

The Secretary would be required to monitor quality and safety through a national data system, as recommended by virtually all of the organizations reporting on quality of care. To help providers feel more comfortable in reporting problems with quality or medical errors, the Secretary would be required to establish a confidential reporting system so that physicians, employees of providers, and others would be able to report errors or other failures on a confidential basis. Employees would be provided whistle blower protection for reporting quality failures and errors. Providers who achieve outstanding results in meeting quality standards and minimizing errors would be rewarded with the designation of "Medicare Provider of Excellence."

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
VETERANS COMMEMORATION
ACT OF 2000

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Veterans Commemoration Act of 2000. This piece of legislation will help to alleviate a serious impediment to adequate health care for our veterans.

Many veterans have trouble getting to and from VA hospitals. The legislation that I am introducing today would create a coin commemorating Executive Order 5398, signed by President Herbert Hoover on July 21, 1930, which established the Veterans Administration. The proceeds from the sale of this coin would fund a transportation program for veterans, provided by the Disabled American Veterans.

This program provides a much-needed service to our nation's veterans. The DAV provides transportation services to veterans to and from VA hospitals. Considering the fact that many veterans live far away from VA hospitals and are disabled, the lack of transportation can be a very serious impediment to adequate health care.

In my home state of Washington, the Veterans Administration hospital in Seattle serves the entire Pacific Northwest. Many of the patients who rely upon the care provided by the VA have severe disabilities that prevent them from easily accessing the clinic. Public transportation serves those veterans that live in the Metropolitan area, but for the thousands of veterans without access to public transportation, the DAV steps in to provide door to door services. This essential program is truly the missing link for veterans' health care.

The DAV has recognized this need by creating the transportation program. This program has been very successful so far. But it only operates in a few select areas and serves only a handful of veterans. This program should be available to all veterans, but the DAV simply cannot afford to fund a project of that magnitude. This bill would create the funds necessary to expand this program.

With no cost to the taxpayer, we can help our nation's veterans and show them that their needs are important. We must show our support to the brave men and women who have

risked their lives to serve this country. This unique program, provided by the DAV, deserves our support.

Today I stand with over 150 of my colleagues to introduce this legislation. This bipartisan bill has diverse and broad support. We have the time and the support to pass this bill now. We should not wait for the next Congress to take action when we have the ability and the will to do so now. I urge my colleagues to stand with me and with the Disabled American Veterans to pass this bill and support our veterans.

THE CHILDREN OF SIERRA LEONE

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, if you are paying attention to the House floor at this moment, please listen very closely to what some of my colleagues and I are discussing. Because we are talking about saving children who are being savaged and we desperately need your help.

If you can, please stop what you are doing for a second—I know we're all very busy right now, but again this is important. So, please, stop what you are doing and remember for a moment what you felt like when you were a child, especially if you had moments in which you felt very vulnerable in any way.

Now, take that feeling, and try to imagine living in a community ripped by the throes of war—your parents are missing, friends, sisters and brothers beaten, broken and battered, if even still alive.

And as you imagine this life, now look down at your arms and legs. Imagine an arm or a leg or more mutilated and even severed from your body. Think about that. Can you even bear to imagine it?

As hard as it is to believe, there are children today who don't have to imagine this horror because they live it. They see where their arms and legs once were. They know that their family has been destroyed.

They are the children of Sierra Leone.

And no matter what your politics are, humanity calls us to act. Support funding for peacekeeping now. Support Tony Hall's bill to halt the illegal diamond trade that funds this butchering now. Don't wait. Support ending the horrific suffering of these children now.

CELEBRATION IN PITTSBURGH

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to an upcoming ceremony that will be held in Pittsburgh on October 13, 2000, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Homestead Grays and the 40th anniversary of Bill Mazeroski's World Series-winning home run. The joint ceremony serves to highlight Pitts-

burgh's long history of outstanding professional baseball.

The Homestead Grays was a Negro League baseball team that was originally formed by local African American steelworkers. The Homestead Grays played baseball from 1900 until Major League baseball teams were integrated 50 years ago, and the club won a number of pennants. The Grays, incidentally, played the first night game in Pittsburgh baseball history—against the Kansas City Monarchs at Forbes Field on July 25, 1930.

