

RECOGNIZING MARCH 5 AS NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL DESIGN DAY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize March 5, 2015, as the First Annual National Industrial Design Day. I also want to congratulate the Industrial Designers Society of America on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. This day is being used to recognize those in the profession of industrial design, which has enhanced people's lives, not only in the 11th District of Virginia, but also across the United States and the world.

The term "industrial design" was first recognized by the U.S. Patent Office in 1913, but the importance of this field was not fully recognized at that time. Originally comprised primarily of architects, package designers, and stage designers, the field expanded to include many diverse professionals including those in manufacturing, furniture design, graphic design, and automobile design, among others. The focus evolved to using design as a tool to make products more efficient, more cost effective, and more relevant.

Today, the contributions of industrial designers include advanced technology such as GPS, digital interfaces, environmental graphics, communication systems, surgical equipment, MP3 players, and countless others. The economic impact of this industry helps fuel our national economy. In the United States, product design and related services generate billions in sales and the number of U.S. awarded design patents has reached an all-time high.

Promotion of innovation and creativity has created a growing interest in industrial design. What was first hailed as a "modern movement" at the 1927 Exposition of Art in Trade in New York City is now taught at universities around the world.

The Industrial Designers Society of America, headquartered in Herndon, Virginia in the 11th Congressional District, which I am pleased to represent, should be commended for being an instrumental force in the growth and expansion of this profession. Its membership now includes thousands of industrial designers in 29 countries. In addition, it has hosted education symposiums and conferences to ensure the continued growth of this field.

I ask my colleagues to join me in proclaiming March 5 as National Industrial Design Day and in expressing our appreciation for the innovation and creativity of its members. Their designs and creations improve our lives in every way and are worthy of our recognition.

THE CONTINUING THREAT OF
NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are a group of 17 parasitic and bacterial diseases which blind, disable, disfigure, and sometimes kill sufferers among more than one billion of the

world's poorest people, trapping the most marginalized communities in a cycle of poverty. The list ranges from chagas to rabies to leprosy to dengue fever. However, there are others not on this list of 17 diseases that also receive too little attention. These include such diseases as polio and smallpox, which have largely been eliminated from the planet, and often fatal, fortunately rare NTDs, such as kuru. Prior to last year, that list of rare diseases included Ebola.

Even though not immediately fatal, these diseases can keep children from attending school and their parents from working, as well as resulting in excessive loss of blood by mothers during birth and low birth weight babies. These conditions constitute a significant hurdle to achieving economic growth and dilute the impact of foreign assistance programs.

Last year, the world witnessed an Ebola disease pandemic that hit six African countries and spread to Spain, Scotland, and the United States. Furthermore, in recent years diseases such as dengue fever and chickungunya have spread into the United States. These and other tropical diseases most often victimize the poor who live in tropical climates—whether in Africa, Latin America or parts of the United States.

Even in the face of the worldwide challenge these tropical diseases pose, the administration has proposed cutting the budget in this area by 17%. Yesterday's hearing examined the problem of neglected tropical diseases and U.S. current and potential efforts to address this problem.

Eight NTDs account for almost all worldwide cases. Seven of them can be treated with low-cost medication that can be dispensed by non-health workers irrespective of disease status. Nearly 80% of all NTD cases are comprised of people carrying intestinal worms.

In our June 27, 2013, hearing on NTDs, we learned the catastrophic nature of these preventable intestinal worm infections. So many of the problems we struggle with, such as difficult births and malnourishment, cannot be remedied without dealing with the infections themselves. These intestinal worms not only steal nutrients from their hosts; they steal their very futures by denying them a healthy life.

We can no longer look at photos of happy young children standing in muddy water without shoes and not think of the possibility that they are losing their future even as we see them enjoy a break from the poverty in which they live. Yet we must understand that these are not merely diseases affecting people in faraway lands.

Current U.S. law favors research on those diseases threatening the American homeland, but in today's world, diseases can cross borders as easily as those affected by them or the products imported into the United States. For example, chagas is most prevalent in Latin America, but it has been identified in patients in Texas, and cases of dengue fever have recently been reported in Florida. We cannot afford to assume that what may seem to be exotic diseases only happen to people in other countries. (And of course, even if that were true, we have a moral obligation to aid and assist those who contract these diseases and mitigate transmittal to the greatest extent possible). Ten years ago, West Nile Virus, another rare disease, was not seen in the United States or anywhere else outside the east Afri-

can nation of Uganda, but in less than a decade, it has spread across this country and much of the rest of the world.

