

TRIBUTE TO MR. GEORGE
ARCURIO, JR.

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. George Arcurio, Jr., "Junior." Mr. Arcurio is a selfless human being who, over the last forty years has constantly put the best interests of others ahead of his own. He has been a valuable asset to the greater Johnstown, Pennsylvania community.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Arcurio worked hard during his long and varied career which included working in the Johnstown School District from 1952 through 1968. It was at this point that Mr. Arcurio became interested in politics.

Starting in 1969, Mr. Arcurio held elected and appointed positions including Johnstown City Councilman, Director of Public Works and the Police Commissioner in the City of Johnstown, Treasurer of Cambria County, Chief Investigator for the Cambria County District Attorney and finally as an Investigator for the Pennsylvania Auditor General's office from 1984 until his retirement.

As if work and politics weren't enough, Mr. Arcurio has also served since 1981 as the President of the Johnstown Oldtimer's Baseball Association which sponsors the All American Amateur Baseball Association's (AAABA) national tournament in Johnstown every August. Bringing some of the finest amateur baseball talent to Johnstown each year has been Mr. Arcurio's mission for nearly thirty years. Mr. Arcurio also served as President of the AAABA's national board from 1994-1995 and was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 1994.

Mr. Arcurio, "Junior," has served on many commissions and boards over the last thirty years and has always worked to make the Johnstown area a better place to live. He remains active in the community and currently serves on the local airport authority.

Madam Speaker, Mr. George Arcurio, Jr. is truly a great and caring American. I wish to end my remarks by congratulating and thanking him for his service to the Johnstown community.

HONORING WILLIAM OLIVER
CRAIG IV

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly propose to recognize William Oliver Craig, IV of Buckner, Missouri. William is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1221, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William Oliver Craig, IV for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HELPING
THOSE WHO SERVE ACT

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I don't have to remind anyone about the serious need to address service and treatment gaps that our men and women in uniform are experiencing regarding Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

My colleagues also know—either through efforts to help their own constituents who have served or from media reports—of the numerous barriers to access encountered by soldiers in need of services to deal with PTSD.

The RAND Corporation's Invisible Wounds of War report found that, despite the efforts of the Defense Department and Department of Veterans Affairs, a "substantial unmet need for treatment of PTSD and major depression" exists among our soldiers.

As many as 300,000 of the 1.64 million men and women who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan currently suffer from PTSD, depression, or other conditions.

The American Psychiatric Association reported this year that while 6 in 10 soldiers said their deployment in a war zone caused them to suffer from negative experiences associated with stress, only 10 percent had sought treatment, 60 percent said they avoided seeking help because they fear doing so would impact negatively on their career.

I am concerned that without continued active leadership and the willingness to try new approaches to meet escalating needs and make improvements to help our soldiers receive care when they need it, we will be committing a great disservice to the men and women of our Armed Services and their families. We would be, in effect, turning our backs on them.

The bill I am introducing today would attempt to attack a commonly identified barrier to seeking care for PTSD among members of our military: stigma. According to the Defense Department's Mental Health Task Force's July 2007 report, "Evidence of stigma in the military is overwhelming."

As a result, too many servicemembers are reluctant to seek counseling and other services for fear of negative career repercussions. Our soldiers are worried that seeking treatment for PTSD won't be confidential and will affect future job assignments and military-career advancement rather than focusing on getting help.

A number of experts have called on the Defense Department to consider changing its policies to ensure that there are no perceived or real adverse career consequences for those who may seek treatment.

Defense Secretary Gates recognized this problem earlier this summer when he made changes to the Department's security clearance process to ensure that the act of simply seeing a counselor does not become a black

mark against those seeking a security clearance or advancing into a position in which such a clearance is needed.

As a result of this common sense move, military members and civilian defense employees will no longer have to identify that they received mental health services when they fill out security clearance forms, unless the treatment was court-ordered or involved violence.

