

October 12, 2001

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE RECOVERY ACT OF 2001

**HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 11, 2001*

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the North Atlantic Right Whale Recovery Act of 2001 which will coordinate and expand United States and international programs for the conservation and protection of North Atlantic Whale. This bill is designed to improve the management and research activities for right whales and increase the focus on reducing mortality caused by ship collisions, entanglement in fishing gear, and other causes. The most endangered of the great whales, the northern Atlantic right whale has shown no evidence of recovery since the whaling days of the 1900s despite full protection from hunting by a League of Nations agreement since 1935. Today the population of North Atlantic Right Whales remains at less than 350 animals.

Right whales are at risk of extinction from a number of sources. These include, ship strikes, the number one source of known right whale fatalities, entanglement in fishing gear, coastal pollution, habitat degradation, ocean noise and climate change. This legislation requires the Secretary of Commerce to institute a North Atlantic Right Whale Recovery Program, in coordination with the Department of Transportation and other appropriate Federal agencies, States, the Southeast and Northeast Northern Atlantic Right Whale Recovery Plan Implementation Team and the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team, pursuant to the authority provided under the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

This legislation would require the Secretary of Commerce within 6 months of enactment, to initiate demonstration projects designed to result in the immediate reductions in North Atlantic right whale deaths. There are 4 distinct areas that I believe we should be focusing our attention on. First, we should develop acoustic detection and tracking technologies to monitor the migration of right whales so that ships at sea can avoid right whales. Second, we need to continue work on individual satellite tags for right whales. This is yet another way that we can track whale migration and alert ships at sea of the presence of whales and avoid ship strikes. Third, this legislation would speed up the development of neutrally buoyant line and "weak link" fishing gear, so that we can either avoid having whales become entangled in the first place or when they do the "weak links" break and they can more easily become disentangled. Finally this legislation supports research and testing into developing innovative ways to increase the success of disentanglement efforts.

This legislation allows for the government to provide fishermen "whale safe" fishing gear in high use or critical habitat areas. This is crucial, because once we have developed this "whale safe" gear we need to get it in the water as soon as possible. I believe an assist-

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ance program that is fair to fishermen will be needed and we are asking the agencies to tell us the potential costs so we can ensure that the gear can be deployed where needed.

This legislation requires the Secretary of Transportation and Commerce to develop and implement a comprehensive ship strike avoidance plan for Right Whales because ship strikes are the leading cause of right whale mortalities. The plan incorporates the Mandatory Reporting System which I helped shepherd through Congress in 1997. This system requires large vessels traveling through designated critical right whale habitats to contact area Coast Guard authorities. Ship pilots report course, speed, location, destination and route and are alerted to the presence or near-by whales. The system has helped mariners to better navigate away from these endangered animals. Through this legislation, the reporting system will be improved to include the collection and analysis of data on traffic patterns and ship strikes.

This legislation also establishes a right whale research grant program. This program will establish a peer review process of all innovative biological and technical projects designed to protect right whales. In addition to the scientific community, this peer review team will also be comprised of representatives of the fishing industry and the maritime transportation industry. It is important that from the very beginning we have the input of the people who are on the water every day. Their knowledge and experience is absolutely necessary to developing innovative practices and techniques to save right whales.

Congress has appropriated over \$8 million dollars in the last two years to protect right whales. I believe that now is the time to develop a comprehensive plan that spells out what we can do immediately to better protect these whales and focus our research efforts on innovative ideas and technologies that can identify whale migrations.

ALL STAR TRANSPLANT REUNION

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 11, 2001*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Texas Transplant Institute (TTI) in San Antonio, Texas for hosting a special All Star Transplant Reunion. This event will honor all transplant patients and living donors from every Transplant Institute Program in Texas. Guests will also be joined by Spurs basketball player and donor recipient, Sean Elliott.

San Antonio's Texas Transplant Institute was created in 1999 by combining the solid organ transplant program at Methodist Speciality and Transplant Hospital with the bone marrow/stem cell transplant program at Methodist Hospital. Over the years, the Institute has expanded. In May 2001, a liver transplant program was added to the Institute. And in July, a pediatric kidney transplant program was added to complete the full range of services provided at the Texas Transplant Institute.

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Today, the Texas Transplant Institute is the only program in the United States that combines the resources and talents of both the bone marrow/stem cell program and the solid organ transplant program under one entity. Through its mission of "Continuing the Legacy of Hope Through Patient Care, Research and Education," the Texas Transplant Institute is dedicated to serving patients who are in need of organ and bone marrow/stem cell transplants. Collectively, these programs have served over 2,500 patients. It has performed 1,684 kidney transplants, 631 bone marrow/stem cell transplants, 212 heart transplants, and 2 liver transplants to patients all over the United States.