More than 10,000 people have died of Ebola worldwide thus far. Although only one person died in this country due to that disease, we saw clearly how unprepared our medical services and the rest of the world were initially to deal with a rare disease that had previously been confined to isolated areas in Central Africa. There are other rare diseases—not to mention the recognized NTDs—that can cause havoc if they find their way to populated international transit areas as Ebola did last year.

Meanwhile, far too many people live lives of quiet suffering from diseases we must fight more effectively. This is why I have introduced H.R. 1797, the End Neglected Tropical Diseases Act. Among other provisions, H.R. 1797 calls on the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to modify its NTD programming with respect to rapid impact package treatments, school-based NTD programs and new approaches to reach the goals of eliminating NTDs. This bill also sets forth measures to expand the USAID program, including by establishment of a research and development program.

In our effort to achieve reachable goals to prevent and eliminate NTDs, the projected 17% cut in funding for such projects in the FY 2016 budget would pose a serious setback. I have appealed to the appropriators to maintain NTD spending at the most recent regular budget levels in FY 2014, and our hearing yesterday examined how our current NTD programs will be affected either by the planned budget cut or by maintaining the level of funding we saw before the Ebola response skewed the level of such funding.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL (RETIRED)
JOSE GERARDO GARCIA, M.D.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Colonel (Retired) Jose Gerardo Garcia, M.D. of Laredo, Texas.

Jose Gerardo Garcia was born on the 21st of November, 1935 to Gerardo and Anita Garcia in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. He received a Bachelors in Biological Sciences at la Escuela Preparatoria Federal and his Medical Doctor degree from la Universidad de Nuevo Leon Medical School in Monterrey in 1957. Following graduation, he completed psychiatry internships at Warren State Hospital in Warren, Pennsylvania and Austin State Hospital in Austin, Texas.

IN 1965, Dr. Garcia became a naturalized citizen of the United States. His love of country compelled him to enlist in the United States Army in 1969. Dr. Garcia's 20 years of service allowed him to use his medical training, serve his country, and help others. Beginning as a major at Fort Dix in New Jersey and then as a surgeon in the Army National Guard, 36th Airborne division, he developed an expertise in aerospace medicine. With this knowledge, Dr. Garcia became a charter member of the U.S. Army Aviation branch upon its creation in 1983. Additionally, he was the first native

Mexican physician assigned to the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General at the Pentagon, a position that allowed him to work directly with the White House physician. Following his promotion to the rank of colonel, Medical Corps, Dr. Garcia served as dean of the U.S. Army School of Aviation at Fort Rucker in Alabama. Dr. Garcia has been the first and only Hispanic to occupy this post. Additionally, Dr. Garcia served as chief training supervisor for the VA hospital in Houston, Texas, certified NASA flight surgeon supporting Space Shuttle landings at two primary landing sites, and as a medical consultant to the Texas Department of Corrections for inmates on death row. Dr. Garcia was also integral to the U.S. Army's adoption of research and clinical hyperbaric medicine.

After 20 years of distinguished service, Dr. Garcia transferred to Reserve duty in 1989. In 1990 he married Yolanda Davila and settled in Laredo where he continued to practice medicine and be an active member of the community until his passing. Dr. Garcia served as medical director of Charter Hospital of Laredo, CEO and medical director of St. Joseph's Psychiatric Day Treatment Center and Laredo Drug Detection Services, medical director of Casa Amistad/San Antonio State Hospital, senior psychiatrist of Border Region MHMR, and clinical assistant professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. This beloved family man and talented doctor will be dearly missed and forever remembered for his faith, altruism, optimism, patriotism, and wisdom.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the legacy of Colonel (Retired) Jose Gerardo Garcia, M.D. His exemplary service to this country and the people of Laredo will not be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOSE WHO MADE THE APPOMATTOX SESQUICENTENNIAL A SUCCESS

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representative BOB GOODLATTE, I submit these remarks to recognize and thank those who worked tirelessly to make the week-long Appomattox Sesquicentennial commemoration such a major success.

After years of preparation, the National Park Service, with the support of Appomattox County leaders and hundreds of Central Virginia volunteers, did an outstanding job hosting the thousands of Americans who came to commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial this past week at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. It was estimated that approximately 3,600 re-enactors took part and 25,000 individuals came to Appomattox Court House National Park throughout the week to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the meeting of Generals Lee and Grant which put an end to the Civil War and the nearly ninety events that preceded it. The hard work, effort, and organization executed by Appomattox County local businesses, vendors, and volunteers was observed by all and made for an especially memorable event of this momentous turning point in our nation's history.

