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PROGRESS ON CURING PARKINSON'S DISEASE

The SPEAKER pro tempore: Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to commend House Resolutions R-22 and R-23, which were introduced by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), H.R. 40, which will authorize the National Institutes of Health to eradicate racism.

I therefore call on the United States to host its own conference on racism in the near future and to support the legislation of the gentlemen from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), H.R. 40, which will ask for a discussion, a study on racism.

Reparations can consist of a variety of approaches that indeed further the advancement of those oppressed and provide for their future. We also need to look at better educational opportunities for our young people from kindergarten to college; health insurance coverage, maybe; the unjust justice system; racial profiling; affordable housing; environmental racism; job opportunities; creation of entrepreneurships. There are many, many ways in which 40 acres and a mule can translate into productive activities without the need for budget-busting expenditures.

Let us start the debate here, and then go to our respective homes and continue these dialogues until the culture of racism and intolerance is eliminated from the face of the Earth, and especially, from the soil that we tilled and sowed.

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We appreciate what the gentleman from Colorado is doing today and appreciate especially his sharing the story of his father with us and reminding us of the importance of carrying on this work, which we do in his name.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. I thank the gentleman for expressing those sentiments, and I know everyone in my family appreciates the affection and respect that the gentleman has acknowledged that exists for my father.

I would add to the comments that the gentleman made that I think Parkinson’s disease should truly be characterized as the most common uncommon disease. And by that I mean, the researchers tell us only about a million Americans have the disease. But I guarantee that if we were to walk out on the streets outside the Capitol here and we were to talk to four or five people, but who would get to the fifth person, they will know somebody in their immediate family or a friend who has Parkinson’s disease and who is battling it valiantly.

They would also, I think, be excited to know that we are so close to not only finding ways to combat the disease but to actually identify a cure, and that is why it is so important to reauthorize this act and continue the momentum that has been generated over the past 10 years.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. That is absolutely true. The number of families affected by this disease directly and indirectly is, of course, in the millions, and that includes my own family. My late father had a brother who was afflicted with Parkinson’s. He had an uncle who was afflicted with Parkinson’s.

My dad, incidentally, was a great fan of the gentleman’s father. I remember when I was the Democratic Party chairman in North Carolina we were fortunate enough to line up Mo Udall as the speaker at our annual party banquet. It was over in the western part of the State, so my dad, who resided in east Tennessee, was able to come over for this function. He could not stop laughing. He said Mo Udall was the funniest man he had ever heard or seen anywhere, almost enough to make a Democrat out of him!

Mo Udall was a wonderful man who brought to the time we would get to his great warmth, and a wonderful spirit. He later autographed his book “Too Funny to Be President,” and we gave it to my dad to his great delight. So Mo Udall was a huge personal favorite in our family.

One cannot imagine a more fitting monument, a more fitting tribute to Mo Udall, than to pass this research act aimed at the scourge of Parkinson’s disease and to carry out this path-breaking research in Mo Udall’s name.

The gentleman, of course, is quite accurate also in depicting the promise of this research. We have now across the country 11 Morris K. Udall Parkinson’s Research Centers. One of those is at Duke University in my part of North Carolina. This aids the Udall Center at Duke University, where a research team is using several state-of-the-art methods to find genes that may contribute to the etiology of Parkinson’s disease and to distinguish the sporadic cases from the familial Parkinson’s from those involved in sporadic cases. That is path-breaking research, typical of what is going on in these research centers.

The Udall program also has expanded basic and clinical research at institutions across this country. It has established the Morris K. Udall awards to encourage innovative research and supported the creation of Parkinson’s disease data banks and information clearinghouses in support of research and education.

So this is a landmark statute and the programs that it has spawned are ongoing and are full of promise. It is very, very important not only to observe this fourth anniversary of the Udall Act’s passage, but also to pledge here and now that we are going to continue this work and build on this work.

We must double the NIH’s budget over these 5 years, and I hope and believe we are on the way to doing that. And this work that has been developed, under the directions laid down by the Udall Act, a 5-year Parkinson’s disease research agenda. Last year, Congress funded the first year of that plan, so within NIH it is vitally important to continue that specific research program.

