ALAN JACKSON MEMORIALIZES THOSE LOST

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, on September 11th, 2001 our nation suffered a cataclysmic attack of unprecedented proportion. More than 6,000 Americans lost their lives in less than 1 hour's time.

In the two months following that tragic day, our citizens have struggled for ways to accept and deal with such a horrific loss. We have held candlelight vigils, all night prayer groups, talked of memorials and rebuilding. We have launched a major military campaign to seek justice for those victims.

But one young man, whose name is known to many of this body and many of the American people, has found a way to genuinely memorialize those victims and that day in song.

Alan Jackson was born in Newnan, Georgia in 1958. Since that time he has grown into one of the nation's most loved Country Music stars. Some have called him the conscience of Nashville for his actions and the type of music he makes.

On November 7th at the Country Music Awards, Alan sang a song he wrote, which more than any other that I have heard, expressed the wide range of emotions experienced on September 11, 2001. I would like to read those lyrics to you now.

WHERE WERE YOU (WHEN THE WORLD STOPPED TURNING)

(By Alan Jackson)

Where were you when the world stop turning on that September day
Were you in the yard with your wife and children
Or working on some stage in L.A.
Did you stand there in shock at the sight of that black smoke
Rising against that blue sky
Did you shout out in anger, in fear for your neighbor
Or did you just sit down and cry

Did you weep for the children who lost their dear loved ones
And pray for the ones who don't know
Did you rejoice for the people who walked from the rubble
And sob for the ones left below
Did you burst out in pride for the red, white and blue
And the heroes who died just doin' what they do
Did you look up to heaven for some kind of answer
And look at yourself and what really matters

I'm just a singer of simple songs
I'm not a real political man
I watch CNN but I'm not sure I could
Tell you the difference in Iraq and Iran
But I know Jesus and I talk to God
And I remember this from when I was young
Faith, hope and love are some good things He gave us
And the greatest is love

Where were you when the world stop turning on that September day
Teaching a class full of innocent children
Or driving down some cold interstate
Did you feel guilty 'cause you're a survivor
In a crowded room did you feel alone
Did you call up your mother and tell her you loved her
Did you dust off that bible at home
Did you open your eyes, hope it never happened
And you close your eyes and not go to sleep
Did you notice the sunset the first time in ages
Or speak to some stranger on the street
Did you lay down at night and think of tomorrow
Go out and buy you a gun
Did you turn off that violent old movie you're watchin'
And turn on ''I Love Lucy'' reruns
Did you go to a church and hold hands with some strangers
Stand in line and give your own blood
Did you just stay home and cling tight to your family
Thank God you had somebody to love

I would like to take this opportunity to commend and congratulate my former constituent, a great American who has used his gifts as a songwriter and performer to lift the American spirit in this great pursuit for justice. Alan Jackson has crafted a thoughtful memorial to the victims of September 11th and serves as an example of how all Americans can help heal our nation from the wounds we suffered on that tragic day. Thank you Alan, for helping us to remember those we lost and for helping to keep their memory alive.

HONORING DR. THADDEUS SZEWCZYK FOR HIS 50 YEARS OF DEDICATED WORK TO THE CAUSE OF RETROLENTAL FIBROPLASIA

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Thaddeus Szewczyk of Belleville, Illinois who 50 years ago discovered the cause of retrolental fribroplasia.

During the 1930's, retrolental fibroplasia, a disease causing permanent, total blindness, affected premature babies placed in incubators in hospital nurseries. This disease became rampant in industrialized countries during the 1940's and 1950's, causing blindness in thousands of children. Twenty percent of all newly born premature babies were affected and doctors feared that within a few years, most premature babies born in the United States would be blind. Then, in December, 1951, Dr. Szewczyk, working at Christian Welfare Hospital in East St. Louis, Illinois, suggested that misuse of oxygen was the cause of retrolental fibroplasia and careful control of oxygen might control this disease. His findings were published in prestigious medical journals, including The American Journal of Ophthalmology. Because of the massive increase in incubator usage, this discovery prevented a tidal wave of blindness in baby-boomer babies.

Dr. Szewczyk has had a distinguished career and as a result, has received several awards and honors. In 1976, he received the International Leslie-Dana Gold Medal from the St. Louis Society for the Blind. In addition, the National Polish-American organization recognized him for this brilliant, medical discovery. Furthermore, the Illinois House of Representatives recently passed a resolution honoring Dr. Szewczyk for 50 years of dedication and hard work on retrolental fibroplasia.