While this is a welcomed step, the Defense Department can go further to help reduce perceived fears that seeking mental health treatment will negatively affect one's career.

It is time that DoD policies reflect the reality that receiving treatment is not itself a sign of dysfunction or poor job performance and may have no impact on a person's ability to do their job or deploy with their units.

My bill would require the DoD to go further to address other policies that intentionally or unintentionally promote fears that seeking health care will damage career prospects.

It would require DoD to set up a demonstration project at multiple sites to explore options to ensure members can have access to DoD-funded off-the-record, off-base counseling services which protect the confidentiality of those receiving treatment.

The bill would also establish a special working group, heading by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, to review all current and relevant DoD policies regarding disclosure of mental health visits by service members whether on their military records or to commanders and to identify changes that would help protect member confidentiality.

It would also include an evaluation component to allow us to see whether these changes are effective in increasing access, increasing quality of care, and reducing stigma while not compromising the ability of military commanders to be aware of the deployability of their soldiers.

The goal is simple: to promote early intervention and access to health care for those who, because of fears about how such visits are perceived by the military, would otherwise not seek care.

Increasing access to confidential treatment has the potential to increase the use of mental health services and to increase total-force readiness by encouraging individuals to seek needed health care before problems deteriorate to a critical level.

This demonstration project would help us to show, whether with the right policy flexibility, we can help to break down more of the institutional barriers that act to promote stigma. It leaves it up to the DoD to try and find that right balance within established guidelines.

Army Lt. Colonel Thomas Languirand, the head of the Army's efforts to combat rising suicide rates, recently noted in a fax to all of our offices that "one key thing that will help soldiers seek the care they need is changing the stigma associated with seeking behavioral health care. It is critical for soldiers, family members, and Army civilians to know that seeking help during times of stress is a sign of strength, not weakness."

We know that effective treatment is available, that soldiers are in need and the need is growing. This amendment simply attempts to try and remove barriers to care—while providing important safeguards—that have been identified.

Our military mental health care system must transform from one where "If we build it, they

may come . . ." or "If we build it, they should come . . ." to one where "If we build it, our servicemembers feel welcomed."

Madam Speaker, we need a system that makes members of our Armed Services feel welcomed and we can begin today by supporting this legislation. While providing important safeguards, this bill simply attempts to try and remove barriers to care that have been identified.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
HONORING "GO FOR BROKE"
REGIMENTS WITH CONGRES-
SIONAL GOLD MEDAL

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation recognizing the Japanese-American 100th Infantry Battalion and 442d Regimental Combat Team, commonly known as the "Go For Broke" regiments, for their dedicated service to our nation during World War II.

These brave men served with pride, courage and conviction, waging a war on two fronts—abroad against a forceful and oppressive fascism, and at home against the intolerance of racial injustice. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor incited doubts about the loyalty of Japanese Americans, these brave men who enlisted to fight to protect our nation were faced with segregated training conditions, families and friends relocated to internment camps, and repeated questions about their combat abilities. At a time when they could have easily turned their backs on a country which had seemingly turned its back on them, these men chose the nobler, bolder, and more difficult route.

The "Go For Broke" regiments went on to earn several awards for their distinctive service in combat, including: 7 Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, 22 Legion of Merit Medals, 15 Soldier's Medals, and nearly 10,000 Purple Hearts, among numerous additional distinctions. For their size and length of service, the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442d Regimental Combat Team were the most decorated U.S. military units of the war. However, these regiments have yet to be honored with a Congressional Gold Medal.

To answer the call of duty requires exceptional courage and sacrifice, but to respond with a vigor and persistence unaffected by those who sought to malign and impede their every achievement reveals an incredible spirit and admirable will. Please join me in honoring these courageous men by supporting the granting of a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the U.S. Army's 100th Infantry Battalion and 442d Regimental Combat Team.

