

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ira P. Weinstein, a constituent and valued patriot, in celebration of his 80th birthday.

Ira Phillip Weinstein was born in Chicago, Illinois June 10, 1919. He entered the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942 as an Aviation Cadet, trained as a Navigator-Bombardier, and rose to the Rank of First Lieutenant; flying 25 missions with the 8th Air Force 445 Bomb Group, 702nd Squadron before being shot down over Germany on the infamous Kassel Mission, September 27, 1944. Parachuting to safety, he eluded capture for 6 days and was finally held as a Prisoner of War in Stalag Luft I, in Barth, Germany until the camp was liberated on May 11, 1945. Among Mr. Weinstein's commendations are the Purple Heart, the Air Medal, POW Medal, Presidential Citation, American Campaign and European Campaign Medals, WWII Victory Medal and the French Croix de Guerre.

Married to Norma Randall while still an Aviation Cadet, Mr. Weinstein returned to civilian life after the war and moved to Glencoe in 1952. As president of Schram Advertising Company he built the agency into a successful and respected force in direct mail and business to business advertising.

In addition to these public and professional accomplishments, privately Mr. Weinstein is proud to have celebrated more than 50 years of marriage to his wife Norma before her death several years ago, and prouder still to be the father of two adult daughters, Terri Weinstein, a noted Chicago interior designer, and Laura Temkin, President of Temkin & Temkin Advertising—as well as the doting grandfather to Ross and Max Temkin. Known throughout the community as a wonderful gardener and horticulture authority, Mr. Weinstein has been and continues to be a major contributor and active supporter of Women's American ORT, was a founding Member of Congregation Solel, and an avid supporter of the State of Israel. In addition, Mr. Weinstein is a lifetime Member of the 8th Air Force Historical Society and The Ex-POW Association, and an active member of the Kassel Mission Historical Assn., 2nd Air Div. Assn., Jewish War Veterans, Caterpillar Association. In retirement, Mr. Weinstein has become an outstanding golfer, accomplished world traveler and a builder of model historical aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Mr. Weinstein on his outstanding service to his nation and to his community. I am very proud to represent people of his caliber and devotion to America.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**INTRODUCTION OF VETERANS' MILLENNIUM HEALTH CARE ACT****HON. CLIFF STEARNS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce a bill adopted unanimously at markup this morning by the Subcommittee on Health of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

This important legislation tackles some of the major challenges facing the VA health care system. In doing so, it offers a blueprint to help position VA for the future, and I think it is appropriately titled the Veterans' Millennium Health Care Act.

Foremost among VA's challenges are the long-term care needs of aging veterans. For many among the World War II population, long term care has become as important as acute care. However the long-term care challenge has gone unanswered for too long. This legislation would squarely address this issue and would adopt some of the key recommendations of a blue-ribbon advisory committee, while going further to provide VA important new tools to improve veterans' access to long term care.

Similarly, the bill tackles the challenge posed by a recent General Accounting Office audit which found that VA may spend billions of dollars in the next five years to operate unneeded buildings. In testimony before my Subcommittee, GAO stated that one of every four VA medical care dollars is spent in maintaining buildings rather than caring for patients. This is not just an abstract concern. It is no secret that VA is discussing closing hospitals. And in some locations, that may be appropriate. The point is that VA has closure authority and has already used it. In fact, we could expect closures of needed facilities under the disastrous budget submitted by the President this year.

This bill instead calls for a process to be sure that decisions on closing hospitals can only be made based on comprehensive studies and planning. That planning process must include the participation of veterans organizations and employee groups. In short, the bill sets numerous safeguards in place, and would specifically provide that VA cannot simply stop operating a hospital and walk away from its responsibilities to veterans. It must "re-invest" savings in a new, improved treatment facility or improved services in the area.

Overall, the bill has four central themes: (1) to provide new direction to address veterans' long-term care needs; (2) to expand veterans' access to care; (3) to close gaps in current eligibility law; and (4) to establish needed reforms to improve the VA health care system.