The Homestead Grays were known for several outstanding players who could compete with the best baseball players of the time, white or black. A number of these players were eventually inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Oscar Charleston, first baseman and manager for the Grays—with a lifetime batting average of .357, the ranking of fourth on the all-time home run list for the Negro Leagues, and fielding that was deemed superior to that of his white contemporary Ty Cobb—was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1976. Smoky Joe Williams, who pitched for the Grays, was voted the greatest pitcher in Negro League history in 1952, beating out Leroy "Satchel" Paige. The Grays claim Buck Leonard, another first baseman and home run hitter, as well as Ray Brown, who in 1940 had the greatest season of any Negro league pitcher ever with 24 wins and only 4 losses. Catcher and power-hitter Josh Gibson was another of the stars of the Homestead Grays. Gibson has the distinction of having hit a 505-foot home run in Yankee Stadium—a feat matched or exceeded by no one, not even Babe Ruth (and in fact, only Dave Winfield and Doug DeCinces have even come close). I am pleased to note that Josh Gibson, Jr., who also played professional baseball, will receive a plaque at this ceremony in honor of his father.

I'd like to note in passing that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission put up a State historic marker to honor the Homestead Grays on the 100th anniversary of their founding. That marker, which was dedicated last week, can be found at the intersection of Amity Street and Fifth Avenue in Homestead, PA.

The October 13th ceremony will also honor Bill Mazeroski, long-time second baseman for the Pittsburgh Pirates. Mazeroski, who played for the Pirates from 1956 until 1972, was a great infielder and defensive player. Maz won eight Gold Gloves and was picked as an All-Star seven times. He holds the record as the second-baseman with the most double plays in Major League history—1,706—and the most double plays in one season—161 in 1966. He holds the Major League record for the most seasons leading the league in assists, and in five of those nine seasons, he was credited with 500 or more assists. For these accomplishments, if for nothing else, he deserves admission to the National Baseball Hall of Fame, an honor which to this date he has been unfairly denied.

Despite a long career of excellence in fielding, however, Maz is probably best remembered for his winning home run in the 1960 World Series against one of the greatest Yankees teams ever—a team that included baseball greats Mickey Mantle, Whitey Ford,

and Yogi Berra. In the seventh game of the 1960 World Series, the Yankees and the Pirates were tied at three games apiece. In the bottom of the ninth inning, with the score tied at nine runs for each team, Bill Mazerowski knocked a home run over the left center field wall of Forbes Field, and the Pirates won the World Series four games to three with a score of 10 to 9. That one magnificent achievement has tended to obscure the remainder of William Stanley Mazerowski's outstanding career in Major League baseball. Mr. Mazerowski will also receive a plaque at the October 13th ceremony in acknowledgment of his many accomplishments on the 40th anniversary of his famous home run.

The ceremony will also highlight plans for the painting of two new wall murals on the wall that runs along the Boulevard of the Allies in Pittsburgh. One of these murals will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Homestead Grays. The other will honor Mr. Mazerowski. The brass plaques that Mr. Mazerowski and Mr. Gibson will receive during the ceremony will be mounted alongside these murals. I believe that this is a fitting tribute to two of Pittsburgh's outstanding sports teams and two of Pittsburgh's greatest sports heroes.

TRIBUTE TO BROTHER MARTIN
MCMURTREY

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and pay tribute to a true San Antonio legend, Brother Martin McMurtrey. After 56 years of service as an educator in the Society of Mary Catholic schools, 49 of those years being spent at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio, TX, Brother McMurtrey has announced his retirement.

Having received a bachelor of arts degree in English from the University of Dayton in 1942, and a master of education degree from St. Louis University in 1949, Brother McMurtrey first entered a classroom as a teacher in 1944. Shortly after, in 1951, Brother McMurtrey moved to San Antonio and began teaching at Central Catholic.

During his years at Central Catholic, Brother McMurtrey taught courses in English and drafting, coached football, authored two books, and dedicated countless hours to working with the disadvantaged in San Antonio parishes. I know that even though he is retiring, Brother McMurtrey will continue teaching all of us. As a matter of fact, I am sure that he will check the spelling and grammar of this entry in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In addition, Brother McMurtrey established a scholarship fund to assist students who could otherwise not afford to attend Catholic schools. He also spent 22 years volunteering after school as a Confraternity of Christian Doctrine teacher and as a worker with the Presentation Nuns. He also organized the Guardian Angels at Central Catholic, an organization that guided student collections of

food, toys, and clothing during holiday seasons.

