

and improvement of direct detection tests for Lyme a priority. Second, we must double the funding at CDC and bring total Lyme disease funding at \$16 million. The CDC has admitted that "the (Lyme) disease is greatly under-reported." Thus, we must urge CDC to re-examine its surveillance system to see where improvements can be made and accurately enhanced. In order to do this, they need adequate funding and oversight.

Lyme disease continues to harm tens of thousands of Americans who engage in outdoor activities, both from work and from recreation. Symptoms of Lyme disease can include a reddish skin rash, chills, flu-like symptoms, headaches, joint pain and fatigue. Without treatment, Lyme disease can result in acute headaches, arthritis, and nervous system and cardiac abnormalities. The CDC notes that Lyme disease is the leading cause of vector-borne infectious illness in the U.S. with approximately 15,000 cases reported annually. Over 125,000 cases of Lyme disease infection have been reported since 1982, and some studies indicate cases of Lyme may be under-reported by as much as 10 or 12 fold. Furthermore, various estimates of the cost of Lyme disease on our society at between \$500 million and \$1 billion annually.

Consequently, I believe funding to address detection and surveillance would greatly assist Congress in ensuring the constituents in Lyme disease endemic areas that Lyme disease research is on the right track.

The case is amply made that extra monies for Alzheimer's disease, Autism, and Lyme disease will be very well put to use and represent a small payment toward preventing future health care costs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of Congress to support increased funding for Alzheimer's, autism, and Lyme disease.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE IRON WORKERS LOCAL 17

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting the hard working men and women of Iron Workers Local 17 of Cleveland, Ohio as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary.

The brilliant craftsmanship of the thousands of dedicated men and women who comprise the Iron Workers Local 17 is evident across the landscape of Northern Ohio. The bridges that span Ohio's beautiful rivers and The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame are both fine examples of the permanent imprint that Iron Workers 17 has cast on thousands of structures in the state. This community of working people who understand the value and importance of family are committed to creating a tradition of excellence. Performing one of the ten most dangerous jobs in the world, courageous ironworkers brave the tough Cleveland weather and risky working conditions to build the office towers, sports stadiums, and highway bridges that illuminate the skyline.

Early on when structural steel construction was in its infancy, ironworkers often worked ten hour days and seven day weeks for as little as twenty cents an hour, only expecting to

hold positions for ten years before death or major injury ended their career. When Local 17 gained its charter in 1901 money was tight, but the union persevered and provided help to its members. In the turbulent years that followed, union iron workers learned how to deal with steel industry giants, often initiating strikes to gain fair labor practices. By the end of World War I, the unions successfully established the eight-hour day and five-day work-week.

Local 17 thrived in the midst of the great industrial expansion of the 1920's. In this decade, the largest building project in Cleveland's history, The Cleveland Union Terminal complex including the landmark Terminal Tower, was completed. During World War II, ironworkers, dedicated to the ideals of the United States, served in all branches of the military and were even recruited to work as "seabees" by the Navy to repair aircraft carriers and battleships. Iron workers on the homefront assisted in war munitions production or worked around the country building power plants, hydroelectric facilities, and dams needed in the war effort. In the decades following the war, iron workers were busy rebuilding the bridges and highways in disrepair after many years of use. Presently, Local 17 is enjoying renewed respect with growing membership and cordial relationships with contractors.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in saluting the thousands of dedicated men and women that brave tough conditions at great personal risk to keep Cleveland growing.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER MEDAL OF VALOR ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 802, the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act, which would create a national medal for public safety officers who exhibit extraordinary heroism in the line of duty.

As someone who once aspired to serve in law enforcement and a proud member of both the Congressional Law Enforcement and Firefighters Caucuses, I deeply admire those who devote their lives to public safety.

We are blessed to have dedicated men and women public safety officials throughout this nation who consistently risks their lives on a daily basis to protect our families and communities. It is absolutely critical that we recognize these loyal public servants and ensure that the risks that these brave individuals assume in the course of their duties are not taken for granted.

Although many local public safety organizations honor those who have demonstrated bravery, the federal government does little to reward and recognize these individuals. By passing the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act, Congress would have the unique opportunity to express its appreciation for the unnoticed acts of valor committed by public safety officers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Further, this legislation will help send a positive message across the country that our public safety officers deserve

our utmost respect for their service and sacrifices.

I will continue to applaud the courage and dedication to duty of all public safety officers and would strongly urge my colleagues to support the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act.

INDEPENDENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSUMER ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Independent Telecommunications Consumer Enhancement Act of 2001. This bill would provide regulatory relief to small and mid-sized telephone companies that generally serve small town and rural communities. The current regulatory burdens on these small companies are the same as those placed on large companies; but, because of their size, these regulations are very costly and time-consuming.

These regulatory burdens tend to discourage competition in rural communities by impeding the entry of new companies into these markets. These burdens also pose obstacles to the development in rural communities of advanced services such as broadband Internet access.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 provided for reduced regulations and greater competition in our country. This has fostered many new telecommunications and information services including advanced services. However, the benefits of these technological advances have been enjoyed by urban and suburban communities much more than by persons who live in small towns and rural communities. Large telephone companies and other entities tend to have the resources required to develop these advanced services and find the urban and suburban markets more attractive. The deployment of advanced services in urban areas contrasted with the difficulty of small companies offering these services in rural areas has exacerbated the digital divide in our country.

We must find ways to bridge this divide. Relieving certain regulatory burdens may help achieve this objective. The proponents of this bill and many small telephone companies promise that they will use the savings resulting from the elimination of these regulatory burdens to extend advanced services. Some question whether the savings resulting from this measure would simply increase profits of the small telephone companies with no corresponding increase in services. Some note that this bill does not impose a reciprocal obligation to extend services following the relaxation of current regulatory requirements, and does not include any enforcement mechanisms. We hope that the small telephone companies which benefit from the adoption of this bill will do the right thing and act in the best interest of the communities in which they operate. That is the intent of this measure and the