

his outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty.

The Purple Heart is awarded for wounds received in action on October 10, 1972.”

Major Peter McArthur Cleary, the oldest of four children, was born on June 27, 1944 at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut. His parents, John McArthur Cleary and Helen Fifield Cleary lived in East Hartford, Connecticut at the time of Peter's birth. In the late 1940s, they moved to Higbie Drive in Mayberry Village in East Hartford. It is here that I first met Peter. Major Cleary had two brothers William and Tom, who were my age, as well as a sister Maureen (now known as Cleary M. Donovan). Mayberry was a small community teeming with baby-boomers, many of Irish decent. Flanagan, Grady, Kelly, Dagon, and Shaughnessey, all made up the neighborhood I recall with great fondness. In fact, John Cleary wrote a piece about Mayberry for the Hartford Times. Its focus was family life in the Mayberry neighborhood. In 1956, the family moved to Colchester, Connecticut. John and Helen Cleary lived in Colchester until their deaths in 1984 and 2001, respectfully. Major Cleary attended grade school in Colchester. He spent his high school freshman and sophomore years at St. Bernard High School in New London, Connecticut. Major Cleary then attended Mother of the Savior Seminary in Blackwood, New Jersey. Upon graduation in 1962, he began studying to be an Edmundite priest at St. Edmund's in Mystic, Connecticut. Major Cleary left after one year and transferred to St. Michael's College in Winooski, Vermont. He graduated in 1967 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. Although Major Cleary moved many times in his young life, he considered Colchester, Connecticut his hometown.

Major Cleary married Barbara Kingsley of Yantic, Connecticut in 1967. They had two beautiful children, a son Sean and a daughter Paige.

I would urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing and honoring the sacrifices of Major Cleary and his family, and in welcoming him home. It is a great honor for me to record in the Congressional Record the achievements of this American Hero, and salute his family. Arlington National Cemetery is a long way from Mayberry Village and Higbie Drive, and while Major Peter Cleary will lie at rest with the nation's heroes, we who remain will forever carry his memory in our hearts.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION ON UNITED STATES ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of legislation addressing an issue of longstanding concern to me: America's dependence on foreign sources of oil.

The resolution I am introducing tonight calls on President Bush to remind those oil exporting nations who are our allies that decisions they have made recently to restrict crude oil

supply in the world market, in accordance with requests made by the OPEC cartel, adversely affect the national security of the United States and the world economy. These countries must be informed of the affects of their oil export cutbacks.

As OPEC and non-OPEC countries collude to boost oil prices they actually harm the world economy and, in the long run, their own bottom lines. It is estimated that every 10-cent a gallon increase of gasoline at the pump in the United States costs motorists \$13 billion annually. This spring, gasoline prices have jumped from an average of about \$1.00 to over \$1.30 nationwide. This price spike alone is putting a drag on the U.S. economy. If some estimates hold true, the price Americans face at the pump may rise to an average of \$1.60 per gallon this summer. This economic burden will hit Americans in the wallet like a new \$78 million tax! Oil producers must be reminded that any slowing of the U.S. economy will simply lessen the demand for their product and will negatively impact their corporate bottom line in the end.

I am troubled most that many of the oil-producing countries that collude to boost prices at the American gas pump are actually close American allies. Countries like Mexico, Norway, Saudi Arabia, the Unites Arab Emirates and Venezuela have gotten together and collectively bargained to reduce their output to boost prices. Furthermore, these countries had the audacity to do this at precisely the time that the United States economy was struggling to recover from the effects of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. To those Arab allies we fought to defend and liberate a decade ago, we must say, “stop gouging us at the pump.” Moreover, we expect you to make up any shortfall in oil exports to our country resulting from Saddam Hussein's latest political gimmick—a 30 day boycott of exports. To our non-OPEC allies around the world, such as Mexico, we say the path to your country's economic progress lies with us and not with OPEC. We also ask you to desist in oil output restrictions in which you recently engaged at the request of the OPEC cartel and that you help make up any shortfall from Iraq oil restrictions as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House of Representatives to pass my resolution in order to send a message to OPEC that this body will not accept practices that hold our economy hostage.

My resolution also urges the Senate to act and pass comprehensive energy legislation, such as H.R. 4, which was agreed to by the House of Representatives on August 2, 2001. A comprehensive national energy policy like that proposed in H.R. 4 will help make the United States more energy self-sufficient and less dependent on foreign sources of oil.

Mr. Speaker, this country's best course of action lies in becoming independent of foreign oil. The OPEC foreign cartel has operated beyond the scope of our law and has worked in contravention of free market forces for decades. The Senate can help to get us closer to the goal of energy independence by passing H.R. 4. In the meantime, our allies must become independent of OPEC. I urge our allies to recognize the fact that it is in their best interest to have a strong U.S. economy and that reducing production or boosting petroleum

prices only acts to hurt that economy. The oil-producing countries of the world have an obligation to stabilize the world price of oil so that there is a continued demand for their product. If they do not do this, their economies will suffer along with ours.

TERRORISM RISK PROTECTION ACT

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3210, the House-passed terrorism insurance legislation. As President Bush noted in a press conference yesterday, without a terrorism insurance bill, there will continue to be a significant drag on our economy.

Without coverage, the economic impact of another terrorist attack would be very serious. The U.S. could face a string of bankruptcies, loan defaults and layoffs that would intensify the blow of the attack.

One segment of the economy that can least afford to live without terrorism coverage is our public self-insured risk pools. These risk pools—more than 125 operating in forty-one states—help local governments, school districts, housing authorities, and other public entities to provide necessary insurance protection. These entities would be hurt the most by layoffs due to lack of prevention prior to an unforeseen terrorist attack.

These risk pools provide coverage to those most often at greatest risk—police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel—as well as teachers and students, municipal employees, and many others. We all know that these public entities cannot absorb the costs of terrorism risk across their membership base. I have heard from several risk pools in my state that are desperate for help. In Illinois, the Assisted Housing Risk Management Association (AHRMA) no longer has coverage for an act of terrorism. That self-insured pool covers public housing authorities across my state.

The Illinois School District Agency (ISDA), a self-insured risk pool covering public school districts in Illinois, has been told that its July 1st renewal will have a terrorism exclusion. And the Department of Insurance in Illinois is now allowing the exclusion of terrorism coverage in new and renewal policies. So my state becomes one of 45 states that are allowing such exclusions to be written into policies.

The need for Congress to act has never been greater. Large, self-insured pools and individual self-insurers such as the City of Chicago will pay as much as four times their expiring premium to buy the additional coverage necessary in the coming year. Make no mistake—public self-insured risk pools are more vulnerable than other entities. They provide enormous savings to taxpayers.

I am hopeful that Congress will pass this bipartisan legislation soon and send it to the President's desk as he has requested.