

The resolution discusses Parkinson's disease in particular for many reasons. My family has been personally affected by this devastating illness and I am proud to serve as co-chair of the Congressional Working Group on Parkinson's Disease. However, it is science that makes the best argument to lead with this disease. With all that is already known about Parkinson's disease, it is believed that with Federal funds and stem cell research it is very possible that Parkinson's disease could not only be treatable, but curable within as little as five years!

Dr. Gerald D. Fischback, the Director of National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, in testimony last year to the Senate said, "I concur that we are close to solving—and I mean the word 'solving'—Parkinson's Disease. I hesitate to put an actual year number on it. I think, with all the intensive effort, with a little bit of skill and luck, five to ten years is not unrealistic. We will do everything possible to reduce that below five years. I would not rule that out."

Mr. Speaker, here is why that is possible. Parkinson's disease is a progressive degenerative brain disease which kills a specialized and vital type of brain cell, a cell which produces the substance dopamine, that is essential for normal movement and balance. The loss of these dopamine-producing cells causes symptoms, including slowness and paucity of movement, tremor, stiffness, and difficulty walking and balancing, which makes the sufferer unable to carry out the normal activities of daily living. In 30% of the cases those symptoms include dementia. As the disease progresses, it inflicts horrific physical, emotional, and financial burdens on the patient and family, requiring the caregiver to assist in the activities of daily living, and may eventually lead to placement in a nursing home until death.

With further research into stem cells, scientists will be able to "reprogram" the stem cells into the dopamine-producing cells which are lost in Parkinson's disease.

Parkinson's disease affects at least one million Americans. Fifty-thousand are diagnosed each year and for every one diagnosed, two who have Parkinson's disease are not diagnosed. It is alarming to think that two million Americans with Parkinson's disease are undiagnosed.

Parkinson's disease costs the Federal Government approximately \$10 billion in healthcare costs, and on average, the cost per patient is \$5,000 per year. As a society, we spend \$15 billion a year on Parkinson's disease and that is only in direct costs for treatments that only bring temporary relief.

Building on the technology developed from research on Parkinson's disease makes treatments and even cures possible for many conditions. These include Alzheimer's, diabetes, AIDS, Lou Gehrig's, brain injury, spinal cord injury, stroke, and problems with the body's reaction to foreign tissue. It may even provide for safer and more effective ways to test drugs without experimenting on humans and animals. We cannot allow the opportunities afforded us by stem cell research to go untapped!

The National Institutes of Health has proposed guidelines to human stem cell research

to address the legal and ethical issues surrounding this particular type of research. It is being approached in a responsible way to utilize the technology while being sensitive to the ethical questions raised. The National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) even felt they could have gone further and is very supportive of allowing this type of research to continue with Federal funding. The NBAC points out that Federally funding this research will allow Federal oversight to ensure this type of research continues ethically. And finally, the American people support stem cell research as shown by a nationwide survey conducted by Opinion Research Corporation International last year that found that 74% of those polled favored funding of stem cell research by NIH.

Federal funds are crucial to allow scientists to proceed with stem cell research and to exploit fully this novel, innovative, and groundbreaking technology.

HONORING JOHN MUMMA ON HIS
RETIREMENT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a man who has demonstrated deep care for his country and community.

John Mumma will be retiring after acting as a public servant for over 27 years. John, Division of Wildlife Director, decided that he needed to spend more time with his family. John realized that he was spending all of his time at work and that his family was paying the price.

After serving the Forest Service for over 27 years, John will be sorely missed. He has had a long and distinguished career in public service. John became the Director of the Division of Wildlife in November of 1995. Just after he was named director, the division faced the daunting task of completely revamping its management structure. He had the ability to lead the agency through that massive project and many great successes during his distinguished tenure.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer this tribute in honor of John's service with the Division of Wildlife over the last 27 years. The State of Colorado will be hard pressed to find another leader like him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably absent on Monday, January 31, and consequently missed a recorded vote on H.R. 2130. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 3.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF
ELEANOR NADOBNY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful lady, Ms. Eleanor Nadobny, of Bay City, MI, on the occasion of her retirement from Local 362 United Auto Workers. Both in character and spirit, Eleanor is an inspiration to those around her and will be sorely missed by her boss and her co-workers.

Eleanor was born on October 2, 1920, in my home town of Bay City, and has lived and contributed to our community her entire life. Like so many of our neighbors, her father immigrated from Poland, having made his way from Ellis Island to eventually raise his family in Michigan.

Eleanor has been a member of the Saint Stanislaus Church in Bay City most of her life. She is much loved by parishioners for her faithful presence and contributions to the Church.

On September 6, 1941, Eleanor married Mr. Arthur John Nadobny. They had three children—Barbara, Carolyn, who later married Gary Ciaciuch, and Arthur, who married Janie Nalazek. And in a sad turn of fate, her husband passed away on February 16, 1960. Eleanor became a widow with three children to support.

At that time, she was working from her home as a photograph colorist. For each photograph that she hand colored, she was paid only \$1.25. And from that, she had to buy her paints, her brushes, and support her family.

On March 26, 1967, she was hired by Local 362 as a bookkeeper. At that time, Local 362 represented some 3,400 members of GM-Powertrain. She has worked for those members, and their sons and daughters for the past 33 years. Those who have ever asked for Eleanor's help on a problem, or her advice on a pressing issue, know that she is, indeed, a treasure.

Eleanor's retirement from Local 362 is a great loss for the union, but her family is sure to benefit. She is known to be a great cook, and makes a homemade dinner for her family every Sunday. On that day, her eight grandchildren—Susan and Mark Rosebrock, Michelle Ciaciuch, Mark and Lisa Ciaciuch, Chad Nadobny, Kari Nadobny, and Scott Clerc—and her great grandchild Brooke Rosebrock, sit down for a wonderful meal. Eleanor's Polish meatballs and golabki are particularly famous.

I'm sure Eleanor will have much happiness during her retirement, and hope that she continues cooking, traveling, and enjoying one of her favorite activities, going to Branson, MO, to attend the great performances there.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and our colleagues to join me today in honoring Ms. Eleanor Nadobny for her fine work these many years on behalf of Local 362. Please join me, on the occasion of Eleanor's retirement, in wishing her many more wonderful years with her family, and saying thank you for the many years she has invested on behalf of the working men and women of GM-Powertrain.