

ago: Frank Wulff and Patrick Montuore. Mr. Speaker, I would like to list each of the participants for the official record.

Frank Wulff	Michael Francis
Ed Lincoln	Dave Barber
Jane Recktenwald	Pat Montuore
Paul Kosakowski	Brian Rabbitt
Steve Carpenter	Carmine DeCaro
Charlie Bryant	Lenny George
Jerry Mantone	Mark Meehan
Constantine Sedares	Dave Tyms
Bill Yirce	Rich Schultz
Steve Ambrose	Mark Stallone
Steve Donnelly	Phil Crosson
Lenny Gigantino	Paul Bogert
Paul Boegershausen	Bill Pollock
Paul Kay	Fred Freem
Rick Staeger	John Sria
John Carter	Bob Barr
Hernandez Thomas	Harry Phillips
Tom Barbella	Ed Mitchko
Tommy Downs	Debbie Baker
Karen Sullivan	Brian Markt
Emma Swearingen	Lou DeMeo
Paul Fortunato	Marc Hecht
Bob Cimino	Jimmy Waldron
Lee Scarano	Scott Smarsh
Pete Egan	Robert Fortunato
Pete Nienstadat	Bobby Montuore

Two support drivers, Patti Wulff and Jennifer Montuore assisted these riders.

I was present at the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial on Tuesday, May 11, when the participants reached their destination and were greeted by friends and family. Participants hailed from police forces in Madison, Chatham, Millburn, Livingston, Fair Lawn, West Orange, Union, Woodbridge, Maplewood, Denville, Margate, Florham Park, Morristown, Berkeley Heights, Franklin Township, Newark, Caldwell, NJIT, the NJ State Police, and the Essex County Prosecutors Office.

Mr. Speaker, over the last three years, the Police Unity Tour has raised over \$122,000 for the memorial, making it the top sponsor in the Nation. The effort of these men and women who rode their bikes from New Jersey to Washington, DC to raise money for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial pays tribute to those who put their lives on the line everyday—and those who have paid with their lives—so that our streets are safer, and our families more secure. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on their dedication and in wishing them success for many years to come.

A WORRIED GRANDFATHER

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the pleasure of introducing one of my constituents, Dr. Fred Mathews, at a hearing of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations. Dr. Mathews had been invited to speak on behalf of the Neurofibromatosis Foundation in support of increased funding for this often devastating disease.

It is a privilege to know Dr. Mathews and count him as a friend. In addition to his 47 years of practicing optometry in Dowagiac, MI, he has devoted his talents and energy to improving the quality of life in his community and expanding education opportunities and excel-

lence in our state. When he learned that his lovely young granddaughter, Allison, was afflicted with neurofibromatosis, he took on the most important fight of his life—the fight for a cure for this disease for Allison and for the at least 100,000 others who have this neurological disorder. His testimony before the subcommittee was eloquent, and I would like today to submit it to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that others may see the urgency of the need to find a cure. Dr. Mathews' testimony follows:

A WORRIED GRANDFATHER

Thank you Congressman Upton and thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for allowing me to testify. I am Fred Mathews, a constituent of Congressman Upton from Southwestern Michigan.

I am here today because my beautiful granddaughter Allison has Neurofibromatosis, a not so rare and devastating genetic disorder. In 1994 Allison was four years old when I first asked her parents about some spots on her skin. I had assumed these were simple birthmarks. This was the first time her parents shared with me that she had Neurofibromatosis, or abbreviated called NF. Up until then we had been shielded from the terrible truth.

I am an optometrist in a small town in southwest Michigan. I have practiced there for 47 years. Even though I am not a medical doctor I have better than a layman's knowledge of general medical problems. However, I had never heard of NF.

Immediately I began to research NF. I called research centers. I called the National Institutes of Health. I linked up with the National Neurofibromatosis Foundation. My testimony today has the blessing of that fine organization.

There is no way to describe the despair and hopelessness that families experience when faced with the fact that a child or grandchild has an incurable disease. My research left my wife and me panic-stricken. Here is a short version of what my research revealed.

NF is the most common neurological disorder caused by a single gene. At least 100,000 Americans have NF. This makes NF more prevalent than Cystic Fibrosis, hereditary muscular dystrophy, Huntington's Disease and Tay Sachs combined.

NF causes tumors to grow anywhere on or in the body. NF can lead to disfigurement, blindness, deafness, skeletal abnormalities, dermal, brain and spinal tumors, loss of limbs, malignancies and learning disabilities. The terrible disfigurement is why NF has erroneously been confused with the so called "elephant man" disease.

NF affects both genders, all races and ethnic groups equally. NF research in 1994 (when I first learned of my granddaughter's problem) had begun about 9 years earlier by the National NF Foundation. The gene causing NF had just been discovered.

