

On April 14, 1912, the sinking of the *Titanic* focused the world's attention on navigation safety at sea. Following this tragedy, an international committee was formed to which the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office became a major contributor. This committee monitored ice conditions along the major Europe-to-America shipping routes, established specific lifeboat capacity for passengers, and most importantly, mandated that all vessels at sea maintain a 24-hour radio watch. In 1921, the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office began broadcasting navigational safety warnings worldwide for all commercial and military shipping.

In 1977, the International Hydrographic Organization and the International Maritime Organization established the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service, WWNWS, to coordinate global radio broadcast service for information about hazards to navigation that might endanger international shipping. The WWNWS divided the world into 16 Navigation Warning Areas. The United States has been designated the coordinator for the two areas along the Atlantic and Pacific Coast. As the responsible WWNWS coordinator on behalf of the United States, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, NGA, headquartered in Bethesda, MD, annually processes over 130,000 messages, guaranteeing the continuous operation of the WWNWS for the world's ships.

On this 100th anniversary, we recognize the importance of maritime safety information and the NGA for supporting safety of life at sea through the broadcast of navigational warnings. We also recognize the men and women of the NGA who carry on this legacy today.

HONORING STEVEN FIRESTEIN  
AND KIDS CANCER CONNECTION

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2007*

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Steven Firestein and Kids Cancer Connection and the American Cancer Fund for Children for the tireless work that they do on behalf of children suffering from cancer.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa proclaimed the week of December 11, 2006 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Week" in the city of Los Angeles, and since then, many other cities have done the same. I am pleased to join Mayor Villaraigosa and Santa Barbara Mayor Marty Blum in thanking Steven Firestein, the founder of American Cancer Fund for Children and its sister organization, Kids Cancer Connection, for his hard work and dedication in assisting children and their families fighting cancer.

For over a decade, Steven has been providing critical services to children undergoing cancer treatments at many hospitals, including Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital in my Congressional District. American Cancer Fund for Children provides hand-made caps for children following the trauma of chemotherapy, surgery and radiation. The American Cancer Fund for Children also sponsors Courageous Kid award ceremonies and hospital celebrations in recognition of each child's bravery and determination in his or her struggle against cancer. I have been privileged to participate in these

moving ceremonies and I can say that they have a significant impact on the patients and their families.

As a nurse and as Co-Chair of the House Cancer Caucus, I understand firsthand the trauma that these children and their families suffer. I am so pleased to work with Steven as he dedicates countless hours of his time to bettering the lives of so many. He is a tireless advocate and greatly deserves recognition for his efforts. I hope that you will join me in recognizing this generous volunteer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2007*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, for the record, during consideration of H.R. 3093 on rollcall 733, I voted "no", and meant to vote "aye."

LIMITING USE OF FUNDS TO ESTABLISH ANY MILITARY INSTALLATION OR BASE IN IRAQ

SPEECH OF

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2007*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation—which I am proud to have co-sponsored—that commits our Nation to changing course in Iraq. This House, and the American people we represent, will not allow our involvement in Iraq's civil war to continue indefinitely.

Today's bill makes it crystal clear that no permanent military bases will be built in Iraq. As such, it is proof that the new Congressional leadership is focused on ending this war. It is evidence of our dedication to the well-being and protection of our troops. And, above all else, it begins to implement a strategy to reassert our country's proper role in the world.

For these reasons, this legislation deserves the unwavering support of each and every Member of this House.

Mr. Speaker, we know that much of the strife taking place in Iraq has deep historical and cultural roots. As a result, any resolution to the conflict will be political in nature and not imposed through force. A central component of such a solution will require us to redeploy our troops from Iraq, and I am proud to have voted in favor of such a strategic shift along with a majority of the new Democratic Congress.

Unfortunately, this rational way forward has been blocked by a President whose insistence on imposing a military solution has cost the lives of thousands of coalition forces and Iraqi civilians. The President's strategy is not working, Madam Speaker. And along with a majority of my colleagues, I will continue to vote to change it.

Passing the bill before us today will help us accomplish this goal. It will send an unmistakable message to our Armed Forces that the American people will not abandon them to a faraway civil war. It will demonstrate to the

rest of the world that the United States is not bent on occupying other sovereign nations. It will signal to the Iraqi people that they must assume responsibility for their own government. Finally, it will allow our military the time it needs to re-focus on emerging threats to our allies and to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, this bill validates what the American people have known for a long time: our presence in Iraq must end, for the good of our country and for the sake of those who have laid their lives on the line to fight for it.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH NAPPI AND  
THE MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION  
OF THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2007*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, there are few who are not familiar with the wonderful work of the Make-A-Wish-Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic, Inc.—a non-profit organization that fulfills the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich their lives with hope, strength and joy. One of the most successful Make-A-Wish chapters in the country, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter, is headquartered in my congressional district, in Kensington, Maryland.

The gentleman most responsible for this remarkable success—the Mid-Atlantic Chapter's President and CEO for 17 of its 24 years, Mr. Ralph Nappi—is retiring this month.

During Ralph's tenure, the Foundation has grown from fulfilling 40 wishes a year to more than 400, having a significant impact on the lives of children in Maryland, Washington, DC, Northern Virginia and Delaware. Ralph has set a standard of excellence that is a model for the other 71 chapters across the U.S. and the 28 around the world.

Founded in 1983, the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic, Inc. has fulfilled the wishes of more than 5,600 children fighting illnesses such as cancer, pediatric AIDS, cystic fibrosis, Duchene's muscular dystrophy and heart disease. Remarkably, it has granted the wish of every courageous child referred to it since its founding. Nationally, the Make-A-Wish Foundation has granted the wishes of 150,743 children—granting one wish every 41 minutes.

A wish fulfilled creates a memorable experience for a child fighting a life-threatening medical condition and gives that child something wonderful to focus on rather than on medical treatments and hospital visits. Recent wishes granted by the Mid-Atlantic chapter include visiting Walt Disney World, taking a family vacation to Australia, receiving a home computer, having a bedroom redecorated and meeting the Backstreet Boys.

On behalf of my constituents in Maryland's Eighth Congressional District, especially those who have benefited from the wonderful work of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, I congratulate Ralph Nappi on his outstanding leadership and thank him for all that he has done. He will be missed greatly by many as he enjoys his well-deserved retirement.