

the preservation and the passing on of freedom just as I will honor my family obligations.

KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce this resolution that expresses the sense of Congress regarding the awareness of and treatment for kidney disease. This resolution serves as the vehicle—to inform the American people about kidney disease—its potential causes, preventions, and medical advances. In addition, it promotes federally funded research focused on kidney disease.

The incidences of kidney disease are rising. What is even worse is that kidney disease works as “the silent killer,” in that most people with kidney damage are unaware that their kidneys are beginning to fail. African-Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and Pacific Islanders are more at risk for the kidney disease.

End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) is a condition that causes permanent kidney failure. Over the last decade, the number of patients with ESRD has doubled to reach approximately 400,000 Americans, and has directly caused 50,000 deaths annually. This disease has affected at least 13 million people who have lost 50 percent of their kidney function without even knowing. And still, another 20 million more Americans are unknowingly at an increased risk of developing kidney disease.

Diabetes and hypertension are the number one and number two causes of kidney disease respectively. And although dialysis is a life-saving process that helps patients perform many normal activities, there is no cure for kidney disease.

Knowledge is power and we should all arm ourselves with the power to fight kidney disease as best we can. The first step in the solution is to mount a comprehensive educational effort so that we all can become familiar with kidney disease. This resolution starts that important process.

I ask all of my colleagues to support this kidney disease awareness resolution by becoming a cosponsor.

RECOGNIZING DARRELL BOWLES, II UPON RECEIVING THE “YES I CAN” AWARD

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the inspirational accomplishments and remarkable example set by Darrell Bowles, II. Darrell, who was born in Knoxville, TN and raised in nearby Blaine, was recently named a Tennessee recipient of the “Yes I Can!” award, given by the Tennessee Federation Council for Exceptional Children. This award recognizes outstanding achievement by students receiving special education services. I might add that Darrell was among the top five nominees at the National level.

Born weighing only 1 pound, 7 ounces at 26 weeks, Darrell suffered blindness shortly after birth. Despite this challenge, Darrell has continually proven that with steadfast determination each of us can achieve excellence in what we set out to do.

Now in the ninth grade at the Tennessee School of the Blind and Educational Resource Center for the Visually Impaired, Darrell excels in technology and computer studies. He has become an expert in specialized technology and is an advocate for the continued advancement of new software and hardware that further enables visually impaired individuals to excel in both the academic and business community.

Beyond his technological capabilities, however, Darrell’s spirit of optimism and determination should be an example to each of us. In a recent news report, Darrell is quoted as saying that his inspiration to give his very best comes from God. He is quoted as saying, “I didn’t ask for this, but I am following His will for me.”

When speaking to people who have become discouraged or frustrated he said he likes to tell them that, “When God opens a door, its there. Go in before it closes.”

Regardless of where we are in life or what challenges we face, I believe the advice of Darrell Bowles should apply to each of us.

I also want to commend the loving family members and dedicated teachers who have supported Darrell’s efforts. I am sorry to say that Darrell’s mother has passed away, but the love she shared with him continues to be a driving force in his life.

I am proud to be Darrell’s Congressman and on behalf of this body, I want to thank Darrell for the example he continues to set for so many, and to wish him the greatest success in the future.

HONORING JAMES THOMAS

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2003

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent and fallen hero—James Thomas passed at the age of 82.

James Thomas, or better known as Jim, was a great-grandfather, grandfather, father and loving husband. Jim was a highly decorated veteran of World War II and served in the Army Air Corps as a gunner. After numerous heroic missions over the skies of Europe, Jim’s plane was shot down. This led to his capture and he was subsequently held as a Prisoner of War (POW) until Allied Forces liberated him.

Jim played an active roll in our local community and has been a role model for many around him. He was a member of several farm organizations and military associations to include: the American Ex-Prisoners of War; the American Legion; AMVETS; and the Tulare Historical Society. Jim was also an active member of the First Church of God and volunteered year after year at the World Ag Expo in Tulare.

Jim is survived by his wife, Eleanor Thomas; his children, Mike Thomas, Jannette Hill and Carol Kemp; his brothers, Raymond and George Thomas; and eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Thomas was a personal friend and mentor whom I knew my entire life. I will never forget the many lessons he taught me about war, agriculture, personal integrity and perseverance. Today, I honor this brave soldier and family man.

HONORING THE 2003 REEBOK HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw my colleagues’ attention to a group of incredible human rights defenders. Each year the Reebok Human Rights Award recognizes young activists who, early in their lives and against great odds, have made significant contributions to the field of human rights strictly through nonviolent means. The Award aims to generate positive international attention for the recipients and to support their efforts. Honorees receive a \$50,000 per person grant to a qualifying organization to further their work from The Reebok Human Rights Foundation. The recipients of the 2003 Award will visit Capitol Hill this week. I take this opportunity to commend Paul Fireman for creating this innovative corporate program for raising public awareness of human rights at Reebok and I congratulate the 2003 Award recipients for their remarkable accomplishments.

At a time when the world’s attention is focused on the war in Iraq, we ought not lose sight of the fact a more safe and stable world rests in our ability to promote human rights and the rule of law. Recipients of the Reebok Human Rights Award are working every day to defend fundamental rights on every continent.

Award candidates must be 30 years of age or younger and cannot advocate violence or belong to an organization that advocates violence. Award candidates must be working on an issue that directly relates to the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Women and men of all races, ethnic groups, citizenship and religions are eligible.

Each year the Reebok Human Rights Award program undertakes an extensive nomination outreach program, with over 10,000 nomination packets being sent worldwide. After all nominations are received, a team of international human rights experts and researchers begin the exhaustive task of researching and qualifying all nominees. Over the next several months, references are obtained, facts are checked, and accomplishments are verified for each and every application received. A group of finalists is presented to the Reebok Human Rights Board of Advisors, who select the Award recipients.

A total of 72 women and men from 34 countries have received the Award. These young heroes have ranged from a Cuban prisoner of conscience to a Liberian human rights monitor to an American advocate for battered women. All of them have taught us unforgettable lessons about the true nature of courage and humanity.

The recipients of the 2003 Reebok Human Rights Award are:

ERNEST GUEVARRA (PHILIPPINES)

Early on, Ernest Guevarra (age 24) knew his life’s mission was to be a doctor and to