

front-line in the battle against cancer, providing critical patient care services and also helping conduct cancer research through clinical trials. This complex and multifaceted chronic disease demands an adequate supply of trained, educated, and experienced nurses. As such, we must adequately fund the Nurse Reinvestment Act and other nursing workforce programs.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, advances in cancer prevention, detection and treatment over the past several decades have increased longevity and improved the quality of life for many people. Once again, however, not all segments of the U.S. population have benefited equally. A strong investment in the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHHD) will expand our knowledge about health disparities and target initiatives geared to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the disparate burden of cancer and other diseases on minority and medically underserved communities. The Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act of 2003, H.R. 3459, introduced by the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Asian-Pacific Caucus, would help enable community-based organizations to increase detection and screening efforts; would establish guidelines for treatment modalities for minorities; and would provide additional funding for cancers that impact minorities more adversely, such as prostate and breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to use the 18th anniversary of National Minority Cancer Awareness Week to renew its commitment to the eradication of this devastating disease. Together, we can reduce and ultimately eliminate the disparate burden of cancer and other diseases on minority and medically underserved communities.

RENEWING THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of renewal of the Assault Weapons Ban. In 1994, President Clinton signed the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, which banned the manufacture and importation of many semiautomatic assault weapons. This law is set to expire on September 13, 2004, just 144 days away.

In 1995, the FBI reported that trace requests for assault weapons declined 20 percent only one year after enactment of the ban. Since enactment, criminals are using these guns less frequently, and innocent lives are saved every day as a result.

I am proud to join 108 of my colleagues as a cosponsor of H.R. 2038, the Assault Weapons Ban and Law Enforcement Protection Act. This vital legislation will permanently extend the 1994 Act and help keep these weapons out of our country and away from criminals.

If we allow the assault weapons ban to expire, our streets will again be flooded with an arsenal of Uzis and AK-47s—guns which are responsible for pre-ban killings such as the Stockton Schoolyard Massacre and a shooting at the CIA Headquarters.

Twenty percent of police officers killed in the line of duty today are shot using these banned

assault weapons. This number is sure to increase if these weapons are more readily available. The weapons banned under current law pose too great a risk to the general public, and especially law enforcement officers, to be legalized. For this reason, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Fraternal Order of Police both support extending the ban.

In addition to this important measure, I have introduced two other pieces of legislation to cut down on shooting deaths. Approximately 1 percent of the nation's gun stores are the source of 57 percent of the firearms traced to crimes. H.R. 1540, the Crackdown on Dead-beat Dealers Act, would increase the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to investigate record-keeping compliance among these delinquent gun dealers. The second bill is H.R. 821, the Accidental Shooting Prevention Act, which requires chamber load indicators on handguns, allowing gun owners to quickly recognize if their weapons are loaded. I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor these two bills and help reduce the number of gun deaths in America without infringing on the rights of lawful gun owners.

The three pieces of legislation I have mentioned do not unreasonably restrict law-abiding citizens from using appropriate firearms for sporting purposes or self-protection. Rather, sensible gun control prevents firearms from getting into the wrong hands.

My colleagues in the House and Senate must understand how important it is that we continue this ban on assault weapons to prevent parents and children from suffering life-altering senseless violence should these guns again become legal.

WILLIAM A. BOOTHE, M.D., REACHES 50,000

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate William A. Boothe, M.D. on his successful completion of 50,000 laser vision correction procedures. Dr. Boothe, a benchmark of success and a pioneer in his field, has certainly set the standard for which his colleagues will aspire.

For years, Dr. William Boothe has administered a state-of-the-art refractive surgical procedure called Laser In-Situ Keratomileusis (LASIK) which requires much experience and extensive research. Dr. Boothe, second to none, is one of the first surgeons in the country with the necessary talent required to use the technologically advanced equipment required in LASIK procedures.

As a member of several professional organizations, with an impressive educational background and years of experience, Dr. William Boothe has provided a better quality of life for all who receive this surgery under his care. I place great confidence in Dr. Boothe. He will continue to lead the corrective eye surgery profession for years to come.

I congratulate Dr. Boothe for his lasting dedication and selfless efforts in helping correct people's vision. Best wishes to Dr. Boothe and his staff in their future endeavors.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF YOUNGSTOWN, NY

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Village of Youngstown, New York.

The Village of Youngstown is a small village that has evolved with the times, but whose residents have never lost touch with their roots. Its history resembles that of many of the small towns on which our Nation was built. The area began to grow after the American forces took over Historic Old Fort Niagara. Many tradesmen and shopkeepers came to the area during the War of 1812 to provide needed supplies and services to the Fort, which sits at the edge of the village. The village was the site of many major battles during the War of 1812 and was also a major shipping port in the 1800's.

The village was named for John Young who originally came from across the river in Canada. One hundred fifty years ago, the Village of Youngstown was officially incorporated in Niagara County, on the shores of the mighty Niagara River and Lake Ontario.

The village sits on beautiful, fertile Western New York land which is renowned for its sailing regattas and year round sportfishery. The surrounding area is home to many of New York's famous apple orchards. Youngstown is an internationally designated important Bird Area.

With a population of nearly 2,000 people, Youngstown is a close-knit community where everyone is a neighbor. Most people know each other, and even if you are not well acquainted, faces smile with recognition and greetings are exchanged with warmth. Friendly inquiries are made when there has been an experience with pain—or joy. Anytime a neighbor is suffering from ill health or some loss, the community is there to help, to lighten the burden, and to express its loving concern. Beyond the village's long and distinguished history, Youngstown is simply a place residents are proud to raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the Village of Youngstown's 150th birthday, I unite with its residents to celebrate their accomplishments and contributions to Niagara County, our state, and our Nation.

RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALAMEDA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 25th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Alameda, California. The League of Women Voters of Alameda became a fully approved Local League in September 1978. The founders of the League established the organization based on their belief that our Nation's democracy depends on an informed and participative citizenry.

The Alameda League has made significant contributions to the City of Alameda, as well