## TESTIMONY OF LYDIA LEWIS

### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2002*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert into the RECORD the testimony of Lydia Lewis of the National Depressive and Manic-Depressive Association before the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

TESTIMONY OF LYDIA LEWIS, ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL DEPRESSIVE AND MANIC-DEPRESSIVE ASSOCIATION—MAY 9, 2002

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on federal funding for mental health research for the next fiscal year. My name is Lydia Lewis and I serve as Executive Director of the National Depressive and Manic-Depressive Association (National DMDA).

National DMDA is the nation's largest illness-specific, patient-directed organization. We represent the 20 million American adults living with depression and the additional 2.5 million adults living with bipolar disorder. Part of the mission of National DMDA is to educate the public concerning the nature of depression and bipolar disorder as treatable medical diseases and to advocate for research to eliminate these diseases.

Mr. Chairman, National DMDA is pleased with the Subcommittee's strong commitment to biomedical research. We are grateful for the progress toward doubling the overall NIH budget and we encourage the Subcommittee to complete the doubling plan in this fiscal year. We support the Administration's request for $27.3 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). As you know, this increase of $3.7 billion would complete the final phase of the NIH doubling plan.

Our nation's investment in extramural biomedical research, led by the NIH, yields countless discoveries that facilitate our understanding of the biological basis of disease. This knowledge will help develop improved techniques to prevent, diagnose, treat, cure and eliminate diseases.

RESEARCH

Although bipolar disorder is a biochemical imbalance in the brain, like many mental illnesses, it cannot be identified physiologically. There is no blood test or brain scan, yet. Funding for the NIH, and funding for mental illness in particular, promises great rewards for both individuals who suffer from mental illness and for our nation as a whole.

Evidence underscores the effectiveness of treatment for mental illnesses. Treatment for bipolar disorders has a 65% success rate and major depression has an 80% success rate. Comparatively, a surgical procedure for angioplasty has a 41% success rate. As research yields greater advancements in treating mood disorders and other mental illnesses, we hope to see the treatment success rate soar.

We applaud efforts to advance research on postpartum mental illness through legislative means. The ''Melanie Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act'' (H.R. 2380/S. 1535) would direct funds for the specific purpose of NIH research on postpartum depression and postpartum psychosis.

It is estimated that 10 to 20 percent of new mothers experience postpartum depression (PPD). Postpartum psychosis (PPP) affects less than 1 percent of new mothers. While there may be indicators or predispositions for these disorders, researchers do not have sufficient information about the cause and effective treatment,

Employers, employees, the mental health system and the federal government will all benefit from the long term economic savings of early detection and treatment of mental illness. Our nation's investment in increased biomedical research for mental illness will advance this cause.

CO-OCCURRING MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

A high percentage of patients with mental illness also have alcohol and substance abuse problems. Conversely, many individuals with alcohol and substance abuse problems suffer from mental illness. The State mental health systems separate block grant funding for these treatments, one treatment for traditional mental illness and another for alcohol and substance abuse.

More than half of individuals with bipolar disorder or schizophrenia may be alcohol/substance abusers. The rate of alcohol and drug abuse in the general population is approximately 20%; it is 50–60% in people with bipolar disorder. For individuals with mood disorders, drugs of abuse interact differently, potentially causing exponential damage greater than the abusive substance alone.

Medical experts understand it is critical that new patients in treatment for mental illness address any alcohol or substance abuse issues in collaboration with their mental health needs. Integrated treatment by dually trained professionals is critical to the success of either program.

We are encouraged by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) efforts to study this issue. It is our understanding that SAMSHA will issue a report to Congress by October 17, 2002. We believe it is imperative that SAMSHA integrate treatment programs for these individuals. In addition to an improved quality of life, streamlining the system will eliminate unnecessary and redundant paperwork, saving critical funds for more successful treatment programs.

THE STIGMA OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND HEALTH INSURANCE PARITY

We are delighted with the President's recent commitment to help end the stigma associated with mental illnesses. For far too long, individuals with mental illness have avoided seeking appropriate and critical treatment for fear of the stigmatizing label of mentally ill or have needed to make a choice between food, rent and treatment. For many individuals this is a choice between life and death.

In 1999, suicide was the 11th leading cause of death in the United States. For males, it was the eighth leading cause of death and for young people age 15 to 24, suicide was the third leading cause of death. Suicide outnumbered homicides by 5 to 3 and there were twice as many deaths due to suicide than deaths due to HIV/AIDS.

