

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, A few years ago, I learned first-hand about the importance of preventative care for cardiovascular disease. My wife, Elsie, had a heart attack. It was a very difficult time period for her, and for our family. I am pleased to report that she is in good health today. And I can still celebrate this holiday with her. Unfortunately, not many women are as lucky as my wife. Heart disease is the number one killer of American women.

In fact, cardiovascular diseases kill more females each year than the next 9 causes of death combined. The seriousness of this disease doesn't stop there. Heart disease is our nation's number one killer and leading cause of long-term disability. We need to raise awareness to fight this disease. Preventive health care is the key to lowering the number of victims of heart disease.

Risk factors of heart disease are high cholesterol, high blood pressure, tobacco, lack of activity, and obesity. The majority of these risks can be prevented. And we can only accomplish this through education to raise awareness. February is American Heart month. I ask my colleagues to take advantage of this to spread awareness about heart disease and encourage healthy life styles.

COMMENDING NATIONAL HIGHWAY
TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
REGARDING NATIONAL
CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY
WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution to commend the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for sponsoring National Child Passenger Safety Week. I also want to commend the sponsor of the legislation, Mr. CAMP, the Ranking Democratic Member of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, Mr. BORSKI, the Chairman of the Subcommittee, Mr. PETRI, and the Chairman of the full Committee, Mr. YOUNG, for their support of the legislation.

In 2000, motor vehicle crashes killed more than 2,300 children under the age of 15 and injured another 291,000. Six out of ten children killed in these crashes were completely unrestrained. In 2000, only nine percent of all children under the age of five rode unrestrained, but they accounted for more than one half of all child occupant fatalities. This is not acceptable.

To increase seat belt use nationwide, the previous Administration established goals to reduce the number of child occupant fatalities 15 percent by 2000 and 25 percent by 2005. Education programs, such as TEA 21's Child Passenger Protection Education Grant program, and other programs, played important roles in helping the Department meet the first of these goals. In each of fiscal years 2000,

2001, and 2002, Congress provided \$7.5 million to finance the Child Passenger Protection Education Grant program in the Transportation Appropriations Act and pursuant to TEA 21. Forty-eight states, the District of Columbia, and the Territories have received grants under this program. Since 1997, the number of child fatalities resulting from traffic crashes has declined 17 percent, exceeding the previous Administration's goal of a 15 percent decline by the end of 2000. Restraint use for infants has risen to 95 percent from 85 percent in 1996, and has climbed to 91 percent for children aged one to four, up from 60 percent in 1996.

The proper use of child restraint systems can save lives, Mr. Speaker. It is essential that we continue to remind parents that all children should use restraint systems properly and to continue providing funding for grant programs to ensure that we continue to make progress in preventing deaths and injuries to children on our Nation's highways. These efforts will help us achieve our goal of a 25-percent reduction in child occupant fatalities by 2005.

Again, I want to commend the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and its Administrator, Dr. Jeff Runge, for sponsoring National Child Passenger Safety Week. I strongly support the concurrent resolution and urge its approval.

IN RECOGNITION OF FEBRUARY AS
AMERICAN HEART MONTH

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize February as the American Heart Association Month to demonstrate the seriousness of cardiovascular diseases, including heart and stroke.

Founded by six doctors in 1924, the American Heart Association is a national voluntary health agency whose mission is to reduce disability and death from cardiovascular diseases and stroke. This organization serves as a key resource of information for heart patients, advocates, and survivors. Heart disease and stroke are two of the nation's top three leading causes of death, claiming the lives of more than 960,000 Americans each year.

The American Heart Association has titled this year's theme "Be Prepared for Cardiac Emergencies. Know the signs of cardiac arrest. Call 9-1-1 immediately. Give CPR." Promoting the importance of knowing signs and symptoms of a cardiac emergency can literally be the difference between life and death. Every minute that passes without defibrillation and CPR, the chance of survival for a cardiac arrest victim decreases by 7 to 10 percent. According to the Archives of Internal Medicine, most heart attack patients wait more than two hours before seeking emergency care, initially because they do not recognize the symptoms of a heart attack. In my home state of Texas, heart disease is the leading killer, as well as nationally among women, with more than 370,000 deaths a year.

In observance of this special month, we acknowledge the researchers, physicians, health care professionals, public education professionals, and volunteers for their commitment to prevention, awareness, research, and treat-

ment of this disease. Thanks to these workers and their unwavering resolve, the American Heart Association has established a chain of survival for victims of sudden cardiac arrest. The four links in the chain of survival involve, early access to phones and emergency exits, early CPR, early defibrillation and early advanced life support. These important tools are critical in saving a person's life when they cardiac arrest.

No one understands that better than Joel Ruby, of West University in my district, who suffered his first heart attack in his early forties. He has since undergone several angioplasty surgeries and continues to battle congestive heart failure. Although he continues his ongoing battle with heart disease, Joel has also become an active board member of the Houston Chapter of the American Heart Association. Joel's involvement is a testament to his commitment and the dedication of countless others to the American Heart Association and the lives of people inspired by it.

Again, I wish the American Heart Association continued success on their "American Heart Month" and to continue their mission to reduce disability and death from cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

REMEMBER CHINA'S WORKING
CLASS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, President Bush will be traveling to the People's Republic of China on Saturday, February 16, 2002 to meet with the leaders of that country. He will be discussing issues ranging from the war on terrorism to improving trade relations between our two nations.

I view this trip as an important and positive part of the ongoing U.S.-China dialogue. However, I believe it is imperative that we do not ignore the suffering of the working class in China. I recently read an article in the Washington Post about the Shuangfeng Textile Factory located in Dafeng, China. According to the Washington Post, corruption has engulfed the firm, leaving thousands of workers with little pay and little hope. Top executives of the firm have forced workers to buy over priced company stock and to accept pay cuts of up to 50%, which amounts to \$25 to \$40 a month. Reportedly, resistance to those demands has resulted in some employees losing their jobs.

The workers attempted to acquire the attention of local and federal officials by signing petitions and staging strikes. They sat in the factory for days and nights, not even returning home to see their loved ones. During those nights, police stormed into the factory and used force to drag them outside. The police also made dozens of arrests to try and put an end to the employee uprising. In spite of all this, the government apparently took no action to investigate the case. Eventually, the workers were defeated and had to accept the terms of management and return to their jobs with broken spirits. I hope all of my colleagues take the time to read the portion of the Washington Post article that I have submitted for the RECORD.