

answers. We must understand what could be causing such a dramatic rise, especially when three out of four women who are diagnosed with breast cancer have no family history of cancer or other known risk factors. For these women, environmental factors may be the link to their cancer.

Improved infrastructure that enables local, state, and Federal public health agencies to monitor disease rates and environmental hazards is needed. However, there is no system in place that explores the relationship between disease and potentially associated environmental factors.

Today, I am joined by Representatives STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES and LOUISE SLAUGHTER, and Senators HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, HARRY REID, and LINCOLN CHAFEE, in introducing the Coordinated Environmental Health Network Act to respond to this urgent need by creating the infrastructure necessary to collect, analyze, and report data on the rate of disease and the presence of relevant environmental factors and exposures.

The Network would also coordinate national, state, and local efforts to bolster our public health system's capacity to investigate and respond aggressively to environmental exposures that threaten health. In addition, the Coordinated Environmental Health Network will alert health officials when there is a sudden increase in any disease or condition, including those associated with a biological or chemical attack.

Over the past 3 years, my colleagues and I have worked to secure more than \$73 million for pilot programs to begin developing the capacity for a Coordinated Environmental Health Network, with an additional \$28 million pending in the Fiscal Year 2005 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill. These pilot projects are giving the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Environmental Protection Agency the information they need to put in place a comprehensive, coordinated network.

Once fully operational, the network will coordinate national, state, and local efforts to inform communities, public health officials, researchers, and policymakers of potential environmental health risks, and to integrate this information with other parts of the public health system.

This is really an issue of environmental justice. Minority and low-income communities are particularly vulnerable to environmental health hazards. The factories and dumping sites that emit pollutants are often located near communities with little political and economic power, and therefore less ability to protest. The result is an elevated risk of exposure to harmful substances.

Numerous public health and environmental organizations understand the need for an improved response to these threats, and the Coordinated Environmental Health Network Act is supported by the Trust for America's Health, American Public Health Association, Citizens for a Cleaner Environment, March of Dimes, American Lung Association, U.S. Public Interest Research Group, The Breast Cancer Fund, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and many others.

We must respond to these health threats in a comprehensive and coordinated manner. To take action to prevent disease we must understand its cause. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this vital legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 510, I was in my congressional district on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

IN RECOGNITION OF DORA BELLE THOMAS STONE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dora Belle Thomas Stone of Lee County, Alabama, in anticipation of her 100th birthday on November 8, 2004.

Born in Chilton County, Alabama, on November 8, 1904, Mrs. Stone is the daughter of the late George W. and Phairby Adeline Headly Thomas. In 1918, Mrs. Stone moved to Phenix City, Alabama, where she married William Henry Stone on October 21, 1921. She is the mother of four children: William Earl Stone, Thomas Milton Stone, George Lamar Stone, and Barbara Anne Stone Ennis. She has eight grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

Mrs. Stone is a retired music teacher who taught Sunday school for more than 60 years, and is a member of Smiths Station Baptist Church. She says she cherishes most her family, her church, and God's Word, and studies her Bible every day.

It's not often we have the opportunity to recognize the life and accomplishments of a citizen like Mrs. Stone, and I appreciate the House's attention on this important occasion.

COMMENDING THE CENTER FOR NATIONAL POLICY FOR FACILITATING A DIALOGUE BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE ARAB AND MUSLIM DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITIES

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Center for National Policy (CNP) for facilitating a dialogue between members of the Arab and Muslim diplomatic communities and legislators on the Hill.

On September 8th of this year, the Center for National Policy hosted a discussion between the Honorable JIM TURNER and members of the Arab and Muslim diplomatic communities as a way of re-framing the debate on the War on Terrorism. I applaud the CNP for their continued efforts to properly inform both the American public and their elected officials on the complex issues facing policymakers.

I would like to commend Representative TURNER and my former colleague Tim Roemer for their participation in this invaluable discussion and for their active interest in fostering a

better relationship with minority communities both domestically and abroad.

TO WIN THE WAR ON TERROR

A DISCUSSION WITH THE HONORABLE JIM TURNER AND MEMBERS OF THE ARAB AND MUSLIM DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITIES—MODERATED BY TIM ROEMER

About the Event

This event is part of a series of discussions being organized by the Center for National Policy to help reframe the debate on the War on Terrorism. CNP seeks to deepen both the public's and elected officials' understanding of the complex issues involved in the growth and spread of radical Islam, and to increase awareness of initiatives that promise to advance moderation and constructive reform.

To accomplish these goals, CNP organizes small group discussions that bring together prominent policy experts, elected officials, and public opinion specialists to explore new strategies to address both immediate and long-term threats. CNP drafts summaries of these conversations and makes them available to lawmakers on Capitol Hill and policymakers in the Executive Branch, as well as academics, journalists, and the public at large.

About CNP

The Center for National Policy (CNP) is a non-profit, non-partisan public policy organization located in Washington, DC. Founded in 1981, the Center's mission is to engage national leaders with new policy options and innovative programs designed to advance progressive ideas in the interest of all Americans.

The goal of the Center is to promote the transfer of ideas and information from experts to public officials, and therefore better serve American citizens and the public interest.

Working with a small core staff, CNP brings together policymakers and experts from a range of organizations, including other think tanks, business, labor and academia, to encourage new thinking, promote public awareness and catalyze action.

The Center uses public opinion research, as well as substantive and political analysis, to frame options and make recommendations. The Center's programs include active media outreach and extensive use of the web as well as more traditional methods of dissemination.

In October 2003, Timothy J. Roemer was named President of CNP. Formerly a seven-term member of Congress from Indiana, he most recently has served as a member of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission. His predecessors as president include Madeleine K. Albright, prior to her service as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations; the late Kirk O'Donnell, who was chief counsel to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Thomas P. 'Tip' O'Neill, and Maureen S. Steinbruner, currently serving as CNP Vice President and Senior Policy Advisor.

Introduction

It has been clear for some time that winning the war on terror is not only a military and security challenge. With numerous al Qaeda leaders captured or killed, the threat is now more diffuse but just as deadly. Increasingly the question is, are we taking more terrorists out of the picture than are being created every day in the streets and madrassas all over the Arab and Muslim worlds?

The United States needs a strategy for winning the war that both deals with today's terrorists but also, most importantly, works to deter and suppress the growth and power of tomorrow's. U.S. Representative Jim Turner, Ranking Member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, put forward a