While these statistics are sobering, we are hopeful that with increased availability of treatment, those numbers can change. While we support essential research on the causes of mental illness, we also support increased access to already existing treatment by passing the ''Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act'' (H.R. 4066/ S.543).

Individuals who suffer from mental illness should not be required to bear an additional financial burden to treat their illnesses. The discriminatory practice of setting different limits, hospital stays, and deductibles for mental illness is arbitrary, cruel and without medical basis.

We believe that providing mental health coverage is cost effective for all employers. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that providing mental health parity as outlined in the Domenici-Wellstone Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act would increase health care costs by less than 1%. Increasing ease and access to treatment will yield healthier, more productive employees. Passing the Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act is a step toward ending discriminatory practices that seek to separate the body from the mind.

Thank you again Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to testify.

## IN MEMORY OF JOHN M. MCGEE

### HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2002*

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember the patriotic actions of Mr. John M. McGee, a resident of Pass Christian, Mississippi who passed away on February 23, 2002. As the Korean War unfolded, he enlisted with the U.S Navy and served on the destroyer tender *Shenandoah* and the destroyer *Willard Keith*. He was a veteran of the decisive Inchon invasion commanded by General Douglas MacArthur. Mr. McGee earned his college degree in engineering from the Armed Forces Institute. After an honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy, he was certified as a Professional Engineer specializing in petroleum engineering. He then worked for a petroleum-engineering firm in Wyoming, ultimately becoming the petroleum engineer in charge of a five state office.

In 1966, he accepted a job with the Department of Defense, and conducted operations in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand until 1969. During his tour of duty in Vietnam, Mr. McGee, discovered and exposed extensive corruption in American military operations. His courageous exposure of a million gallons of fuel destined for U.S. Military forces that had been redirected and used by the enemy led to the saving of many American lives. A Senate Sub-Committee chaired by the Honorable Senator William Proxmire of Wisconsin ultimately investigated this conspiracy. This incident and others are memorialized as part of the U.S. CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and in the Books Report from Wasteland—America's Military Industrial Complex, by Senator William Proxmire and The Pentagonists, by A. Earnest Fitzgerald. It is for these devoted actions that we remember Mr. John M. McGee.

## ROBERT J. DOLE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL

SPEECH OF

### HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 20, 2002*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, ''Bob Dole personifies Kansas. He is synonymous with the values that Kansans hold in the highest regard—integrity, respect for community, public service, sacrifice, and patriotism. It is only fitting to name the Wichita VA Center after a man so closely identified with Kansas, American veterans, and the values they share. I

rise in support of H.R 4608 and urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the ''Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center Designation Act.''

Most Americans know Senator Dole's heroic story: He was born and raised in the Heartland of Russell, Kansas. In 1942, he faithfully responded to his country's call to war, and was critically injured in combat. It took three years and nine operations for him to rehabilitate. He strengthened his injured arm, but had to learn how to write again with his left hand, as the doctors could not rebuild the excessive damage done by the Nazi machine gun fire. After the war and while still completing his law degree at Washburn Municipal University, he began his long and distinguished career in public service. He served as a Kansas state legislator, Russell County attorney, four-time member of the US House of Representatives, a five-time US Senator, the Republican National Committee Chairman, the 1976 Vice-Presidential nominee, and culminated his career as the 1996 Republican Presidential nominee.

But Bob Dole's political achievements provide only a partial measure of the man. Twice elected Majority Leader, Senator Dole served for twelve years, the longest serving Senate leader of the Republican Party. He epitomized President Reagan's immortal words, ''The title of Leader is not just a job title; it's a description of the man.'' Even after he ended his public service, he remains a community leader, engaged in projects such as National World War II Memorial, Co-chairing a scholarship fund to aid families of heroes and victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and campaigns for Republican candidates across the country.

I have had the distinct honor of working with and getting to know Bob Dole. In fact, he was one of my best supporters in my first race for Congress against an 18-year incumbent. Not many people other than my family and friends thought we had a chance to win that race—but Senator Dole did. Or at least he did a good job of pretending. I wouldn't have had enough money for television ads in the crucial last week of our successful 1994 campaign were it not for then soon to be Majority leader Bob Dole. When I did get to Congress in 1995, Senator Dole was a mentor and an outstanding example of how a member of Congress should fight for his state while working in the best interests of the country.