It is estimated that during his half-century of service, Brother McMurtrey touched the lives of some 6,000 students. Those students have gone on to careers in education, medicine, law, public service, and countless other fields. Indeed the impact that Brother McMurtrey has had on the lives of his students and on the San Antonio community is immeasurable.

Upon hearing Brother McMurtrey's announcement, several former Central Catholic students joined together to plan a retirement celebration aptly titled "The Last English Class." Mr. Speaker, today I join those students in thanking Brother McMurtrey for enriching the lives of all who had the privilege of his mentorship.

TRIBUTE TO SGT. MAJOR BILLY
RAY LANEY OF CHEROKEE
COUNTY, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a fallen soldier from my home state of Alabama. It is a most unusual day for my district, today they are welcoming home Sgt. Maj. Laney 33 years after they sent him off to serve his country in the Vietnam War. Laney's widow, Charline and his three grown children, Wanda, Billy Ray Jr. and Vicky deserve our recognition for the sacrifices they have endured these many years. As their husband and father is laid to rest in the soil he fought and died to protect, I would like to offer my condolences to the family and express my utmost gratitude for Sgt. Maj. Laney's brave actions.

Sgt. Maj. Laney was only in Vietnam for one month. He was a member of the 5th Special Forces Group of the 1st Airborne Division and was listed as missing in action June 3, 1967 in Laos. Although the Department of Defense declared him deceased eleven years ago, his family has had no physical evidence of his death until two months ago.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Veterans Groups of my district: Vietnam Veterans of America, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of the Purple Heart and Disabled American Veterans for going to extraordinary efforts to ensure that Sgt. Maj. Laney's life and death and his families' sacrifices will not be forgotten. Today as Sgt. Maj. Laney's remains are returned home, though tardy, he will be honored properly. Governor Don Siegelman, the Honor Guard and the Alabama State Patrol are traveling to join the procession and to pay their respects to this brave soldier and his family.

Sgt. Maj. Billy Ray Laney's retrieval sheds light on the POW/MIAs still unaccounted for across the country. There are two soldiers from Alabama listed as missing, Prentice Wayne Hicks and Edward Upner. I would like to take this opportunity to say that my thoughts are with their families and let them know that there is still hope that we will uncover their fate.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States, I would like to pay tribute to Sgt. Maj. Billy Ray Laney and his loving family. We can never afford to forget the victories and sacrifices of our veterans like Sgt. Maj. Laney lest we take for granted the precious freedoms we enjoy every minute of every day. My thoughts and prayers are with them today as they welcome their husband and father home to rest.

ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, September 25, 2000, marked International Ataxia Awareness Day. Ataxia disorders comprise a family of progressive, degenerative, neurological illnesses which affect more than 100,000 American families, including many in my District. Ataxia usually initially affects coordination, speech, and balance, but various forms often progress to impact the heart, sight, and hearing.

Unfortunately, there are no effective treatments for this often fatal disease. Worse, our very limited understanding of most forms of the disorder has not even produced any effective treatments. Hopefully we can increase awareness of this serious public health threat and spur the type of progress which will bring hope to the thousands of American families dealing with Ataxia.

The biomedical revolution which has taken root over the last couple of decades offers great promise. That is why I have been a proud supporter of the research efforts at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), the component of NIH charged with the study of Ataxia.

For example, NINDS-supported research has recently generated considerable new insights into more than 100 related gene defects which cause nervous system disorders. This work is particularly important to those suffering from the many forms of Ataxia which still cannot be specifically diagnosed. As we identify the genes responsible we can more quickly identify specific forms, and perhaps more importantly, begin developing treatment models.

Additionally, we need to continue to create incentives for additional private research aimed at the so-called orphan diseases. These relatively rare conditions do not receive the resources and attention that are often associated with more common public health problems like cancer and heart disease. I believe these special incentives for those developing orphan drugs have proven to be an unqualified success resulting in more new research on Ataxia, multiple sclerosis, ALS and other neurological disorders.

Even with all these efforts under way, it will still take time to even fully understand the questions we need to be asking about Ataxia. That is why it is so important to inform the public about this work and encourage the medical and emotional support those affected need. International Ataxia Awareness Day should be a substantial step in this direction,