

H.R. 4821 THE “KAYTLYNN NOGGLE FEDERAL LIFE INSURANCE EQUITY ACT”

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the “Kaytlynn Noggle Federal Life Insurance Equity Act,” named in honor of the daughter of constituents of mine, Elizabeth and Larry Noggle; and to encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill.

I would like to read the e-mail sent to me by Mr. Noggle as I think it sums up the need for this legislation far better than I could.

“Representative Burton, recently my wife, Elizabeth, and I had a stillborn daughter, Kaytlynn Grace on December 19, 2009.

We are both Federal employees with the Defense Department and when we looked to see if the Federal Group Life Insurance covered stillborn children, we were told it did not.

As you are probably aware, Indiana law requires any child 20 weeks gestation or more to be buried or cremated as if they were a regular person who lived and died, the cost of which ran our family over \$2,000 in funeral expenses.

As the insurance didn't cover it, this was a large unexpected expense. Since Indiana law requires burial, we had hoped our insurance would cover at least the funeral expenses as we carried the family coverage on our policy. We discovered that for military service members, their life insurance covers stillborn children up to \$10,000.

While neither Elizabeth nor I expect to benefit from any changes, we request that the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance program be modified to include stillborns for all Federal employees, at least equivalent to the Servicemembers group Life Insurance Program.

We aren't looking to profit from Kaytlynn's death. We are hoping to bring about a change to help other families in this situation. Thank you Larry Noggle.”

Madam Speaker, Public Law 110–389, the “Veterans” Benefits Improvement Act of 2008” in addition to enhancing other veterans and military benefits, amended the definition of dependent under the Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program to include stillborn children. And coverage for stillborn children has been part of the program since November 18, 2009.

The “Veterans Benefits Improvement Act” did not, however, amend the definition of dependent under the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance program. The Kaytlynn Noggle Federal Life Insurance Equity Act simply corrects this imbalance and brings the two programs into parity.

Although I do not have an official CBO score on the bill, the costs to the Federal Government should be negligible for several reasons.

First, the cost of Basic insurance under the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance program is shared between the employee and the Government; with the employee paying $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total cost while the Government pays $\frac{1}{3}$. The cost of the Optional Coverage under the program—in other words coverage for spouses and children (including coverage for

stillborn children)—is paid 100 percent by the employee.

Second, stillbirths are fortunately rare. According to the latest figures from the Centers for Disease Control, each year in the United States approximately 25,000 babies are stillborn—roughly 1 percent of all births. Consequently, the probability is that the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance program would pay out relatively few claims under the stillborn provision.

To paraphrase Mr. Noggle, no one is going to make a profit from this provision. But it will hopefully give Federal families some peace of mind that they won't be made destitute by the tragic event of a stillborn baby.

I would encourage all of my colleagues to co-sponsor this critically important legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT FRONEK FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NEW LENOX FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, on April 3, 2010, friends, family, and colleagues of Robert Fronck will gather to celebrate his 35 years of service to the New Lenox Fire Protection District. Today, I join the chorus of praise for Robert's service.

Robert, or Bob to his friends, began his service to the New Lenox Fire Protection District on June 14, 1973. When he first began, Bob gave his time for little or no pay. He gained a Master's Degree in Fire Science and his role in the fire department grew as he devoted his time and effort to the Fire Protection District.

Over the past 35 years Bob has worked for the New Lenox Fire Protection District. He has served as Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief, and Trustee. He currently serves as District Operations Manager. Bob is the only person to have held every office on the district's Board of Trustees, serving as President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Bob has also been awarded the honor of Firefighter of the Year. During his time with the Fire District, Bob was an advocate for the businesses in New Lenox by making sure that the Fire District received bids from local businesses whenever possible. Bob is known to his colleagues as a very meticulous worker and a great friend.

Bob is also a loving grandfather, father, and husband. Bob and his wife Mary have been married for 37 years, all but one of which have been spent living in New Lenox. Bob and Mary have five children and ten grandchildren.

The 11th Congressional District of Illinois and the community of New Lenox owe Robert Fronck a debt of gratitude. I am proud to represent him and all the wonderful firefighters who serve the 11th District. I congratulate Robert on being honored by his colleagues and wish him continued success.

RECOGNIZING CORPORAL CHAD WATSON

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize Cpl Chad Watson of the United States Marine Corps, a true American hero.

Corporal Watson gave up his final year of a wrestling scholarship at Indiana University to serve his country in Iraq with the Marine Corps in 2006. He was quickly assigned to be a team leader, and led his team on five ambushes and more than 60 combat patrols. Corporal Watson was popular with his team and was even voted as the one Marine his fellow Marines would most like to serve with in combat.

However, after serving a little more than three months in Fallujah, Corporal Watson's time in Iraq was cut short when he was severely injured by an IED while on a mission. He spent the next 17 months in various forms of recovery and rehabilitation.

Corporal Watson received the respect and praise of his colleagues while serving in the military, and was named Marine of the Quarter for his actions in Iraq. Despite his injuries and substantial recovery time, he continues to serve his country and his fellow servicemen through his work with the Wounded Warrior Project. This organization seeks to empower injured veterans by spreading awareness and enlisting the aid of the public to meet the needs of men and women who have been injured in service to their country. The Wounded Warrior project also helps severely injured service members aid and assist each other.

Corporal Watson's devotion to his country before, during, and after his time in Iraq is an example of true patriotism. I want to both recognize him and, on behalf of the United States Congress, thank him for his selfless service on the frontlines in Iraq and for his continued dedication to serving as a tireless advocate for our nation's veterans.

HONORING JEAN SPRINGER

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an American heroine and one of my constituents, Jean Springer. Jean was a twenty-two year old student at Adelphi University, who instead of thinking about studying and exams, began thinking about how she could help her country in the War effort.

In 1943, Jean joined the newly formed Women Air Force Service Pilots or WASP Corps and began flying non-combat missions in support of the United States Army Air Forces.

Jean grew up in Long Island, New York. She learned to fly on Long Island and began a lifelong love of flying.

Jean and more than one-thousand other female pilots joined the Army Air Forces WASP Corps in an effort to free up their male counterparts to fly combat missions in the war effort. At that time women pilots were prohibited