

(2) Some ESRD facilities do a good social work job helping patients return to work. Others don't seem to even try. We should honor and reward those centers which, on a risk-adjusted basis, are doing the best job of rehab in their renal network area.

The honor could be as simple as a Secretarial award of excellence and public recognition.

The reward could be something more tangible—a cash payment to the facility to each patient of working age who does not have severe co-morbidities which the center is able to help return to work (above a baseline—perhaps 5% of eligible patients). For example, if a center had 100 working age patients, it could receive a \$1000 payment for each patient above 5 who had lost employment and is helped to return to work. This would be a phenomenally successful investment and would particularly compensate the dialysis center for the cost of vocational rehab and social work.

(3) Renal dialysis networks, which are designed to help ensure ESRD center quality, should be able to apply for designation as rehab agencies and for demonstration grants under this legislation.

The law spelling out the duties of Networks has a heavy emphasis on rehabilitation. Indeed, it is the first duty listed:

“ . . . encouraging, consistent with sound medical practice, the use of those treatment settings most compatible with the successful rehabilitation of the patient and the participation of patients, providers of services, and renal disease facilities in vocational rehabilitation programs;”¹

I suspect that the 17 Networks vary widely in their emphasis on rehabilitation. Again, the Network(s) that do the best should receive recognition and share their success with the others.

(4) Kidney failure remains a medical mystery. It often happens very quickly, with no warning. But for thousands of others, there is a gradual decline of kidney function. I am told by medical experts that in many cases the descent to terminal or end-stage renal disease can be slowed by (1) nutrition counseling, or (2) medical treatment by nephrology specialists.

I hope that you will make it clear that the Medicaid (or Medicare) funds provided in this program to prevent disability could be used to delay the on-set of the devastatingly disruptive and expensive ESRD. Monies spent in this area would return savings many times over.

Also in the “preventive area,” some of the leaders in the renal community are reporting exciting results from more frequent, almost nightly dialysis. Like frequent testing by diabetics for blood sugar levels, it may be that more frequent dialysis can result in a less disrupted life and better chance to contribute to the workforce. We should watch these medical developments and if there is a chance that some additional spending on more frequent, but less disruptive dialysis would encourage return to work, we should be supportive.

(5) Finally, I urge you to coordinate this bill with another proposal of the Administrative—skilled nursing facility employment of aides to help with feeding. As you know, last summer

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

we received a GAO report on the horror of malnutrition and death by starvation in some nursing homes, due to a lack of staffing to take the time to help patients who have trouble eating and swallowing and who take a long, long time to eat (e.g., many stroke patients). A coordinated effort by the nursing home industry and ESRD centers to fill this minimum wage type position would help nursing home patients while starting many long-out-of-work ESRD patients back on the road to work.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few, quick ideas. I am sure that experts in this field could suggest other steps to ensure that the ESRD program not only saves lives, but helps people have a good and productive life.

A TRIBUTE TO MARY MAHONEY'S OLD FRENCH HOUSE RESTAURANT

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues news of two rather unique accolades for the celebrated Mary Mahoney's Old French House Restaurant in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Since opening its doors on May 7, 1964 in the refurbished Louis Frasier house that dates from 1737, this venerable establishment has been a Gulf Coast culinary landmark serving friends and travelers from near and far. The late Mary Mahoney and her dedicated family built their business on the tenets of excellent cuisine and service as well as an historically authentic Old South atmosphere, which over time has earned them international acclaim.

Among the numerous celebrities whose names grace their guest book are Sam Donaldson, Alexander Haig, Robert Redford, Denzel Washington, Randy Travis, and Dick Clark. During the Reagan Administration, Mary Mahoney catered a ceremony on the White House lawn for President and Mrs. Reagan and their guests.

All were impressed, but none left a more impressive gratuity than author John Grisham. In his recent bestseller, *The Runaway Jury*, Mr. Grisham compliments the restaurant by name and offers the reader a glimpse inside by having the judge in his novel host a fictional lunch for the jurors and court officers at “Mary Mahoney's”. Through Mr. Grisham's narrative the reader gets to share in the “crab cakes and grilled snapper, fresh oysters and Mahoney's famous gumbo. . . .” He goes on to write, “By the time the jury was seated for the afternoon session, everyone present had heard the story of their splended lunch.”

Now a newly released book celebrates the restaurant's vivacious founder and guiding spirit. It is entitled, *A Passion for People: The Story of Mary Mahoney and Her Old French House Restaurant*. Written by Mississippi journalist and family friend Edward J. Lepoma, himself a regular in Mary's inner circle of guests, this photo-filled, loving memoir tells of the trials and ultimate triumph of a second generation American with a dream. The dream was that of creating a world class restaurant

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in Biloxi, Mississippi, where the dining experience would be matched by the warm ambience that told all who visited, “Tonight, you are among friends.”

With its quaint art-filled dining rooms, superior wine list, and captivating Southern charm and hospitality, Mary Mahoney's Old French House Restaurant provides a memorable evening for first-time and long-time guests, an excellent backdrop for the novelist, and is a source of civic pride for the citizens of Biloxi and the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast region.

HONORING LAUREN DEBOWES FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN DANCE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to congratulate Lauren DeBowes for her outstanding achievements as an Irish dancer. A resident of New Haven, she will be representing Connecticut and the United States at the All World Irish Dance Championship in Ennis County Clare, Ireland.

Lauren is one of five young women in her age group from the New England area who will be making the trip to compete at the World Championship. With only 8 years of competitive dance experience under her belt, this is a truly impressive accomplishment. Teamed with her coach, John O'Keefe, Lauren performs both the soft dance and hard shoe dance, both of which have led her to success in several local competitions.

I was a tap dancer when I was young and can recall the thrill of recitals and concerts. I can only imagine the excitement that Lauren is feeling as she prepares for her trip to Ireland. Her hard work, dedication and enthusiasm has put her at a level to compete with the best in the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to Lauren as she celebrates her 16th birthday. This is certainly a special year. It is a pleasure for me to rise today and join with her family, friends, and the New Haven community to honor Lauren DeBowes for her tremendous accomplishments as an Irish dancer. Connecticut and the nation are indeed fortunate to be represented by such a talented young woman.

EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO DEC- LARATION OF PALESTINIAN STATE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to offer my remarks on both the substance of H. Con. Res. 24 and the context in which it is being considered. The Middle East peace process is at a critical stage, the Oslo Agreement will expire on May

¹ Sec. 1881(c)(2)(A); see also (B) and (H).