

Scleroderma literally means "hard skin" and is a chronic disorder that leads to the overproduction of collagen in the body's connective tissue. It can also effect internal organs, causing severe damage and serious complications to the body's digestive, circulatory and immune system. Scleroderma is not contagious or directly hereditary nor is it gender, race or age specific. However, 80% of its victims are women, most in the prime of their lives. Unfortunately, there is no known cause or cure for scleroderma.

I would like to commend the Pleasanton Lions Club within the 10th Congressional District for taking it upon themselves to raise awareness about Scleroderma. Thanks to a request being made by the Pleasanton Lions Club, the Pleasanton City Council on May 18 of this year proclaimed the month of June as "Scleroderma Awareness Month." Also in conjunction with downtown events in Pleasanton, the Pleasanton Lions Club sponsors a booth offering information about the disease that also involves members from the Scleroderma Support Group in the Bay Area who share their stories with the public.

The Pleasanton Lions Club has also established informational displays along with literature at the Pleasanton Library, the Lion's Club visitor/ticket office, the Valleycare Library, Valleycare Mental Center, the Pleasanton Senior Center and the Livermore Veterans Hospital.

On June 11, the Pleasanton Lions Club sponsored their 11th annual golf tournament and dinner to help raise money for scleroderma research. I have been told that the tournament and the subsequent dinner were a roaring success.

It is important that scleroderma be given the attention required to raise awareness and the funds needed to fight this chronic disease. The Pleasanton Lions Club have played a major role in this effort and I thank them for it. I hope others will follow their lead and get the word out to the public about why we need to fight scleroderma.

SALARIES FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of salaries for Members of Congress.

I have spoken time and again about my frustration of having to deal with the issue of automatic cost of living increases for Members of Congress each year. This year was no exception.

Representing a mostly rural district in Kentucky, I believe that I am fairly compensated for my services. It is an honor for me to represent the Second District.

It is important, at a time like this, for us to not lose sight of the fact that in the past several years we have ask America to sacrifice in order to balanced the federal budget. While we, in Congress, have made great strides toward this goal, our job is not yet complete.

I continue to be concerned with the process in which these cost of living adjustments are made. I would rather Congress take an up or

down vote on all pay adjustments for Members and have cosponsored legislation to eliminate the cost of living provision all together. This was the manner in which Congress did business for over one hundred and fifty years.

This is the first time in five years I have voted for a cost of living increase. I have to recognize that many of my colleagues are not fortunate enough to live in a low cost area such as the Second District of Kentucky.

This increase is not just for Members of Congress but for the thousands of federal judges and civil service administrators which are leaving at an alarming rate for the private sector. This exodus is depriving the government of some of the best and brightest that we have to offer.

Mr. Speaker, while I supported the increase for these reasons this time, I will not accept it personally. I intend to contribute my share of the cost of living increase to worthwhile causes in the Second District of Kentucky.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT SADOW

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Police Chief Albert Sadow who retired from Hazel Park, Michigan's Police Department on July 14, 1999, bringing closure to 38 years of distinguished public service.

Chief Sadow's career with the City of Hazel Park dates back to 1961 when he worked for the Water and Sewer Department at the hourly rate of \$1.67. In addition to holding the civilian posts of Assistant City Manager and Personnel Director, Chief Sadow rose through the ranks of the Police Department from Patrolman to Sergeant to Lieutenant, and finally to Chief in 1985.

Under Chief Sadow's leadership, the City of Hazel Park profited from many positive changes and innovations in public safety. Through the acquisition of state and federal funds, Chief Sadow brought the Hazel Park Police Department into the 21st Century by installing video display terminals, video cameras, radar units and state-of-the-art computer systems in every police cruiser.

Other programs instituted during Chief Sadow's tenure include the Southeast Oakland Crime Suppression Task Force, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), the K-9 unit, Motor Vehicle Carrier and Bicycle Patrol.

In his 38 years of service, Albert Sadow never used a sick day, and has been a tireless, and dedicated public servant. Indeed, Hazel Park is as better and safer place thanks to Chief Sadow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing my friend, Albert Sadow, good health and happiness as he and his wife, Virginia, trade in his police car for their motor home, and spend their retirement visiting their three grown children and enjoying life together.

HONORING JUDGE FRANK M. JOHNSON, JR.

