

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### WORLD ASTHMA DAY 2000

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2000*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, May 3, 2000 is World Asthma Day. Many of my Colleagues and I are strong supporters of federal, state, and local efforts to create and enhance awareness of asthma and to improve asthma care throughout this country and indeed throughout the world. I would also like to extend sincere thanks to the many thousands of Americans and others who work day after day to try to improve the way asthma is diagnosed and treated.

In the last 15 years, the prevalence of asthma has doubled throughout the world. More than 10 percent of children have asthma symptoms, and in some countries, as many as 30 percent are affected. In this country, asthma ranks among the most common chronic conditions, affecting more than 15 million Americans, including 4 million children, and causing more than 1.5 million emergency department visits, approximately 500,000 hospitalizations, and more than 5,500 deaths. The estimated direct and indirect monetary costs for this disease totaled \$11.3 billion in 1998, in the United States alone.

World Asthma Day 2000 is being marked by more than 80 countries throughout the world. It is a partnership between health care groups and asthma educators organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA), which is a collaboration between the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health and the World Health Organization. On this day, thousands of people throughout the world will work together to create greater awareness of the need for every person with asthma to obtain a timely diagnosis, receive appropriate treatment, learn to manage their asthma in partnership with a health professional, and reduce exposure to environmental factors that make their asthma worse.

Among those participating in World Asthma Day, via a special World Asthma Day Internet site ([www.Webvention.org](http://www.Webvention.org)), will be Dr. David Satcher, Surgeon General of the U.S., and Mr. Nelson Mandela, former President of the Republic of South Africa and currently Chairman of the South African National Asthma Campaign. Ministers of Health from Japan, Turkey, Malaysia and other countries will also be available on the Internet to answer questions about how the implementation of international asthma treatment guidelines can benefit patients and reduce health care costs.

In the U.S., local World Asthma Day activities are being coordinated by the NHLBI's National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) and are listed on its Web site ([www.nhlbi.nih.gov](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov)). These activities range

from local press conferences to school poster contests, and health fairs to science museum education programs.

The NAEPP, along with the National Library of Medicine (NLM), Howard University, the Office of the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the American Lung Association of the District of Columbia, and the D.C. public school system, will hold the official U.S. press conference to report on the state of asthma in the U.S. and what is being done to combat the problem. Invited guests include members of Congress; Olympians who have achieved their titles despite their asthma; Washington, D.C. elementary school students who have asthma; and representatives of selected community-based asthma coalitions from across the country. The press conference will be Webcast and shown on the World Asthma Day Web site.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that our colleagues will join in paying tribute to World Asthma Day and to those who suffer from this condition and those who are working to help them. It is hoped that with the continued support of the Congress, additional progress can be made in the efforts to prevent asthma, as well as to improve its diagnosis and treatment.

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS NATIONAL FOOD DRIVE DAY

#### HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2000*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly commend the National Association of Letter Carriers [NALC] for the good work they are doing nationwide and grant them well-deserved recognition and appreciation for their genuine humanitarian acts and for their good will.

As Americans, we enjoy one of the highest living standards in the world. Nevertheless, many people within our borders do not benefit from our Nation's great prosperity. In fact, many more Americans are hungry and malnourished than most people realize. Hunger is a serious problem that deserves national attention.

The NALC has undertaken a tremendous amount of initiative in solving this problem by planning their eighth annual national food drive day on May 13, 2000, which will be the largest one-day food drive in the country. Last year more than 1,500 NALC branches in all fifty states and U.S. jurisdictions collected 58.4 million pounds of food, and we are hopeful this record will be exceeded in the year 2000.

I considered it a privilege to have had the opportunity to participate in the "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive kickoff. The NALC branches in Westchester, Newburgh and Middletown honored me with the opportunity to

assist them in their efforts to improve the lives of less fortunate individuals. Both NALC branches appear to be well on their way to another record-breaking food drive and I wish them success and the best of luck.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commend the NALC on their continued generosity and good will. Their kind spirit and genuine care for less privileged individuals embody the values of brotherhood upon which this great nation was founded. I urge them to stay motivated and my best wishes are with them in all of their future endeavors.

I urge my colleagues to encourage people and organizations within their respective districts to follow the lead of the NALC and support those people who take personal initiative in making America a better place in which to live.

### TRIBUTE TO M. DAVID COHEN

#### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2000*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to M. David Cohen, one of the most dedicated and committed individuals in our country for his humanitarian service throughout the world. Mr. Cohen's vision, expertise and active participation to serve those in need is legendary.

David's father, Hyman Louis Cohen, emigrated to the United States from Russia in 1923, settled in Chelsea, Massachusetts, and graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in 1936. His mother, Jean Goldberg Cohen, was born in Boston; his parents married in 1941. They were among the most active in their community, setting the example David was to emulate. At the age of 12, when David's mother suffered a massive heart attack and stroke, he stepped into her role and became chairperson of the Everett Leukemia Fund Drive. He organized youth groups, schools, churches, synagogues and public and private sector employees to raise the most money ever raised by that city in any charity drive.

David served in the United States Air Force as an Acting Jewish Chaplain in France, Spain, Morocco and Libya. He organized programs on and off base for the military and civilian population and served as a coordinator with the Joint Distribution Committee in Paris, resettling displaced persons from behind the Iron Curtain. He created a food service gathering and distribution program for the Little Sisters of the Poor which has continued successfully since 1962, and was a basis for what we now know as the "meals on wheels" programs. Upon being honorably discharged, he returned to Boston College to complete his studies.

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