My personal research did reveal some good news for my family and me. My granddaughter has the NF1 gene rather than the NF2 gene. With the NF2 gene the tumors and other bizarre disorders can start soon after birth. NF1 however, which my granddaughter has, sometimes does not manifest serious problems until puberty or beyond.

I also learned from Peter Bellermann, President of the National NF Foundation, and the world's greatest crusader to find a cure for NF, that researchers were hopeful of finding a cure in 10-15 years. Simple mathematics told me that this might be too late for my granddaughter and thousands of kids like her who were living with this time bomb.

I also learned that researchers believed that the projected time for a cure could pos-

sibly be cut in half if more research dollars were available.

I am grateful that this Committee and the Congress did respond to our plea and did appropriate significant new funds for NF research. In 1995 Chairman Porter also added language to the Appropriations Bill which expressed to NIH the commitment of this Committee for accelerated NF research.

Because of this Committee, the Congress, the NIH, the National NF Foundation and many dedicated researchers, our Allison who is now 9 years old, has a chance to avoid the ravages of NF. We are thankful and hopeful but still very apprehensive. The time clock is still running rapidly. Research has been extremely successful but has a long way to go to find a cure.

The National NF Foundation and I urge that the language which has been in the Appropriations Bill for the past four years, expressing this Committee's commitment to NF research, be in the FY 2000 bill.

I am grateful for the courtesy members of this committee and other members of congress and their staffs have shown Peter Bellermann and me these past few years. Some of you have my granddaughter's picture in your office.

In my opinion, no expenditure by the Federal Government is more rewarding, more needed, and more appropriate than research for dread diseases including NF. As a grandfather of a little girl with one of these dread diseases, I feel anxiety, frustration but also hope knowing that the timetable for a cure of NF and other diseases is almost solely dependent on the willingness of the Congress to recognize medical research as its #1 priority. That is why Mr. Chairman we strongly support a significant increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health medical research. With the NIH as the quarterback, the greatest hope we have for finding a cure for NF and all other dread diseases, lies with this Committee and the NIH.

Since my allotted time is up Mr. Chairman, I respectfully request permission to extend my remarks in the written testimony I will leave with the Committee.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, on behalf of the National Neurofibromatosis Foundation, as well as the thousands of children and adults with NF, I thank you and my Allison thanks you.

EXTENDED TESTIMONY OF DR. FRED L.

MATHEWS

APRIL 29, 1999

I am pleased and proud that NF research has been pointed out to be a model for "Managing Science." It represents an effective partnership between public agencies, most notably the U.S. Congress and the National Institutes of Health, private organizations and the National Neurofibromatosis Foundation and scientists and clinical researchers in the field who have achieved their progress by consensus and by collaborating to a remarkable degree. To use the vernacular, NF research has given a "good bang for the buck" to all who have invested in it.

NF research has significant potential for other very large patient populations. Since the NF genes have been implicated in the signaling process that determines cell growth and cell differentiation, NF research also has great promise for the tens of millions of Americans with malignancies.

NF also causes learning disabilities at about five to six times the frequency found in the general population. Work in that aspect of NF research therefore has considerable potential for the estimated 30 million Americans who are learning disabled.

Given the wide variety of symptoms of NF, I understand that you Mr. Chairman and the

Committee have urged those involved in NF research to foster collaborative efforts between and among the various initiatives at the NIH under whose purview these manifestations fall. Peter Bellermann, President of the National NF Foundation has informed me that these efforts are taking place and that "Cross-Institute" activities are a reality.

NF has the attention at the highest level of the NIH beginning with the Director Dr. Varmus. It extends to the Institute heads, especially Dr. Gerald Fischbach at NINDS and to Dr. Richard Klausner at the National Cancer Institute. These progressive officers work at continuing the cross-institute efforts, participate in scientific meetings of NF, and advise other funding agencies to avoid duplication of funding.

NF has been a success story for research for all who have invested in it. True success will, however, come only when a cure is found and real people like my granddaughter can look forward to happy lives, free of NF's terrible consequences. We now have to go the next hard miles. Researchers now stand ready to translate basic scientific knowledge into clinical application. The next agenda includes continued work in basic research, starting comprehensive natural history studies for NF and beginning the all important process of clinical trials with innovative approaches. We all pray that this will lead to an effective treatment for NF.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not thank my Congressman Fred Upton and his staff person Jane Williams for their very special help and support. We are also very appreciative of the longtime support Congressman Murtha has given NF funding. And a special thanks to you, Chairman Porter, who in 1995 took time from your busy schedule to meet personally with Peter Bellermann and me so that we could tell you of the urgent need for accelerated NF funding. Your ongoing support since then has been tremendously helpful. To the members of this Committee who have supported us in this critical effort, we also offer another thank you.

