

D.C. The prognosis is always different. And the prognosis is never Gulf War Syndrome. He suffers from numerous symptoms like migraines, memory loss, concentration problems, balance, speech, vision-loss and others.

Though frustrated sometimes to tears over the government's attitude toward he and other veterans' suffering from an unknown illness, Mr. Poe still arrives at work early in the mornings—except when he just can't seem to make it in—at the family's business. American Artisans on South Clinton Avenue in Dunn. Though he is no longer able to work with the business, he goes there and digs in for a daily battle of researching information on Gulf War illness, developing and linking numerous veterans groups across the state and nation, and being a support link for other veterans.

DEAD ANIMALS FOUND

He is uncertain of how he contracted the disease, but he does tell frightening stories of his time spent in the Gulf War to include dead animals being found near his camp and mysterious colored clouds. Mr. Poe was near the ammunition depot where Iraqi chemical weapons were destroyed.

He said there were more than 1,600 other reports of mysteriously dead animals. "DoD (Department of Defense) said the animals died from a natural occurrence of anthrax," he said. "Maybe one or two or maybe a herd, but not 1,600 different reports of animals dead and the flies on them dead, too. It had to be something more."

He also tells of multiple detections of nerve agents by several units near his camp to include his unit. Mr. Poe was one of the people who gave a report to DoD about the detection of nerve agents. Mr. Poe and his three teammates all suffer from some type of illness.

According to Mr. Poe's wife Marilyn, her husband was already sick by the time he returned from the Gulf. "We—the children and I—knew something was wrong. He had numerous problems and symptoms which you could not define as to one sickness. Everything was steady and in slow progression until 1995 when Joe's speech became dramatically affected, he had trouble walking and just getting around. And he has continued to get worse," she said.

FAMILY SHOWING SYMPTOMS

Mrs. Poe and the children have also began to feel signs of the sickness. Mrs. Poe has come down with multiple sclerosis and the children are having problems with their joints. These are the biggest concerns Mr. Poe has. Is his sickness affecting those around him? He has limited his time spent with others in church or eating out with the family because of his fears and concern for others.

"We just want answers," Mrs. Poe said. "I think a lot of the doctors we've seen are also frustrated. A lot of them don't know what is going on or how to help. And those who may know something in the Veterans' hospital may not be able to help because of higher authorities. We just want help before it is too late."

Mr. Poe doesn't have an answer to the illness facing he and fellow veterans, but every day he adds another piece of information to his Gulf War illness collection. Other veterans say Mr. Poe's fight each day is a huge step for all Gulf War veterans.

One of those people who call Mr. Poe a hero is his wife. "One thing about Joe is that he has always done things for the benefit of others whether it was his role as a husband, his role as a father or soldier. He always

gave it his all and then some. What amazes me is that even with his situation, he is still thinking of others."

FIGHTING FOR OTHERS

Mike Ange, another local veteran affected with Gulf War Illness, said Mr. Poe is definitely a modern-day hero. "He has a tremendous medical problem that nobody really knows how to fight. Despite that, he gets up every day and spends most of the day fighting not just for himself, but for others as well."

Larry Perry, spokesperson for the Desert Storm Veterans of the Carolinas Association, echoes those remarks. "Joe puts unbelievable amounts of time and energy into this fight. It takes guys like Joe to win this thing. His fight, I hope, will one day lead us to victory."

Mrs. Poe said their fight has been solidified by the great community they live in. "I can't say enough about Dunn. The people believe in Joe's fight and they are very supportive. People like those at First Baptist Church who have gone above and beyond what is normally expected. And U.S. Rep. Bob Etheridge who stands behind Joe and other veterans," she said.

The Poes have sent their blood off to be tested for mycoplasma infections at the Institute for Molecular Medicine in Irvine, CA. However, the testing procedure has been put on hold until funds can be raised to continue research. The testing of veterans' blood by the medical institute is not financially supported by the Department of Defense. The Poe's blood samples are two of 500 waiting to be sampled. Out of the 500 samples, 200 of those are from North Carolina.

Mr. Poe and other veterans plan to hold annual meetings to help disseminate up-to-date information on Gulf War Illness.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN).

SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE).

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago we balanced the budget for the first time in 29 years. Now we must meet our next great challenges, making sure that Social Security and Medicare are there for our children and our grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I like tax cuts, I like them as much as the next person, that is why I voted for \$95 billion worth of tax cuts in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act. But with Social Security and Medicare set to go broke in the years 2034 and 2015 respectively, it should go without saying that fixing Social Security and Medicare should have first priority over any more tax cuts.

Mr. Speaker, with due respect, my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle have put together a budget that does not put one penny toward extending the life of either Social Security or Medicare. Instead, in my judgment, my good friends on the Republican side of the aisle are ready to squander \$780 billion worth of our surplus on open-ended irresponsible tax cuts.

Mr. Speaker, in my judgment we ought to save Social Security and Medicare first before we spend any more of the surplus on any more tax cuts.

TRIBUTE TO OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVANT, DR. PHILLIP GORDEN, DIRECTOR OF NIDDK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a moment this afternoon to praise a truly outstanding public servant of the Federal Government, someone who has contributed to healthier lives for literally millions of Americans. I speak of Dr. Phillip Gorden, who is stepping down this year after 13 years as head of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

As a member of the appropriations subcommittee which funds the National Institutes of Health, I have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Gorden for the past 5 years. He is one of the Nation's preeminent health care professionals, and I am proud to say he is a fellow Mississippian. Dr. Gorden's hometown of Baldwyn, Mississippi, is in my congressional district, and I know he maintains close ties to his Mississippi roots. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, he and I are among the few people in Washington, D.C. who subscribe to the Baldwyn News, a small but very informative weekly newspaper in North Mississippi.

After earning an undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University and then graduating from the Vanderbilt School of Medicine, Dr. Gorden completed residency and a fellowship at Yale University before joining the NIH back in 1966. He began his career as a senior investigator in the clinical endocrinology branch at the NIDDK and later became its clinical director. He assumed the position of NIDDK director in 1986.

I share the strong interest Dr. Gorden has in supporting the NIH's mission to acquire new knowledge to prevent and treat disease and disability. I have seen firsthand the results of his commitment to this important mission. Dr. Gorden's effective leadership has led the institute to great advances in fighting some of the most chronic and debilitating diseases which afflict the American people.

On his watch, Dr. Gorden has seen the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases grow to become the fifth largest NIH institute, with a budget expected to top \$1 billion when NIDDK celebrates its 50th anniversary next year.

The institute's research efforts have brought breakthrough discoveries in the prevention and treatment of diabetes, digestive ailments, nutritional disorders, diseases of the kidney, urological tract and blood.

In his final testimony before our subcommittee this year, Dr. Gorden expressed great optimism about the prospects for the NIDDK as it prepares for

the 21st Century. He said we are on the brink of enormous clinical progress and pointed to extraordinary research momentum propelling us toward major medical advances. His leadership has been a key factor in making these advances possible.

Though he will soon leave as head of the institute, Dr. Gordon has charted an ambitious and steady course for the NIDDK as it begins both a new century and its second 50 years of service to the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate for us to recognize outstanding public servants for a job well done. Our thanks today go to Dr. Phillip Gordon for his lifetime commitment to improving the quality of life for his fellow citizens. Millions of Americans are living healthier lives as a result of the research Dr. Gordon and his colleagues have done and continue to do at NIH.

EXPRESSION OF SORROW AT TRAGIC DEATH OF JOYCE CHIANG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, like the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) who spoke before me, and like the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Mrs. LOIS CAPPs) who will speak after me, I rise to express sorrow at the tragic death and to commemorate the short but inspirational life of Joyce Chiang.

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On January 9, Joyce was last seen in Dupont Circle, and she was not seen thereafter. A body was discovered on April 1, and yesterday that body was positively identified as being Joyce.

Joyce lived a life of public service and public involvement, starting with her involvement with the student body government at Smith College, where she served as student body president, continuing here in the House of Representatives on the staff of the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), and continuing to her service at the INS, where she spearheaded the implementation of the 1996 immigration bill.

