Fighters Association, and as the California representative to the National Volunteer Fire Council. He will also become a volunteer firefighter for the City of Healdsburg. And he will continue his teaching at the California Community College.

Madam Speaker, Sonoma County will miss the skills of Chief Vernon Losh, but we thank him for helping to make our emergency services strong. We know he will appreciate having time for his family and his hobbies—photography, football and all sports, attending Giants and 49er games . . . and firefighting.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF NOEMI
ANDERSON

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Noemi Anderson of Petaluma, California, for an unusual accomplishment. Noemi just turned 111 years old, making her the oldest person in Sonoma County, the 67th oldest person on earth, and even the oldest known member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Noemi doesn't know the secret of her longevity. She has always exercised, eaten her vegetables, and quit smoking over 50 years