I was pleased to be able to attend the moving and dignified opening ceremony and was impressed at the manner in which the National Park Service went above and beyond to ensure that the American people had the opportunity to pay tribute to those who re-united our country 150 years ago. Please join me in thanking all those who worked tirelessly to make this remembrance possible.

RECOGNIZING AIR ZOO

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nationally renowned Air Zoo in Kalamazoo, Michigan, which is hosting the 2015 Science Innovation Hall of Fame Awards on April 18, 2015.

It is only fitting that the Air Zoo is the setting for this gala event to recognize the transformative work of top Southwest Michigan students and teachers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics as well as residents who have advanced the area of aviation. The Air Zoo was founded in 1977 as the Kalamazoo Aviation History Museum by Suzanne and Pete Parish, who wanted to share their enthusiasm for World War II airplanes and artifacts. Scientific affiliations grew to include the Smithsonian Institution and the Michigan Space Science Center, which allows visitors to experience some of the challenges astronauts face during their training. Full-motion flight simulators, 3-D and 4-D theaters, and interactive exhibits—including one about women in aviation and space—provided adventure little seen in regular museums.

Education is tucked inside a fun setting as evidenced by the Air Zoo being named as the "Best Place to Spend a Day with Your Family" and "Best Place to Take out-of-Towners" for the past three years by the more than 130,000 visitors it has touching down at its doors each year.

Mr. Speaker, many have wondered how the facility got its name. As the collection of airplanes grew, so did the number of animal names: Wildcat, Hellcat, Bearcat and Flying Tiger. Obviously, these flying critters can only be contained in an Air Zoo.

Recently the Air Zoo was recognized as one of the jewels in the crown of the state by receiving a grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs to keep this state-of-the-art air and space museum on its mission of preserving the legacy of flight. I am proud to recognize the many accomplishments of the Air Zoo by the people who work there and wish them much success in the future.

HONORING ROBERT HILL YOUTH FOUNDATION, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Robert Hill Youth Foundation, Inc., Charleston, MS inside of Tallahatchie County, MS.

The Robert Hill Youth Foundation, Inc. began in the early 1980's by Mr. Robert Hill. It was initially conceived with the idea of simply being a sports organization for youth focusing on baseball. The organization eventually ceased being active after the death of Mr. Hill in 1991.

In the year 2000, Mr. Cedric Terry revived the organization because the youth in the community didn't have many options for constructive activities and adult mentoring. He took on the task of recruiting children and parent's involvement. Mr. Terry was successful by getting 9 boys excited about playing baseball for the summer and competing. Their team would travel and they would be role models for other youth. Everyone had to pledge to abide by the rules, get good grades in school, and participate in an award ceremony at the end of the season.

Mr. Terry's vision was just what the youth in the community needed to take the Robert Hill Youth Foundation to the next level. It was just what Mr. Hill always wanted the organization to be. The organization grew and became a huge success serving over 10,000 boys and girls. The effort was so well received that it attracted youth not just inside Charleston, but they came from miles outside the area. It now has extended its activities to include education, recreation and arts for youth in the area.

Through their education program they offer: Abstinence Education, After School Tutoring, and Fatherhood Preparation. Their recreation program offers: basketball, football, baseball and track. The arts program includes: praise dancing, dancing and acting classes. Since 2000 through 2015 the organization has been responsible for helping over 500 boys and girls in the area attend and receive a college education.

Their accolades are just as impressive. In fact, there are too many to name them all. A few of them include constructing the first park in Charleston in order to be home based for the youth. All they had to do was walk to the park and "Play ball!" Thanks to the Robert Hill Youth Foundation their work has reached all comers of youth life. In 2011 the Charleston High School Tigers Football Team won its 1st State Football Championship. Almost ninety percent of the players came from the Robert Hill Youth Foundation. In 2012 the Charleston High School Lady Tigers Basketball Team was the runner up in the Girls Basketball State Tournament. And over ninety-five percent of the girls played for the Robert Hill Youth Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today, in recognizing the Robert Hill Youth Foundation, an asset to Tallahatchie County in the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING PETER AND MAUREEN JANELLE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO PROVIDING MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND SERVICES

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, for the last 35 years both Peter & Maureen Janelle have