The Udall Act has gotten us started, and it has provided the framework for the comprehensive research that we simply must undertake as a Nation on this disease. And I would say to the gentleman that I hope, in having this Special Order today and observing this fourth anniversary, that this can be an occasion for all of us, all of our colleagues, to resolve to continue to build upon the vital and necessary work that the Udall Act has gotten under way.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. If I might add an additional comment, I am confident that our colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join us in this important effort to reauthorize this piece of legislation. Parkinson’s is not a Republican or a Democrat or a Green Party or Libertarian Party disease. It affects people across our country and across the world. There has been a lot of work done, as the gentleman points out, is far-reaching. And we are so close to understanding how to not only, as I mentioned earlier, make sure that the disease is mitigated but literally cured. This area of research that this takes place has been identified and mapped. And as the gentleman points out, there are indications that the disease is, in some cases, genetic or hereditary; but in other cases, is environmentally induced. There is excellent work going on in the Department of Defense working with veterans, and they are looking through their own program on how to combat Parkinson’s disease or contributing to the efforts at NIH that have undertaken.

I want to again thank the gentleman for using his time to come to the floor and to point out to our colleagues the great opportunity we have to make a difference in a lot of lives. If we think about a million Americans who have the disease, think about the extended families that are affected by the disease and the costs that are incurred, not just financially, but emotionally, in these communities, this is a terrible disease; and it is one that we can cure and we ought to get about the business of doing that.

So I thank the gentleman.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I thank the gentleman from Colorado for his comments here today and for carrying on this great work. We must use this occasion to resolve to press forward.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. I thank the gentleman for joining us today.

It is my pleasure at this point to yield to my colleague, the gentleman from the great State of Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Colorado, for yielding time for me to speak on this issue. Before I begin, I want to mention that, of course, I never had the opportunity to meet his father, Mo Udall, but I have nothing but respect for the reputation that he has established in public service, and I know that he would be proud of his son, the gentleman from Colorado, in continuing that proud tradition of strong commitment to public service.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the fourth anniversary of the passage of the Morris K. Udall Parkinson’s Research Act and to stress the vital importance of expanding support and research for treatment of Parkinson’s disease. Named for Arizona Representative Mo Udall, the Parkinson’s Research Act expands basic and clinical research on Parkinson’s disease and establishes Morris K. Udall Centers for awards for excellence in Parkinson’s disease research.

Since its introduction, this landmark legislation has received overwhelming congressional support. In the 105th Congress, the Parkinson’s Research Act garnered 255 cosponsors, and in the 106th Congress it passed the Senate by a nearly unanimous vote of 95 to 3.

I am proud that Congress embraced this initiative, a suffering disease from Parkinson’s disease than multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy and Lou Gehrig’s disease combined.
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Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the fourth anniversary of the passage of the Morris K. Udall Parkinson’s Research Act. I cannot think of a more fitting tribute to my friend and colleague than this legislation.

Mo Udall was a member of the House Representatives for thirty years from 1961–1990. He earned the respect of all who served with him through his humor and civility as well as his ability to work with Members from both sides of the aisle. Mo’s courage and determination to continue to serve even after being diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease in 1978 was an inspiration for all who had the privilege to be around him during that time. He was determined to continue to lead a full and vigorous life in the face of this debilitating disease. Although his death in 1998 was a blow to all of us, his legacy lives on in the great and important work started through this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Parkinson’s disease affects 1 million Americans, 40 percent of whom are under the age of 60. This landmark legislation dramatically expanded and coordinated clinical research into Parkinson’s disease as well as established the Morris K. Udall Centers across the country. These centers have been an invaluable resource in the fight against Parkinson’s disease. They have provided state-of-the-art training facilities for new researchers and the resulting work has greatly increased our knowledge and understanding of the disease.

We have an opportunity and an obligation today to re dedicate ourselves to the goal of finding a cure for Parkinson’s disease. Our initial investment into research four years ago has yielded impressive returns. Still, however, much more needs to be done. Mr. Speaker, I call on Congress to continue the valuable work we started four years ago and fully fund federal research into Parkinson’s disease done by the National Institutes of Health and the Morris K. Udall Centers.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I commemorate today the anniversary of the Morris K. Udall Parkinson’s Research Act, and I am pleased to be here among other champions of the cause from the Parkinson’s Working Group in the House.

Mo Udall was more than a colleague. He was a friend. We didn’t always agree on politics, but we could always share a laugh. I remember flying him around on my plane in NM. And, I remember helping to pick up his papers when they fell to the ground in the Interior Committee.