COMMENDING BRIGHAM YOUNG
UNIVERSITY

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the efforts of Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, in their unending journey to better relations around the world. Brigham Young University in Provo, UT sends various groups from their Performing Arts department throughout the world to better the University's ties, which in turn improves U.S. foreign relations.

On May 18th, BYU's Young Ambassadors, Ballroom Dance team, and Folk Dance Ensemble returned from a tour of the South Pacific commemorating the 20th anniversary of their first visit to China.

Throughout the past twenty years, BYU has established a name for itself in China and is currently very well regarded by its people. I am very proud to represent the students and faculty members of BYU. They are a model to us all as we work to create a global society of culture, heritage and peace.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC
APPEALS PARITY ACT

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to introduce the Public Appeals Parity Act of 1999. This Act is needed so that the general public, who have legitimate interests in federal land management decisions, has an avenue to appeal certain decisions made by the National Park Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Currently, no such appeals system exists within these two federal agencies and the public's only recourse for relief is through the court system.

The idea of an internal agency appeal system is not new. Right now, two other primary federal land management agencies, the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management have an administrative process whereby the public can appeal certain decisions in regard to land management decisions made by these agencies. This Act would initiate a similar administrative appeal process for the public in regard to decisions made by the National Park Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The Secretary of the Interior would be directed to establish procedures for an appeals process for the Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service which will afford the public, prior to the implementation of the project, activity, or plan, an opportunity to appeal decisions made by these agencies in regard to land and resource management decisions which occur in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The regulations developed by the Secretary of the Interior per this Act would mirror those already established for the U.S. Forest Service and would include such things as the type of decisions that may be appealed, who may appeal decisions, the procedures that apply to appealing the decision, and other important steps which the public could follow.

This Act is fair, is not precedent setting, and levels the playing field so that the public has an avenue to appeal decisions made by federal agencies rather than to take them to court. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support the Public Appeals Parity Act of 1999.

BRETT SHARPE NAMED ALL-
AMERICAN SCHOLAR AND
UNITED STATES NATIONAL
AWARD IN LEADERSHIP AND
SERVICE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend an outstanding Colorado high school student and leader. This Spring, Brett Sharpe of Haxtun High School in Haxtun, Colorado, was named an All-American Scholar and a United States National Award in Leadership and Service.

The United States Achievement Academy presents the All-American Scholar Award to those students demonstrating exceptional aca-

demic discipline. Scholars must receive a grade-point average of 3.3 or higher and be selected by a school instructor or counselor.

The National Award in Leadership and Service is presented only to a select group of students nationwide. Recipients must demonstrate outstanding scholastics, leadership and student service throughout their high school years.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Brett Sharpe for his truly remarkable scholastic, service, and leadership abilities. With confidence, I look forward to his future contributions in America.

A TRIBUTE TO MEMBERS OF THE
GREENPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT
FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this hallowed chamber to pay tribute to three members of the Star Hose Co. #3 of the Greenport Fire Department and to join the volunteer firefighters, emergency medical personnel and grateful people of this Long Island community as they celebrate these brave men for their 50 years of volunteer service.

I would like to tell my colleagues about Greenport, a special place where neighbors look out for neighbors and every resident possesses a special pride in their hometown. In a service that exemplifies selfless heroism, the men and women of the Greenport Fire Department perform above and beyond the call of duty each and every day. Compensated only by the satisfaction that their efforts save lives and protect property, these volunteers have answered every alarm for over 50 years. I am proud and honored to count these brave firefighters among my friends and neighbors.

Moreover, I am proud to join with the Greenport Fire Department in honoring these members for their faithful service. These men have answered the siren's call whenever a fire or other peril threatened a member of the Greenport community. Henry Clarke, Jr. has served for 58 years as 2nd Lt., 1st Lt. and Captain from April 1952 to March 1952. Nelson Beebe has served for 52 years as 2nd Lt., 1st Lt. and Captain from April 1978 to March 1980. Jake Sherwood has served for 50 years as 2nd Lt., 1st Lt. and Captain from April 1958 to March 1960. Time and again these brave men joined their comrades as they hastened to the scene, placing themselves in harm's way to aid another human being in danger, regardless of whether it be a friend, neighbor or stranger.

Demonstrating that true heroes are created over a lifetime of selfless acts and service to their God, family and country, these brave men of the Greenport Fire Department are perfect role models for every volunteer firefighter who will come after them. They truly reflect the outstanding work of the Greenport Fire Department and its commitment to training and service that keep their neighbors, friends and even their own children safe and secure. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saluting the courageous, devoted volunteers of the Greenport Fire Department.