Dr. Szewczyk was the first of four children born to Stanley and Genevieve Szewczyk. He served as a doctor in the army during World War II, spending many months on the island of Attu and Germany. Dr. Szewczyk has worked as an eye specialist, in partnership with his brother Edward, in Southern Illinois for over 30 years. Today, he and his wife of 57 years, Loretta, reside in Belleville, Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring this extraordinary individual, for his commitment to retrolental fibroplasia and his amazing discovery that saved many children from a life of permanent, total blindness.

UPON INTRODUCTION OF THE LIFETIME ANNUITY PAYOUT ACT

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, today Representative KAREN THURMAN and I will introduce legislation that takes a key step toward addressing an issue of fundamental importance to our nation's retirees.

Achieving a stable retirement income is a challenge being faced by a growing number of Americans. Today's retirement savings will become retirement spending that will have to last 20, 25, even 30 years or more. Yet America's personal savings rate has declined over the last decade from 5 percent to less than I percent. In the meantime, Social Security, the traditional safety net for retirees, will be under significant strain in the decades to come as America's retired population doubles. These challenges underscore the importance of Americans personally managing their retirement savings.

The legislation we are introducing, The Lifetime Annuity Payout (LAP) act, encourages people to use an annuity to provide retirement income. An annuity is a retirement tool that offers a steady stream of income for life—much like Social Security. The proposal calls for annuity payouts to be taxed at capital gains rates instead of ordinary income rates if the owner of an individual annuity elects lifetime payments from his or her contract.

The challenges for retirees are quite real. Actuarial predictions estimate one-fifth of today's 35-year-olds who reach retirement age can expect to live into their 90s. Yet current financial planning models and tax laws often encourage retirees to spend down their assets by the time they reach their 80s. Americans need to receive a substantial portion of their retirement income in a guaranteed stream of income they can never outlive.

Traditional pension plans, where the employers assumed all the investment risks and guaranteed workers lifetime income in retirement, are declining. Defined contribution plans are on the rise, but these plans do not always guarantee retirement income for life. Annuities allow retirees to convert all or a portion of their savings into a steady stream of lifetime retirement income.

That is why The Lifetime Annuity Payout Act is sound public policy. It provides an incentive for people to use an annuity to ensure their

hard-earned savings last throughout retirement, no matter how long they live.

This proposal is an important step in bringing our nation's retirement system in line with 21st century challenges. Like any solid retirement plan, our reform efforts must be comprehensive. They should account for accumulated funds in pensions, IRAs, 401(k)s, and other qualified plans. They need to help retirees manage their savings to last a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has already taken great strides to reform America's private pension system. The bill we introduce today complements previous efforts to encourage accumulation in qualified plans. The Lifetime Annuity Payout Act will help Americans manage those accumulated funds to provide for a stable standard of living in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, on November 13 and 14, 2001, 1 was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall votes 436 through 440. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 436, ''yea'' on rollcall No. 437, ''yea'' on rollcall No. 438, ''yea'' on rollcall No. 439, and ''yea'' on rollcall No. 440.

VETERANS' MEMORIAL PRESERVATION AND RECOGNITION ACT OF 2001

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to help restore and preserve our nation's treasured veterans' memorials.

The freedom we enjoy in the United States has not just been given to us. Men and women have made great sacrifices, some with their lives, to protect our way of life. We have erected memorials to honor these soldiers, sailors, and aviators and their valiant deeds. Unfortunately many of these expressions of our gratitude don't receive the care they deserve. These memorials may not be as large as those on the National Mall or Arlington National Cemetery but they are just as important. My bill would provide grants to rehabilitate those memorials that have fallen into disrepair. The grants would be distributed from a Veterans' Memorial Restoration Fund that would be administered by the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs. With the additional resources provided by this fund we would be able to revive those veterans' memorials on public lands to their original splendor.

People should know the hallowed ground where departed veterans have been laid to rest. These are the most important memorials, where families go to reflect on the lives of their loved ones who have passed on. This bill would make veterans' cemeteries eligible for supplemental guide signs placed on any federally aided highway.

Also, this bill would make sure that people who willfully desecrate a veterans' memorial on public land could be fined or put in jail, and they would be subject to civil penalties to cover the cost of repairing damages.