But, this anniversary honors more than Mo Udall. It honors our commitment to helping science keep its promise. It has been more than fifteen years since America began to hear that a cure for Parkinson’s was just around the corner,... perhaps just five years away. Yet it is not here yet. This Udall Act of 1997 was the first time we put the money where science’s mouth was. Thanks to NIH, the U.S. Army, Udall Centers of Excellence, and private resources carried on largely thanks to an outstanding advocacy community, we are still on target.

As this Anniversary hits ... it also marks the sunset of the bill. Perhaps it is time we reauthorize it. Let us continue to help science keep its promise. Thank you.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to honor the memory of one of our great
former colleagues, the late Mo Udall, who served in this House for nearly three decades. Four years ago this week, Congress passed the Morris K. Udall Parkinson's Disease Research Act, which brought much needed resources to the study of Parkinson's Disease. I admired Mo when I was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease and I will continue to work for the passage of the Udall Act, which brings much needed resources to the study of Parkinson's Disease.

Mo always had a kind word and a joke for everyone. He brought a levity to this body that you wouldn’t expect from someone fighting for his life. Ask anyone here who had the pleasure to serve with Mo and they will have a side splitting tale of the time that Mo brought the house down. Coupled with his good humor, was a commitment to serve this nation well. Despite his Parkinson’s Disease, he served as chairman of the Interior Committee, where he was a champion of preserving America’s wilderness areas. I admired Mo then, but my esteem for him grew even greater when I was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease in 1990. During those years, I came to know and admire him as an effective legislator, a consummate humorist, and a dear friend.

The 11 Morris K. Udall Centers are busy conducting research on every aspect of Parkinson’s Disease. The scientists there are some of the best and the brightest in their field. They believe that a cure for Parkinson’s Disease is on the horizon—that it could be discovered in as little as five years. These researchers believe that everyday working to make my life and the lives of the one million Americans living with Parkinson’s Disease better. And let me tell you—it’s nice having these bright men and women on your side. I know they will find a cure, but they can’t do it without our continued support.

These Udall Centers are just one component of a larger effort on the part of NIH to develop more effective treatments, enhance prevention efforts, and eventually find a cure for Parkinson’s Disease. At the request of Congress, NIH developed a five year Parkinson’s Disease Research Agenda to bring the nation closer to a cure. Last year, we funded the first year of that agenda. This year, we must fund the second year by increasing funding for Parkinson’s Disease Research. I am hopeful that the Appropriations Committee will follow through with what it started and honor Congress’ commitment to the NIH Research Agenda.

These initiatives are the lifeblood of the Parkinson’s Disease. The Udall Centers and the NIH funded research are leading the world in the path to a cure. I encourage my colleagues to support these programs.

and cast aspersions, but more importantly, perpetrated violent acts.

This world is riveted by ethnic, religious, and racial divide. The conference was successful if the right people take charge, and I will continue to work for peace and reconciliation and ending the racial divide.

RACISM IN SOUTH AFRICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting as I had the opportunity to share with the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. Udall) on a very important legislative initiative, this content.gov, but nothing can be said of what I did. I have to say that everything we do in this country and this Congress is engage, engagement, to be engaged.

I would be remiss if I did not take this time to join my colleagues, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Lee) and as well the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Watson), to speak to a situation, a conference, a series of events that are going on in South Africa that I think have been sorely misrepresented and misinterpreted, that is, the historic World Conference on Racism, the first conference like this in the past 18 years.

Of course, the first conference was in 1979. The second conference was in 1983 where the focus was on apartheid in South Africa. Gratefully, that conference was successful. Those who have not yet visited South Africa can see a country, with the opportunity to visit it, that seeks reconciliation, a country that is diverse, that stands every day to ensure that no matter what one’s color is, there is a seat at the table of empowerment.

I was very proud to be a member of the United States delegation comprised of Members of Congress, particularly and, in addition, members of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentleman from California (Mr. Lantos), as well as members from the State Department.

What I was most disappointed in is that the country that is the greatest democracy that the world knows, the United States of America, founded in the Declaration of Independence, that declares that we all are created equal, that the United States of America, founded in the Declaration of Independence, that declares that we all are created equal, that the United States of America, founded in the Declaration of Independence, that declares that we all are created equal, that the United States of America, founded in the Declaration of Independence, that declares that we all are created equal, that the United States of America, founded in the Declaration of Independence, that declares that we all are created equal, that the United States of America, founded in the Declaration of Independence, that declares that we all are created equal, that the United States of America, founded in the Declaration of Independence, that declares that we all are created equal, that the United States of 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