

us stunned and saddened at the loss of such a wonderful individual.

John was a loving husband and family man, and a friend to many in the Galveston community. John, or "Johnny" as those close to him knew him, served as President of Ducks Unlimited's national organization, was on the board of Galveston College, and was a strong supporter of the School of Nursing at the University of Texas Medical Branch. He participated with these organizations because he knew the importance of core, fundamental values that aid us all not only locally, but nationally. In addition, John's grandfather was former Congressman Clark W. Thompson, who served proudly in this very chamber, and who was a great friend and mentor of mine as well.

I express my deepest condolences and sympathy to John's wife Susan, and the rest of his family and loved ones, and know that he is now at peace with the Lord.

GARRETT LEE SMITH MEMORIAL
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2634—A Youth Suicide Prevention Bill.

Suicide knows no boundaries. It affects children of every race, ethnicity, religion, and economic background and takes the lives of 3,000 young people every year. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for children and young adults between the ages of 10 and 24.

My neighbors and close personal friends, Doug and Sharon Strouse, tragically lost their daughter, Kristin, to suicide shortly after the September 11th Terrorist Attacks in New York. Kristen was a gifted student at the Parson's School of Design in New York at the time of her passing and had a promising future in the design field.

In Kristin's memory, the Strouses used their grief to help other young people who may be depressed or considering suicide. Kristin's sister, Kim, established a non-profit organization that runs art workshops to provide suicide prevention education and crisis intervention. The Strouses also support suicide awareness through a moving videotape that helps young people and their parents identify the signs of depression while offering solutions to help them address the issue.

I believe S. 2634 also known as the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act of 2004 will help the Strouses and other families further these important programs. The bill will also improve nationwide access to prevention and intervention techniques for youth.

The bill authorizes \$82 million over three years for mental health services, including screening, assessment, mentoring, and counseling, on the local, state, and federal level. These services will be offered in a variety of settings including schools, juvenile justice systems, foster care establishments, and substance abuse programs.

The legislation will also help establish a comprehensive federal strategy to share data, disseminate research, and coordinate the

evaluation of early intervention and prevention programs for youth.

I believe S. 2634 will help fund some very important work to help families like the Strouses avoid the pain of losing a loved one.

GARRETT LEE SMITH MEMORIAL
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, S. 2634, the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, contains some very important language that I would like to point out to my colleagues. The bill requires written, informed parental consent before a child may participate in the programs funded under this bill. The bill provides an exception for this in cases where there is an emergency and the safety of the child or other students is at risk and in cases where parental consent cannot reasonably be obtained.

Mr. Speaker, this language is very important. The topic of suicide and death is very sensitive, especially for younger children who are very impressionable. I believe that parents, not schools, should be the first line of defense for educating against and preventing their children from considering suicide. Studies have shown that in some cases, suicide education has actually led to suicides. Parents should have the option of keeping their child out of such classes. In addition, if parents are aware that their child is in such a class or program at school, they will be able to look for any warning signs that their child is considering suicide.

The exceptions included in the parental consent requirement are intended to be very narrow—emergency situations and cases where parental consent cannot reasonably be obtained. Emergency situations will be obvious—this would be a situation where a student is threatening his life or the life of someone else. Obviously, in such a case, the counselor or teacher should immediately counsel the student to stop the threatened activity.

Some may wonder what is meant by cases where parental consent cannot be "reasonably" obtained. This is intended to mean situations where the parent, despite the best efforts of the school or other organization operating a suicide intervention program, cannot personally give consent. One such situation would be where a single parent in the military has gone overseas for duty and the child is temporarily staying with grandparents. But let me be clear—this is not a loophole for those who find obtaining parental consent to be inconvenient or time-consuming. It is for those rare and very limited situations in which a parent simply is not able to provide consent.

I would like to thank Chairman BARTON for working so diligently on this important language.

HONORING THE MARRIAGE OF
BETHANY ANNE KORCZYNSKI
AND DOMINIC A. ZUCCHERO

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor and recognition of Bethany Korczynski and Dominic Zucchero as they celebrate their devotion to each other and to their future together.

It seems that we face a challenging time regarding one of the "loose stones" of our society: the family unit. It may seem that the moral fiber of America is being tested. During these times of changing attitudes, I believe that we can encourage the traditional values that have made our country strong. Those values that are best learned and practiced within the family unit based on the holy, loving union of a man and a woman.

The union of these two individuals from the Chicagoland region, Bethany Anne Korczynski, daughter of Edwin J., pilot and Chief Airport Operations Supervisor and Diane M., teacher of special education, and of Dominic A. Zucchero, son of Theodore J. and Andrea L. of the Chicagoland area, will be on October 9, 2004. The wedding will take place at the landmark Catholic Church of Notre Dame De Chicago established in 1864 by the first settlers who were of French descent. The church is located at 1334 West Flourndy Street in Chicago.

It is with great excitement and anticipation that both the Zucchero's and Korczynski's share in the happiness of this union. The commitment of this couple is both impressive and deserving of special recognition and honor.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing this great couple many years of health and happiness.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN FINANCIAL
DISCLOSURE LAW FOR 527
POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to draw my colleagues' attention to a bill I have introduced to address concerns that have been expressed about political organizations referred to as "527's". This bill, H.R. 5013, would give the Department of the Treasury, the Federal Election Commission, and the American people a better understanding of 527 organizations by attempting to subject them to the same type of reporting requirements as PAC's and other political organizations.

This bill would make 527's, which is the section of the Internal Revenue Code under which they are registered, more transparent through the four main components of this bill.

First, any political organization that meets defined minimum financial requirements must disclose this information to the Department of the Treasury. Second, political organizations that raise, spend or intend to raise and spend over \$25,000 in an election year will have to