The bill's key provisions would:

(1) require VA to maintain its long-term care programs and to increase both home and community-based long-term care;

(2) mandate that VA provide needed long-term care for 50% service-connected veterans and veterans needing care for a service-related condition;

(3) require co-payments for long-term care for all other veterans, based on ability to pay and with such payments helping to support expanded services;

(3) establish limits and conditions for considering closure of VA medical centers or parts of medical centers (such as ceasing to provide acute hospital care at a VA medical center), and would require that VA re-invest savings from a closure to establish new outpatient facilities and other improved services in any affected area;

(4) authorize VA care of TRICARE-eligible military retirees who are not otherwise eligible for priority VA care, subject to DOD reimbursing VA, as well as provide specific authority for VA care of veterans who were injured in combat and earned the Purple Heart;

(5) authorize VA to pay reasonable emergency care costs for service-connected, low-income and other high priority veterans who have no health insurance or other medical coverage, and who rely on VA care;

(6) authorize VA to (a) increase the copayment on prescriptions drugs; and (b) establish reasonable copayments on other costly items provided for care of a nonservice-connected condition (subject to exemptions on copayments in existing law), and provide that these new revenues would help fund VA medical care;

(7) require that, if the Federal government prevails in a suit against tobacco companies to recover costs incurred by the Government attributable to tobacco-related illnesses, VA shall retain the amount of such recovery attributable to VA's costs of providing such care for use in providing medical care and conducting research on such illnesses;

(8) reform the criteria for awarding grants for construction and remodeling of State veterans' homes;

(9) extend VA's authority to make grants to assist homeless veterans; and

(10) authorize the VA to carry out a three-year pilot program in up to four of VA's networks to provide primary care services (subject to reimbursement) to dependents of veterans.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill which major veterans groups have praised and endorsed. The work on it has been a real bipartisan effort. I urge Members to support it.

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE P. ROY FOR HIS SERVICE TO LABOR**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 4, men and women of a variety of union trades gathered in Marquette, Michigan to honor Wayne P. Roy, who retired from federal employment in 1998. Mr. Roy had served 11 years as the Apprenticeship and Training Representative, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, U.S. Department of Labor. His service area included the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, which makes up a large portion of my congressional district, and northern Wisconsin.

Prior to that, Wayne Roy worked for the Michigan State AFL-CIO's Labor Employment and Development Program as the Upper Peninsula coordinator for several years.

Those are the dry facts of Wayne Roy's employment, Mr. Speaker. They only hint at a lifetime of commitment to issues that affect the hardworking people of northern Michigan.

In fact, this dedication to union issues was a family tradition that began before his birth. Wayne's father George was a miner in the Upper Peninsula and an officer in his local union. Wayne's mother Delima was a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union and the Steelworkers Women's Auxiliary. It was only natural, therefore, that as a child Wayne would learn the importance of unions at his parents' side as he joined them at labor rallies and on picket lines.

After graduating from Gwinn High School, Wayne served a 4-year stint in the Navy until 1958, and then began a series of jobs that would give him membership in several unions. Through one job in Milwaukee, he joined the Chemical Workers, and then through a second he joined Teamsters Local 344, serving as part-time shop steward and committee member.

Returning to the Upper Peninsula, Wayne took a job with a mining company and became a member of Steelworkers Local 4950. In 1968 he joined Sheet Metal Workers Local 94, serving as the union's president for 9 years.

Wayne Roy's commitment to the labor movement led him to take positions with a variety of area civic and political groups, where he could broaden his effort on behalf of working men and women and find new ways to serve his community.

Such service included the board chairmanship of the United Way of Marquette County and the Marquette County Economic Development Corporation, presidency of the Marquette County Labor Council, and memberships on such panels as the Central Upper Peninsula Private Industry Council, the American Red Cross, the Forsyth Township Zoning Board, and the Marquette Prison Inmate Apprenticeship Committee.

It's clear, Mr. Speaker, that even as Wayne Roy and his wife Hazel raised seven children, he was demonstrating his belief that our best community leaders are actually public servants, who seek out every opportunity to improve the quality of life of their neighborhood, their place of employment, their city or township, even their region.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, and I ask my House colleagues to join me in saluting this dedicated fighter for better lives for ordinary working people.

As one of Wayne Roy's colleagues said recently, he "proudly bears a union label on his soul."

A TRIBUTE TO DAN FOSTER

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to Dan Foster on the occasion of National Cancer Survivors Day.

Dan Foster, a two-year cancer survivor, has long been known for his commitment to com-

munity service and to enhancing the quality of life for all New York City residents. This gathering is a chance for all of us to pay tribute to a man who has dedicated his life to helping others. Dan Foster truly represents the best of what our community has to offer.

On June 6, 1999, Dan Foster will talk from the Montauk Point Lighthouse to St. Patrick's Cathedral, covering a distance of one hundred fifty miles, in recognition of National Cancer Survivors Day. Dan Foster's walk is dedicated to all cancer survivors and in memory of those who have succumbed to the disease.

