

RECOGNIZING ALS AWARENESS
MONTH**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, this week I met with Steve Kennedy and Kyle Robertson, both from my home county of Jones County, Mississippi. We discussed ALS—also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease—funding and awareness. May is ALS Awareness Month and an opportunity for us to increase knowledge about this fatal, neurodegenerative disease that attacks nerve cells and pathways in the brain and spinal cord. When these cells die, voluntary muscle control and movement ends and patients in later stages are totally paralyzed, often despite sharp and alert minds.

Steve Kennedy's father, Dr. Larry Kennedy, is the president of William Carey College—an excellent Baptist university in Mississippi. Dr. Kennedy was diagnosed with ALS in July of 2005 and had planned to announce his condition in September, until Hurricane Katrina ravaged the school, destroying the entire Gulf Coast Campus and closing the nursing school in New Orleans. After shepherding the school through that natural disaster, Dr. Kennedy again put off his announcement rescheduled for December of 2005 when the college was presented with a generous contribution. Dr. Kennedy delayed his personal concerns again, so as not to detract from the news of the gift. He finally announced his condition in the Spring of 2006. President George W. Bush greeted Dr. Kennedy and recognized his sacrifice during his recent visit to Mississippi.

Dr. Kennedy is an example of a man facing a deteriorating disease with class and dignity and resolve. He reminds us that anyone can be afflicted by this condition which has no currently known cause, cure or means of prevention. Only one drug currently is available to even treat this disease and it only prolongs life a few months. During ALS Awareness Month, I am advocating greater research investments into ALS.

Every day, on average 15 people are newly diagnosed with ALS—more than 5,400 people per year. The average life expectancy of a person with ALS is two to five years from time of diagnosis. "With recent advances in research and improved medical care, patients are able to have longer, more productive lives. But we have much left to learn about this mysterious and deadly disease."

Mr. Speaker, I hope Congress will include \$5 million in the FY 2008 Federal Budget to establish a national ALS registry at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and to enact the ALS Registry Act. This will help identify occurrences of ALS, collect data surrounding it and examine standards of care. Promoting a better understanding of the disease will enhance the nation's efforts to find a treatment and cure. With studies indicating that ALS occurs at a greater rate in military veterans, I encourage the Department of Defense to investigate the causes and take appropriate remedial action to prevent the development of this disease among our fighting men and women. Now is the time for us to invest in seeking the causes, treatments and a cure for this disease.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5386) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to thank the Chairman and the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee for their continued support of the Florida Everglades in the Interior Appropriations bill.

This legislation includes funding for implementation of the Modified Waters Deliveries Project. This project is critical to Everglades Restoration, and will ensure natural water flows continue through Everglades National Park.

The Florida Everglades is a unique and precious ecosystem that must be preserved for future generations. Everglades Restoration is a long-term investment that will ensure the Everglades is restored and protected.

I am pleased that the Chairman included \$69 million for Everglades Restoration, which is so critical to ensuring continuation of this vital project. The Interior share of funding combined with the appropriations made to the Army Corp of Engineers in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill will allow restoration to move forward.

I thank my colleagues from Florida for their continued support of the Florida Everglades and Restoration funding. Additionally, I would like to thank the Governor of Florida for his steadfast support of Everglades Restoration. Floridians understand the great benefit the Everglades provide not just to our ecological diversity, but also to our economy, which is so dependent upon tourism.

On behalf of myself, and the residents of Southern Florida I am so proud to represent, I thank the Chairman and his hardworking staff for their support of this funding.

RABBI JOEL WEINTRAUB

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Joel Weintraub of Berks Country for his service to the Jewish Community Center and surrounding community.

Rabbi Weintraub hails from New York City, was educated at Brooklyn College and then went on to get his masters degree and Rabbinical Ordination from Yeshiva College. In 1972, the Rabbi moved to Atlantic City, New Jersey, to take charge of his first congregation. In 1982, the Rabbi moved his wife, Shirley, and their family, sons Yossi and Yissi, to Reading, Pennsylvania, and the Keshar Zion Synagogue.

Once in Reading, the Rabbi became an active member of the community. He has taught at Alvernia and Albright Colleges, being the Director of Hillel activities, and facilitated Passover Seders at both education institutions. Also, in order to promote interfaith dialogue, the Rabbi was involved in the annual Kristallnacht program, spoke at local churches and schools, and gave tours of the synagogue. Additionally, Rabbi Weintraub used his dynamic personality to host radio and television shows and write articles for both secular and Jewish newspapers.

When not hosting Bible studies, Shabbat dinners, and teaching Hebrew School, the Rabbi enjoys being able to pursue his hobbies that include racquetball, swimming, and reading.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in me today in honoring Rabbi Joel Weintraub for his outstanding dedication and service to Berks county and the Jewish Community Center.

SALUTING CHARLES YOUNG

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, today I ask Congress to join me in saluting the life and legacy of Mississippi State Representative Charles Young for his 25 years of elected public service. Charles has put his stamp on state's educational system as Chairman of the Universities and Colleges Committee. And his impact on his hometown of Meridian, and indeed across the state, as a seminal player in our civil rights movement, cannot be overstated.

Over the years, Charles and I have partnered on initiatives to benefit East Mississippi: economic development projects, educational improvement goals, and renewal and arts endeavors like the Meridian Grand Opera House. His faith and commitment to state and country have empowered him to make a real difference through service in the lives of his neighbors and in the fabric of his community.

Mr. Speaker, it is totally fitting that tomorrow night I will join other members of the Mississippi Delegation, local and state officials, as well as community leaders and activists in honoring Charles Young as part of the Carnegie Library Renovation Project. It is my wish to take with me the well wishes and congratulations of this Congress to this longtime public servant. I hope you all will join me today—so that I might extend that unity of national goodwill to him tomorrow—in saluting Representative Charles Young.

HONORING 125 YEARS OF
FIREFIGHTING HISTORY**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Madison Fire Department in the Borough of Madison, New Jersey, a patriotic community that I am proud to represent. On May 20, 2006 the good citizens of Madison will celebrate the Fire Department's 125th Anniversary with a family picnic.