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, We are a country of strong men united by great philosophies, yet we are divided by realities that built this country by stripping a people of their land in order to call it our own and by enslaving another people to a lifelong labor of blood and sweat to build our homes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on the brink of a new millennium, not to point out the immaculate flaws of our cherished American dream. Rather, I rise to salute Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., a man who Time Magazine in 1967 deemed "one of the most important men in America" and whose life exemplifies the Biblical statement "To whom much is given, much is required."

Judge Johnson is a man who dedicated more than four decades of his life to ensuring that no man be limited by separate facilities that inherently violate his right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. He is an American icon, a legendary Federal jurist from Alabama whose historic civil rights decisions forever shattered segregation in a "Jim Crow" South. His monumental ruling striking down the Montgomery bus-segregation law as unconstitutional created a broad mandate for racial justice that eternally eliminated segregation in public schools and colleges, bathrooms, restaurants and other public facilities in Alabama and across the South. Judge Johnson was an innovator and a crusader for all mankind who will be remembered eternally for giving true meaning to the word justice.

Today, I rise to honor Judge Johnson for helping to bring equality to the American dream; I honor him for bringing justice to an inhumane system of law; I honor him like Martin Luther King, Jr., for allowing justice and righteousness to roll down like a mighty stream.

AMENDMENT TO CZECH CITIZENSHIP LAW PRAISED

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue I have raised in this Chamber many times before: the Czech citizenship law. For 5 years, as a member of the Helsinki Commission, I have argued that the law adopted when the Czechoslovak Federal Republic dissolved, on January 1, 1993, was designed to and had the effect of leaving tens of thousands of former Czechoslovaks de jure or de facto stateless. I have argued, and as Czech officials eventually admitted, all of those people were members of the Romani minority. And I have argued that to have a law with such a narrow and discriminatory impact was no accident. Most of all, I have argued that this law needed to be changed.

In 1996, the law was amended in an effort to placate international critics of the law, but that amendment was mere window dressing

and the Czech citizenship law still left tens of thousands of former Czechoslovaks stateless, every one a Rom. Moreover, there was an important principle at stake: citizenship laws in newly independent states which discriminate against permanent residents who were citizens of the former state on the basis of race, language, religion or ethnicity are not compatible with international norms. That failure to uphold this principle in the Czech Republic could have critical reverberations in every former Soviet Republic and, more to the point, every former Yugoslav Republic.

Many people working on this issue believed that the 1996 amendment was all that was politically possible; that we would simply have to resign ourselves to a generation of stateless Roma. The leadership of the Helsinki Commission, including the current Chairman, Congressman CHRIS SMITH, held our ground and insisted that the Czech law should be amended again, to bring it into line with international norms.

Meanwhile, throughout this first post-Communist decade, the number of violent attacks against Roma climbed, year after year. By the fall of 1997, some 2000 Czech Roma had requested asylum in Canada. By 1998, NGO's reported that there had been more than 40 racially motivated murders in the Czech Republic since 1990, more than the number of racially motivated murders in Bulgaria, Romania, and Slovakia combined—countries with much larger Romani populations. Midway through 1998, the city of Usti nad Labem announced plans to build a wall to segregate Romani residents from ethnic Czechs—a ghetto in the heart of Europe.

Fortunately, the Czech Government elected last year appears to take the human rights violation of Czech Roma much more seriously. Early after taking office, Deputy Prime Minister Pavel Rychetsky announced that amending the Czech citizenship law would be a priority for his government. Acting on that commitment, the Chamber of Deputies adopted an amendment on July 9 that will enable thousands of Roma to apply for citizenship.

This amendment must still be passed by the Czech Senate and signed into law by President Havel—both steps are expected to take place this year. More critically, it will be necessary to ensure that there is an active campaign to reach all those who have been denied citizenship, to make sure this right is fully exercised. But for now, the Czech Chamber of Deputies has upheld an important principle and, even more importantly, upheld the rights of the Romani minority.

H.R. 2633—THE POLICE BADGE FRAUD PREVENTION ACT OF 1999

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduced H.R. 2633, the Police Badge Fraud Prevention Act, a bill intended to remove the state and local police badge from the reach of those who wish to use badges to commit crimes.

If a man or woman in a police uniform knocks on your door and shows a badge, you wouldn't think twice about opening the door.