This walk will also raise funds for Beth Israel Medical Center and "The Circle of Hope," two organizations who have dedicated themselves to finding a cure for cancer. Beth Israel Medical Center has focused its efforts on understanding and managing the effects of colorectal cancer. "The Circle of Hope," in conjunction with the Catholic Medical Center, will be establishing a palliative care program at the Bishop Mugavero Geriatric Center in Brooklyn, New York. The facility will be designed to provide terminal cancer patients with a sense of dignity as they near the end of their lives.

Dan Foster's dedication to his friends and neighbors can also be seen in his columns for Gerritsen Beach Cares' monthly newsletter. In his columns, Dan, the organization's Health and Welfare Committee Chairman, reminds readers about the importance of regular check ups, exercise and proper nutrition as a means of combating the disease.

Dan Foster has long been known as an innovator and beacon of good will to all those with whom he has come into contact. Through his dedicated efforts, he has helped to improve my constituents' quality of life. In recognition of his many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations on his dedication and devotion to find a cure for cancer on the occasion of National Cancer Survivors Day.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LASZLO TAUBER

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last week the Washington Post published an excellent front-page article about the unique life and the outstanding philanthropic contributions of my dear friend Dr. Laszlo Tauber. I call this to the attention of my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, because in many ways the story of Laci Tauber reflects what is best about this wonderful country of ours.

Dr. Tauber, who received his initial medical training in Hungary before World War II, survived the horrors of the Holocaust in Budapest. He not only preserved his own life, he risked his own life to use his medical training to help those who were suffering the most at the hands of German Nazi troops and Hungarian Fascist thugs.

After coming to the United States, Mr. Speaker, Laci Tauber encountered problems and obstacles that face many of those who emigrate to this country seeking freedom and

opportunity. He rose above those obstacles, establishing a highly successful medical practice in the Washington, DC, area and creating a real estate empire in this area that is the envy of many real estate magnates whose names are far better known in this region.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Tauber has sought to give back something to this country which welcomed him and which provided him outstanding opportunities. His most recent and creative act of generosity involves the establishment of a scholarship fund to assist the grandchildren and other descendants of those men and women who served in our nation's armed services during World War II. Dr. Tauber and I feel a strong debt of gratitude to those brave men and women who risked their lives to liberate the peoples of Europe who were enslaved by Nazi Germany's evil Third Reich. This is only the most recent and most creative of Dr. Tauber's philanthropic endeavors.

I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Laszlo Tauber. I ask that the article from the Washington Post which details his exceptional accomplishments be placed in the RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, June 2, 1999]

GIVING WITH A POINT: HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR
DONATES MILLIONS

(By Cindy Loose)

It was a struggle that first year in America, just after World War II. Laszlo Tauber and his wife lived in a Virginia apartment so decrepit the landlord warned them not to step on the balcony because it might fall off.

But with the frugality and generosity that have characterized his life, Tauber saved \$250 from his income of \$1,600. Then he gave it away.

"I am a Hungarian Jew who survived the Holocaust," Tauber wrote in a note to doctors at Walter Reed Army Hospital, where many veterans of the war were recovering from their wounds. "As a token of appreciation, my first savings I would like you to give to a soldier of your choice."

In the intervening years, Laszlo Tauber built a thriving surgical practice, started his own hospital, and in his free moments created one of the largest real estate fortunes in the region. Estimates of his wealth exceed \$1 billion. He may be the richest Washingtonian you've never heard about.

He has already donated more than \$25 million to medical and Holocaust-related causes. Now he's giving \$15 million for scholarships to descendants of anyone who served in the U.S. military during the war years. An additional \$10 million, honoring Raoul Wallenberg, who saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews, will go to organizations that memorialize the Holocaust and students in Denmark and Wallenberg's native Sweden.

Several local foundation leaders say even they have never heard of Tauber, but all call the latest donations remarkable.

Tauber hopes the gifts will inspire—or, if necessary, shame—other Holocaust survivors who have the means to give.

When Tauber gives money, he always intends to make a moral point. And when he knows he is right, the 84-year-old says, "you can move the Washington Monument more easily."

Generous in philanthropy, parsimonious in his business dealings, Tauber is, his friends say, the most complicated man they've ever met.

Asked to describe himself, he responds, "I am a righteous, miserable creature of God."