

Run, it was held from April to August on a biennial basis from 1987 to 2001 and resumed as a yearly event in 2005. The World Harmony Run seeks to promote international friendship and understanding. This year, an international team of runners will carry a flaming torch, symbolizing the human aspiration for oneness, through more than 80 countries around the globe together with a 10,500-mile, fifty State U.S.A. route. The event serves to connect thousands of grassroots efforts for world harmony taking place in communities across the globe. It does not seek to raise money or promote any political cause, but rather to create good will among peoples and nations.

The Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team has made a city block in my district world famous. It's where the longest running race in the world takes place around the shortest course—a half-mile certified loop on paved sidewalks adjacent to the Grand Central Parkway. To complete the Self-Transcendence 3,100 Mile Race, participants run 5,648,688 laps around the block, a distance equivalent to more than 118 marathons. The Tenth Annual edition began on June 11 and continues into August with the largest field yet of 15 ultra-distance runners. As in all his endeavors, Sri Chinmoy sets the highest standards of organization, logistics and support to help ultra-marathon runners achieve their greatest potential. We can expect of this race to see new world records and personal bests.

A decathlon and 100-meter sprinting champion in his youth, Sri Chinmoy believes in the necessity of a sound mind and a sound body. He began his own long-distance running career in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco on June 1, 1978. In March 1979, he ran his first marathon in Chico, California, and, later that month, his fastest marathon in 3:55:07 at the Heart-Watchers Marathon in Toledo, Ohio. He has completed 22 marathons and 5 ultra marathons and now, at age 75, still regularly exercises.

Mr. Speaker, Sri Chinmoy first began weightlifting on June 26, 1986, and embarked on a new dimension in his weightlifting career 2 years later when he inaugurated "Lifting Up the World with a Oneness-Heart." This is his way of recognizing individuals from all walks of life who inspire humanity and excel in their respective fields. At these programs, Sri Chinmoy lifts each honoree overhead on a special platform, symbolically reflecting their own uplifting contributions to the world.

Bill Pearl of Oregon, a Five-time Mr. Universe, was the first person lifted in this fashion. Sri Chinmoy has lifted Members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, heads of state, ambassadors, Nobel laureates, university professors, spiritual leaders from all faiths, Olympic athletes, citizens serving their communities, and school children whose dreams are so important to our future. In Hawaii, on December 23, 1990, he lifted Senator Hiram L. Fong, who was Hawaii's first Senator at the time of statehood.

On July 10, 2001, in the Rayburn Gold Room, Sri Chinmoy simultaneously lifted my esteemed New York colleague Benjamin Gilman and me on a two-platform lifting apparatus, one of us with each arm. If I had not experienced it, I could not imagine this to be possible. In a day-long lifting program at Boeing Field Auditorium in Washington State on July 13, 2003, held to celebrate the centenary

of the Wright brothers first flight, Sri Chinmoy lifted 123 airplane pilots in appreciation of their dedicated services in carrying humanity into the skies. From 1988 to 2006, Sri Chinmoy has honored more than 8,000 individuals from many countries with this award.

Mr. Speaker, The Oneness-Heart Tears and Smiles is the voluntary humanitarian service program of the Sri Chinmoy Centre. Since 1991, centre members worldwide have collected and shipped tons of humanitarian supplies to countries in need including South Africa, Angola, Mozambique, India, and, after the tsunami, Sri Lanka. It responds to disaster relief requests, health and education needs, and regional development projects. The program obtains and distributes medical, domestic and educational supplies and toys, working closely with other aid agencies, local NGOs, community groups and corporations.

One would think that this busy schedule and numerous interests would be enough for one man, but not so for Sri Chinmoy. An accomplished composer of music for choir and instruments with 13,000 songs composed in his native Bengali and 7,000 in English, Sri Chinmoy has performed his music free of charge at over 750 concerts worldwide since 1984. Last year, to celebrate his 74th birthday, he played his original compositions on 74 different pianos at an outdoor concert in Queens.

Senators Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York and Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island sponsored an art exhibit of Sri Chinmoy's soul-bird drawings in the Russell Rotunda of the U.S. Senate in 1995.

All told, Sri Chinmoy has written 20,000 songs, taught 300 university lectures, authored 1,550 books, including 112,000 poems, penned 15 million bird drawings, and completed 200,000 "Jharna-Kala" paintings ("Fountain of Art" in his native Bengali).

He has dedicated his life to inspiring and serving all those trying to make the world a better place, whether ordinary citizens or those entrusted with the stewardship of a nation.

Mr. Speaker, on this, the celebration of Sri Chinmoy's upcoming Diamond Jubilee 75th birthday, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me as I wish Sri Chinmoy success in the years ahead and best wishes for a long and continuingly fruitful life.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
CONGRATULATING THE NA-
TIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution congratulating the National Library of Medicine on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

The National Library of Medicine, which is located on the National Institutes of Health campus and is in my Congressional district, was created in 1956 by the National Library of Medicine Act. Before 1956, the National Library of Medicine was known as the Armed Forces Medical Library.

The National Library of Medicine provides invaluable tools for medical librarians such as

the Medical Librarian Association, health consumers, and health professionals to support information access and high-quality health care. With its vast collections in all areas of biomedicine and health care, the National Library of Medicine is the world's largest medical library with more than 8 million items.

Through its extramural grant programs, outreach programs, health information technology research programs, and databases such as Medline/PubMed Central and ClinicalTrials.gov, the National Library of Medicine works to provide the highest quality, most relevant, and timely health information for health professionals and health consumers.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the National Library of Medicine on its 50th anniversary and commend it for its leadership in the health sciences information field.

THE "SWIFT APPROVAL, FULL
EVALUATION (SAFE) DRUG ACT"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Swift Approval, Full Evaluation (SAFE) Drug Act. This bill is designed to ensure that the FDA can balance the need to get important life-saving drugs to the market quickly while ensuring the drugs get the full evaluation they need to ensure the safety of those products. A strong postmarketing study system allows the FDA to achieve a careful balance between speed of approval and careful scrutiny of the products. However, as both the GAO and the Inspector General of HHS recently reported, the system to ensure that postmarketing studies are conducted and completed is broken and the FDA has not made reform a priority.

Postmarketing studies are important because they prevent death, detrimental reliance and waste. They provide critical information about the risks and benefits of a drug after it has been approved and on the market. They can also provide additional information about optimal use of the product and what groups of people are most likely to benefit (or not benefit) from use. Since the long-term effects of products are not usually studied prior to approval, postmarketing studies provide critical information about the risks or benefits of long-term use. Postmarketing studies allow the FDA to approve drugs for to consumers who need them quickly while ensuring that scientists will continue to investigate the best uses of the drug. These studies are particularly important when, in the interest of speeding drugs to consumers, the drugs are approved under the FDA's accelerated approval process.

In 1992, the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, established a process that amounted to a trade-off between its mission to ensure drug safety and effectiveness and the need to speed promising new drugs to market to increase treatment options for life-threatening illnesses. Called accelerated approval, this process allows FDA to approve a drug on an expedited basis using promising but limited information about its safety and effectiveness, but only on the condition that the company agrees to conduct further studies to confirm