But by doing so, you may be putting your family in danger. Counterfeit police badges—and fraudulently obtained real ones—have allowed criminals to invade people's homes and terrorize their families.

In 1997, Los Angeles police arrested two men suspected of committing more than 30 home-invasion robberies by impersonating police officers. Among the more than 100 items confiscated from the suspects' home were official Los Angeles police badges.

Despite state statutes against impersonating police officers, criminals appear to have disturbingly easy access to police badges and the means to manufacture counterfeit badges. The local Fox television affiliate in Los Angeles found out just how easy it is in an undercover investigation. The undercover reporter bought a fake Los Angeles Police Department badge from a dealer for \$1,000, a fake California Highway Patrol badge for \$40, and for \$60 a fake badge from the police department of Signal Hill (a city in my Congressional District).

The threat of counterfeit police badges reaches across state lines. Criminals can purchase badges on the Internet and through mail-order catalogs. The interstate nature of the counterfeit badge market calls for a national response to this problem. There is currently no federal law dealing with counterfeit badges of state and local law enforcement agencies.

H.R. 2633, the Police Badge Fraud Prevention Act, would ban the interstate or foreign trafficking of counterfeit badges and genuine badges (among those not authorized to possess a genuine badge). This legislation would complement state statutes against impersonating a police officer, addressing in particular the problems posed by Internet and mail-order badge sales. The bill is similar to H.R. 4282 in the 105th Congress. The new version of the bill includes exceptions for cases where the badge is used exclusively in a collection or exhibit; for decorative purposes; or for a dramatic presentation, such as a theatrical, film, or television production. The Fraternal Order of Police is endorsing this bill.

Misuse of the badge reduces public trust in law enforcement and endangers the public. This bill should be enacted to stop criminals from using this time-honored symbol of law enforcement for illegal purposes.

I am delighted to have the following co-sponsors. They are: Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. BARCIA, Mr. HOLDEN, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. GENE GREEN, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. LUTHER, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. ADAM SMITH, Mr. STUPAK, Ms. DANNER, Mr. OSE, Mr. REYES, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. GARY MILLER.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation and urge the House to pass it.

Mr. Speaker, the text of H.R. 2633 is short. It follows:

H.R. 2633

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Police Badge Fraud Prevention Act of 1999"

SEC. 2. POLICE BADGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 33 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§716. Police badges

"(a) Whoever—

"(1) knowingly transfers, transports, or receives, in interstate or foreign commerce, a counterfeit police badge;

"(2) knowingly transfers, in interstate or foreign commerce, a genuine police badge to an individual not authorized to possess it under the law of the place in which the badge is the official badge of the police;

"(3) knowingly receives a genuine police badge in a transfer prohibited by paragraph (2); or

"(4) being a person not authorized to possess a genuine police badge under the law of the place in which the badge is the official badge of the police, knowingly transports that badge in interstate or foreign commerce;

shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 180 days, or both.

"(b) It is a defense to a prosecution under this section that the badge is used exclusively—

"(1) in a collection or exhibit;

"(2) for decorative purposes; or

"(3) for a dramatic presentation, such as theatrical, film, or television production.

"(c) As used in this section—

"(1) the term 'genuine police badge' means an official badge issued by public authority to identify an individual as a law enforcement officer having police powers; and

"(2) the term 'counterfeit police badge' means an item that so resembles a police badge that it would deceive an ordinary individual into believing it was a genuine police badge."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 33 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"716. Police badges."

THE CONNECTICUT STATE TECHNOLOGY EXTENSION PROGRAM

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of a program very important to Connecticut. With Congress presently debating its annual spending bills, people may wonder how the budget affects them and their well being. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about one particular program of which I am a strong supporter—the Connecticut State Technology Extension program (CONN/STEP). CONN/STEP helps Connecticut manufacturers become more competitive through the use of advanced manufacturing and management technologies. Through their team of field engineers CONN/STEP provides onsite technical assistance, detailed assessments, outlines potential solutions, and identifies external service providers. CONN/STEP is funded jointly by the State Department of Economic and Community Development and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) under the Department of Commerce.

Here's how CONN/STEP helped one local company in Bristol, Connecticut. Ultimate Wireforms manufactures arch wires and other orthodontic appliances from superelastic/memory alloys and stainless steel for orthodontry applications. The arch wires apply pressure to teeth, slowly causing them to move a predetermined amount to correctively position teeth. The company has provided