It is due to Bob Dole's extraordinary contributions as a leader, a veteran, public servant, and staunch defender of national defense that the designation of the Wichita VA Center as the Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Center is so appropriate. Please join me in a congressional salute to this great American patriot.''

## TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. STERLING LEE JONES 32ND PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

### HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2002*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, as the congregation of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church gathered together on Sunday, April 28, 2002, they celebrated the 32nd Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Dr. Sterling Lee Jones. A lifelong leader and devoted pastor, Rev. Jones has truly demonstrated his commitment to advancing the mission of Mount Zion across southeastern Michigan. As the members and friends of Rev. Jones gathered to celebrate this special anniversary, they paid tribute to his outstanding years of activism, leadership, and faith.

Preaching the Gospel for over 37 years, Rev. Jones has led the congregation of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church for 32 glorious years. As his message and ministry has been received throughout the United States, he has shown a special dedication to making a positive difference in the lives of others. To those who know Rev. Jones best, ''to hear Pastor Jones preach the gospel of Christ, to hear him teach the gospel of Christ and to hear him sing the gospel of Christ, is to know that he is chosen by Christ and is anointed by Him to do his will.''

With a passion for learning and the firm belief in education, and as the key to advancement, Rev. Jones has been an active force in educating his community as well as providing outreach services for those in need. Working on projects like the Youth Department, and the ''Artie Lee Bins-Jones Honor Roll'', Rev. Jones has organized many programs for the youth and implemented a program encouraging higher education through annual tours to colleges and universities throughout the South. Building a multi-million dollar edifice and with plans to build a senior citizens complex and a gym for the youth, Rev. Jones's distinguished service and outstanding dedication to improving the lives of people through faith will continue to serve as an example to communities across this nation.

I applaud Rev. Jones for his leadership, commitment, and service, and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting him for his exemplary years of faith and service.

## GULFSTREAM GOODWILL INDUSTRIES 35TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2002*

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a special organization that helps disabled and other disadvantaged members of our community.

In 1902, a Methodist minister from Boston, Reverend Edgar J. Helms, started a movement to help people with disabilities and other barriers to employment become working members of our community.

Throughout 2002, Goodwill Industries is celebrating its 100th anniversary making amazing progress by helping those in need.

As a former board member and President of the Gulfstream Goodwill, which is celebrating its 35th anniversary, I was able to witness first hand the great work Goodwill does for our community.

Like the national organization, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries serves disabled members of our community by helping them become intricate and productive working members. Gulfstream's mission—to empower people through work—ensures those in need are offered working opportunities and the possibility of self-sufficiency and independence.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Goodwill and Gulfstream Goodwill the happiest of anniversaries. May its success continue and strive for perfection like it has over the past century.

## IN HONOR OF THE RECIPIENTS OF DELAWARE'S FOSTER PARENTS OF THE YEAR AWARD, LAWRENCE AND NORISA JACOBS

### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2002*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Delaware Foster Parents of the Year, Lawrence and Norisa Jacobs of Georgetown, Delaware. Through their commitment to caring for children, they have welcomed eleven foster children into their home since 1997. Along with their two birth children and six current foster children, their home is a welcome, and active, atmosphere for the challenges of a family of ten.

Foster parents add stability to a child's life which leads to fewer emotional, behavioral and social problems for children that may not have otherwise had the necessary family love and direction. These children deserve the best chance we can give them, and the Jacobs have proven their dedication to giving all of their children the optimal chance to develop into emotionally healthy adults.

Mr. Speaker, through the years, the Jacobs have lovingly and unselfishly contributed every day to the lives of their children. It is appropriate that we take a moment to honor them.

The contributions of Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs are undeniably worthy of recognition and cannot be commended enough. I am proud to stand here today recognizing them as not only Delaware's Foster Parents of the Year, but also as nominees for National Foster Parents of the Year.

## VETERANS' MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

### HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 20, 2002*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4514, the Veterans' Major Medical Facility Construction Act, H.R. 4015, the Jobs for Veterans Act, and H.R. 4085, the Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act.

Next week, millions of Americans will take off and gather together with family and friends to pay tribute to the men and women of our armed forces and their loved ones who sacrificed so much to defend our precious liberties. Well over 1 million men and women have given their lives in service to our country. These people answered their country's call to serve—in the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, the First and Second World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Bosnia, Operation Enduring Freedom, and in many small, but important military actions around the globe. For