TRIBUTE TO BERNA DEAN
NIERMAN

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, during our time in Congress we all have benefitted from

the efforts of our staffs. I certainly have been blessed with the services of wonderful people through my career. The standard in my office was set early in my professional life, before I came to Congress. The daughter of a friend became my assistant in private law practice and has been with me continuously since 1968. Berna Dean Nierman has been a true and faithful friend as well as a very competent and valuable employee through the years.

The first person invited to join my Congressional staff was Berna Dean. She opened the office in Sedalia, MO, and has managed it continuously since 1977. She has handled thousands of constituent problems. She has been responsible for overseeing the process for selecting appointees to the various military academies and she has had responsibility for helping arrange tours for constituents who are visiting the Capitol from Missouri's 4th District. She has handled countless phone calls on legislative issues and problems in government and has always been professional in her response always.

We have shared professional and personal triumphs and hardships. It has been a joy to watch her celebrate her marriage to Wayne Nierman and then to see the family grow as Christopher and Christine came along and developed into outstanding young adults in their own right. She was a friend and confidant to my late wife Susie. Her advice and counsel were always welcomed by her and I continue to benefit from her wise counsel.

Berna Dean was my first employee and set a very high standard for those who followed. Her character and work ethic, along with an engaging and warm personality, reflect the small town values instilled in her by her wonderful parents.

After 32 years of Congressional service and 40 years working with me, Berna Dean Nierman is retiring. She will be missed, but I know I am not losing a friend, but just changing the location where I can contact her. She and Wayne have my best wishes for many, many happy years together.

I ask the Congress to join me in thanking her for her outstanding service to the people of the Fourth Congressional District of Missouri and our country.

HONORING GRANT E. GEIGER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Grant E. Geiger of Missouri. Grant is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Grant has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Grant has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Grant E. Geiger for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Included in H.R. 2638 is funding for the following projects and programs that I submitted:

1. \$2,800,000 for Surface ASW in the Navy's Research, Development, Test & Evaluation account. The entity to receive funding for this project is DDL Omni Engineering, LLC at 8260 Greensboro Drive, Suite 600, McLean, VA 22102. The funding will be used for the Automated Readiness Measurement System (ARMS). ARMS is intended to provide commanders a real-time tactical decisionmaking tool with constant assessment of the mission readiness of personnel and units. The program will include the ability to analyze performance against Navy Mission Essential Tasks and will develop the readiness assessment to assist commanders in making tactical employment decisions. DDL Omni expects to expend any funds provided over a two year period in the development of ARMS within the Anti-Submarine Warfare Mission Area.

2. \$2,000,000 for Airborne Mine Countermeasures in the Navy's Research, Development, Test & Evaluation account. The funding will be received by Progeny Systems at 9500 Innovation Drive, Manassas, VA 20110. The funding will be used for the Airborne Mine Countermeasures "Open Architecture" Technology Insertion. This funding continues a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant and will result in significantly improved mine countermeasures capabilities. Anti-ship mines are becoming the weapon of choice and are not only advancing in capability, but are being proliferated to a number of countries and terrorist groups who previously could not produce the weapons on their own. This poses a significant threat to U.S. forward deployed naval forces and battle groups as well as shipborne commercial commerce. To meet and keep pace with these threats, the Navy needs improved mine detection, classification, and neutralization capabilities that can be easily and quickly modernized.

3. \$800,000 for Environmental Technology in the Army's Research, Development, Test & Evaluation account. The entity to receive funding for this project is Vanguard Research, Inc./EnerSol Technologies, Inc. at 1235 South Clark Street, Suite 501, Arlington, VA 22202. The funding will be used for the Plasma Energy Pyrolysis System (PEPS) Clean Fuels project. The PEPS system turns renewable resources such as biomass into gas in order to produce alternative transportation biofuels for the US Army. These funds will be spent over a one-year period to continue plasma torch testing.

4. \$800,000 for Conventional Weapons Technology in the Air Force's Research, Development, Test & Evaluation account. The entity to receive funding for this project is Aerojet at 5731 Wellington Road, Gainesville,