

808—The Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act, sponsored by Mr. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS and Mr. HENRY BROWN, respectively.

Mr. Speaker, these two critical pieces of legislation are smart, balanced and respectful of the time served by our Nation's veterans and the sacrifices made by their families.

The Retired Pay Restoration Act would address a policy that has long been unfavorable to the men and women who have returned home from battle. This legislation will let our disabled veterans receive not only the disability compensation they deserve, but the retired benefits they have toiled long and hard to receive. It is incumbent upon us to mark the time given by these brave individuals with appropriate legislation, such as this, that honors their courage and dignity.

I am also proud to support and cosponsor the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act. This common sense bill ensures surviving husbands and wives of our veterans will still be able to count on the consistent income earned by their spouses in service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, with the passing of the War Supplemental last week, this body came together to raise death benefits for our soldiers and sailors who have made the ultimate sacrifice. I was proud to enthusiastically support that measure. It is with that same spirit that I ardently urge my colleagues to again put politics aside, come together, and pass these patriotic and dutiful pieces of legislation to support our proud veterans.

RECOGNIZING THE MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to acknowledge the contributions of a very special church in Louisiana's 7th Congressional District. For over fifty years, the Mount Olive Baptist Church has been an important part of the Lake Charles community, making countless contributions to the moral fabric of Southwest Louisiana. Today I want to praise this church especially for its commitment to the education of our youth. For the past twenty-five years, Mount Olive has run scholarship program that has allowed students in my district to become better educated and productive members of our society.

In 1980, Brother Charles Ellis came to the delegation with the idea of providing educational scholarships for children of the community. Under the supervision of Reverend N.D. Lee, the congregation began awarding scholarships to local students for \$400. Today the church awards scholarships of \$1,000. So far, over seventy students have benefited from this program.

This marks the 25th year that Mount Olive Baptist Church has supported the educational dreams of students. The church has taken upon itself the mission of improving their community in the most important way possible—by seeing to the education of tomorrow's leaders. I thank Mount Olive Baptist Church for this tre-

mendous service and wish them all the best in continuing to set such a fine moral example in Southwest Louisiana.

CHRONIC FATIGUE AND IMMUNE DYSFUNCTION SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, May 12th is Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Awareness Day.

Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome afflicts more than 800,000 Americans. CFIDS, also known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) and myalgic encephalomyelitis, is a complex and debilitating medical disorder characterized by profound exhaustion, intense widespread pain, and severe problems with memory and concentration. It usually lasts for years, and many never recover. Because the symptoms of CFS are common to other conditions and no diagnostic test exists, it is often overlooked by health care providers. In fact, government studies show that only 15 percent of those who have CFS have been diagnosed by their doctor. It is even more difficult for CFS patients to get appropriate symptomatic treatment.

The cause of CFS is not yet known. Much of what we do know about CFS has been documented by researchers funded by the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Here are some facts: women age 30-50 are at greatest risk for developing CFS, and Latinos and African Americans are at greater risk for CFS than Caucasians or Asians. Children can get CFS too, although it is more common in teens than younger children. The condition may begin suddenly, as with the flu, or it may build gradually over time. Physical or mental exertion makes symptoms worse.

Individuals with CFS are severely impacted by the disease and, according to CDC studies, their functional status is the same as or worse than those suffering from obstructive pulmonary disease, coronary heart disease, osteoarthritis and severe depression. People with CFS often lose the ability to maintain full-time employment, attend school and participate fully in family life. The Nation's economy is also seriously affected; the annual direct cost of lost productivity due to CFS is \$9.1 billion, an amount equivalent to Wal-Mart's annual profits.

There is hope. The Department of Health and Human Services has chartered a CFS Advisory Committee that meets quarterly to discuss research and service to people with CFS. The CDC is conducting promising research that may lead to a diagnostic test for CFS. Other researchers are following important leads that may improve treatment and deepen understanding of the way CFS affects various body systems. However, in fiscal year 2004, just \$15 million was spent by the Federal Government to conduct research on this devastating illness. CFS consistently ranks at the bottom of NIH funding charts and even during

the period when Congress was doubling the NIH budget, support for CFS research declined.

Many challenges remain and more federal funding is needed to answer basic questions. It is time for Congress to do more to help them. I urge my colleagues to earmark \$10 million for CFIDS research in the next annual appropriation for the National Institutes of Health. CFS warrants the support of this Congress and we must find a way to help hundreds of thousand of Americans get back to work. Let's not wait another day.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL BRESLIN, JR.

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding individual, Michael Breslin, Jr. who was recognized on May 10, 2005 for his lifelong dedication to litigation and the legal community.

It is only fitting that Michael Breslin, Jr. be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on Earth, for he has a long history of caring, leadership, creativity, and commitment to his noble profession.

A premier legal mind, "Jerry" as he is affectionately called, has let a few fundamental principles guide his career. He consistently makes a concerted effort to reach out into the community to make his services available. Mentoring and serving as a role model to the youth of Northern New Jersey has been his top priority. Lastly, he has never taken for granted his success or exploited his position for personal gain. Rather his humility seems to heighten with each passing year.

Michael Breslin has shared his invaluable knowledge and experiences as a Civil Trial Attorney by frequently lecturing at the Institute of Continuing Legal Education in the area of Civil Trial Practice techniques. As the borough attorney for Northvale, Dumont, Bogota, and Closter, Borough Prosecutor of both Palisades Park and Elmwood Park, and the former president of The Bergen County Bar Association, Michael Breslin's commitment to his community is unparalleled.

Michael Breslin exudes professionalism and dedication. Over the years Michael has been confronted by a wide array of obstacles and in each instance he has proven his resiliency. As a member of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, he truly displayed his innovative flare while supervising the constructing of the Meadowlands Arena.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of individuals like Michael Breslin. As a fellow alumnus of Fordham University, I am proud to bestow this honor onto Michael Breslin.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Michael's family and friends, all those who have been influenced by Michael, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service of Michael Breslin, Jr.