Mr. Speaker, as we honor America's men and women in uniform now fighting in Afghanistan to protect our freedom we cannot forget those who have protected us before. We can do this by making sure memorials to their memory do not fall into disrepair. This bill will help to ensure that our veterans are not forgotten.

For the benefit of my colleagues I have attached a fact sheet that outlines the bill.

FACT SHEET: ''VETERANS' MEMORIAL PRESERVATION AND RECOGNITION ACT''

''VETERANS' MEMORIAL RESTORATION FUND''

Creates a fund to cover the costs associated with the repairs or restoration of veterans' memorials. These funds are also to cover the costs of continued maintenance and upkeep of veterans' memorials.

The funds made available in this account are to be in addition to other monies designated by the Treasury to be used for repair and maintenance of veterans' memorials.

The funds would be distributed to individuals or entities that are responsible for the upkeep of a veterans' memorial through Federal grants. (The Secretary of Veterans' Affairs would determine the criteria for how the grants are to be awarded.)

(There is not a specified amount of money designated for the fund. The fund would be augmented by donations. Also, money collected as a civil penalty from willful damage to memorials would go into the fund.)

DESECRATION OF VETERANS' MEMORIALS

Persons who willfully damage a veterans' memorial on public property can be imprisoned up to 10 years and fined (the fine amount is not defined in this legislation). If the damage does not exceed $1000 then the defendant cannot be imprisoned for more than one year.

Whoever willfully damages a memorial will be subject to civil penalties in an amount equal to the cost of repairing the damage.

HIGHWAY SIGNS RELATING TO VETERANS CEMETERIES

A veterans cemetery will be eligible for a supplemental guide sign placed on any highway that receives Federal monies.

TALIBAN'S TREATMENT OF WOMEN

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the Taliban's treatment of women and in support of H. RES. 281. There are no adequate words to describe the atrocities committed by the Taliban against women since 1996.

The Taliban has denied women the right to work or go to school, to laugh, or to speak above a whisper. Women cannot see physicians who aren't female and they can't practice medicine, which effectively denies women the right to healthcare. Women can't wear shoes that click when they walk or wear white socks. And they can't leave their homes without a male relative, even to go to the market to buy food for their starving children. Worse when women disobey these outrageous edicts they are often brutally and publicly beaten, flogged, stoned or even murdered.

But we do a disservice to the public and to ourselves if we view the treatment of women in Afghanistan as strictly a women's rights issue or a human rights issue. Women's participation in Afghan society is essential to its economic health. When the Taliban forbade women from working outside the home, Afghanistan lost 74% of its schoolteachers, 60% of its university professors, the vast majority of its nurses, 40% of its doctors, half of its university students, and 30% of its government workers. So, it is no surprise that the Afghan economy collapsed as soon as the Taliban took control. As in every country in the world, Afghanistan's very stability depends on the labor and skills of women.

The Afghan culture fomented terrorism because Afghanistan has no economic power—its people are poor and desperate and angry. And tragically, some are channeling that anger at the West. Killing Bid Laden and his Al Quaeda associates may stem the next round of terror, but it will not result in a sustainable peace. Peace is only possible in Afghanistan if its economy, infrastructure and government recover and become strong enough to provide for its people. And women are not peripheral to that recovery effort—they are central.

The Taliban understood that in order to impose a totalitarian regime on Afghanistan, they first had to remove the women. It is imperative that we understand that in order to eliminate that totalitarian regime, we have to restore to women their rightful, and indispensable role in society.

I urge my colleagues to join me in categorically condemning the Taliban's treatment of women, and affirming the importance of women to the reconstruction of Afghanistan by passing H. Res. 281.

AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO FIVE-YEAR HIV/AIDS HOUSING PLAN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, while affordable housing is a national problem, it is particularly serious for persons who also face significant health care problems. I would like to draw my colleagues' attention to an important new study and set of recommendations on this issue prepared by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

Recognizing the importance of stable housing to the health and well being of people living with HIV/AIDS, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) has published the Five-Year Chicago Area HIV/AIDS Housing Plan. The plan is the result of an intensive year-long community planning process that drew on input from more than 50 agencies, 100 AIDS housing professionals, and 500 consumers of AIDS housing services. AIDS Housing of Washington also served as a consultant to the project.

The plan describes HIV/AIDS housing services and unmet needs across the nine-county Chicago metropolitan area. The plan examines how housing services are distributed to people