Joyce never stopped contributing, never stopped involvement in public life. And Joyce was an incredible human being to all who knew her. As everyone who I have talked to says, and we all say the same thing, she lit up a room every time she walked in.

Those who knew Joyce were not surprised at what was an incredible and unprecedented outpouring from her friends when she became missing. I participated in the first of many vigils for Joyce held at Dupont Circle, and hundreds showed up to express their concern and their love of Joyce. And almost immediately, posters of Joyce appeared all over the City of Washington,

urging people to contact authorities if they had any knowledge of her whereabouts.

Not only her friends, but also and especially her family missed and worried about Joyce. Her family endured with courage and religious faith the unendurable 3 months knowing that their sister, their daughter was missing.

Our heart goes out to her brother Robert, in Texas, and her brother Roger, who lives here in the District of Columbia and who spent so much time publicizing Joyce's absence in the hope that someone would be able to identify Joyce's whereabouts, hopefully to help us find her, help the authorities find her during her life.

And I am proud to represent and my heart goes out to two residents of the San Fernando Valley, her mother Judy, who has spent so long and prayed so hard for Joyce, and especially to my very close friend, my successor in State government and Joyce's brother, John, who has lived through with his family what I just cannot imagine living through, 3 months of Joyce's absence.

Joyce will be remembered by so many. She was an inspiration to so many, and she will be missed by so many.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPs).

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California (Mr. SHERMAN) for yielding.

And with our mutual colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), I simply want to join on this sad day to remember Joyce Chiang and send my most heartfelt condolences to her family and her many friends, her friends particularly here on Capitol Hill.

As the mother of two grown daughters, I can only imagine the suffering of this family, and the anguish, over the past 3 months. I realize that mere words can be of little consolation at a time like this, but I do hope that the warm memories and very fond recollections that Joyce inspired will provide some comfort over time.

I did not know Joyce like my colleagues, but I feel connected to her through her brother Roger, who has been the family's courageous public voice over these past several weeks. And Roger is from my family, that is, the University of California at Santa Barbara family. He was a student of my husband Walter, an active UCSB alumnus, and is a close friend of many of the young people who worked for Walter and work with me.

To Roger and to the countless others who loved Joyce, my heart is with them today.

KOSOVO REFUGEES: AN EXODUS OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, an exodus from Kosovo of biblical proportions is taking place. Thousands upon thousands of refugees stream across the border 24 hours a day.

There was a newspaper headline in Europe that said "Europe's turn in the killing fields." That writer must have seen what I saw, a catastrophe that should have been anticipated. Ethnic Albanian refugees from Kosovo are now paying a heavy price for this poor judgment.

I just returned from a 4-day visit to the Balkans. I went to focus on humanitarian conditions and the massive numbers of refugees flooding out of Kosovo each day. I traveled to Kukes and Morina on the Kosovo-Albania border. And when I left, an estimated 270,000 to 300,000 refugees had crossed the border.

The scene there is heart-wrenching. Our first introduction was the stench, the overpowering smell of urine and feces from refugees with no place to go to the bathroom. In many places the ground was covered with feces. It will not be long before disease breaks out, especially among the people who are already dehydrated, malnourished, and sick. Four cases of measles had been confirmed as of last Tuesday.

Refugees are everywhere, camped on hillsides, along the road, in parks and plazas, and in parking lots. Most arrive as an extended family in carts and trailers being pulled by farm tractors or, in some cases, by horses. Some arrive in cars, but many are on foot, an unending procession of people who had been threatened; and many have been separated from their families.

Everyone had a bad story. There is no need to document the reports, but every report was different: "I lost my husband." "I lost my wife." "I lost my son." "I lost my daughter." And we should now have people documenting that for a war crimes trial but also for history.

The country of Albania has responded admirably to this entire crisis. It is a poor country but it has opened up its heart and its homes. Still, in spite of the tremendous effort of people on the scene, the refugee situation is still a disaster. The Clinton administration, the international community, and NATO were ill prepared to deal with this crisis they should have anticipated. The information was there, but those who decided the course of events, particularly the Clinton administration, did not listen.

People on the ground in Kosovo before the bombing campaign began warned that the Serbs could begin to brutalize ethnic Albanians.