On October 13, 2001, hundreds of transplant recipients, patients on waiting lists, and living donors who are considered an inspiration to more than 80,000 men, women, and children will unite. Many will meet for the first time with their respective donors, as well as other individuals who will attend and are urgently awaiting for a transplant to replace a failing kidney, heart, liver, lung, or pancreas.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I would like to commend the Texas Transplant Institute for hosting this special All Star Transplant Reunion. I especially want to thank the doctors and staff at TTI for their hard work and dedication and I wish them well as they continue their life-saving services to the community.

IN HONOR OF FARAH M. WALTERS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 11, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Farah M. Walters for her induction into the 2001 Ohio Women's Hall of Fame. As President and Chief Executive Officer of University Hospitals Health System and University Hospitals of Cleveland since 1992, Ms. Walters will be placed in an elite group of women recognized for their outstanding contributions to their state and nation. Ms. Walters presides over a system that serves patients at more than 150 locations in Northeast Ohio and which is the region's largest private sector employer.

Ms. Walters graduated from the executive MBA program at Case Western Reserve University's Weatherhead School of Management and holds a Masters of Science in Nutrition from Case Western Reserve University. She has consulted and lectured for major health organizations such as the Pan American Health Organization, American Hospital Association, National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Army, and various hospitals and universities. Ms. Walters has received numerous prestigious awards for her work. For example, in May 2001 she was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of honor by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations Foundation; in February, 1999 she became the first woman to receive the Business Executive of the Year award from the Sales & Marketing Executives of Cleveland; and in May 1998 she became the first woman to receive the Business Statesmanship Award from the Harvard Business

School Club. In January 1993, Mrs. Walters was appointed to Hillary Rodham Clinton's National Health Care Reform Tax Force, and in 1993 Modern Healthcare selected her as one of the 50 individuals in the USA to shape the future of health care in the country. In addition, University Hospitals of Cleveland has been the recipient of many awards under her leadership, including the North Coast 99 Diversity Award from the Employer Resource Council and Enterprise Development and the Exemplary Voluntary Effort Award from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Ms. Walters also serves on a variety of national and local boards and is active in civic affairs. She is on the board of the LTV Corporation and has served on a number of key committees of the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington, D.C. She also serves on the board of Cleveland Tomorrow, Greater Cleveland Roundtable and Ohio Business Roundtable. In 1994 Ms. Walters was appointed by Governor VOINOVICH to serve on the 15 member Commission to Study the Ohio Economy and Tax Structure. Within the community, she has served as Chairman for the 1997 United Ways Campaign, the first woman and the first CEO of a non-profit organization to be selected for the position.

Ms. Walters will be honored by the Ohio Womens Hall of Fame on October 17, 2001. She and her husband Stephen have one daughter named Stephanie.

#### HONORING THE CITY OF CLOVIS

##### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the citizens of Clovis, California for their outpouring of sympathy and compassion in the wake of the tragedy which took place in New York City and Washington, DC on September 11.

At this time, I would like to submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a document sent to me by Clovis Mayor Jose Flores, on behalf of the people of Clovis.

#### PROCLAMATION HONORING THE VICTIMS OF TERRORIST ATTACKS, THE RESCUE WORKERS AND THE COURAGE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Whereas, the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were attacked by terrorists in a cowardly act on September 11, 2001, resulting in tremendous loss of innocent lives of our fellow Americans; and

Whereas, civilian hostages on some of the aircraft also sacrificed their lives with a last heroic act to intervene to successfully thwart the terrorists; and

Whereas, the citizens of the City of Clovis express their deepest sympathy for the victims of the attack and the families and friends of the victims who must now face such sorrow and loss; and

Whereas, the citizens of the City of Clovis recognize and give thanks for the actions of the rescue workers, many of whom have, through their own selfless actions, given their own lives in an effort to save their fellow citizens; and

Whereas, even in the midst of such a terrible attack on our country, the courage of

the people of the United States has shown through for all the world to see; and

Whereas, in such trying times, the American people have shown to the world that we are strong and united have shown to the world that we are strong and united together against terrorism and in support of our country and its values of freedom. Now, Therefore, Be It

*Resolved*, that the Clovis City Council does hereby extend our deepest sympathy to the families of the victims, our most heartfelt gratitude to the rescue workers seeking to aid our fellow Americans, and our assurance to the world that we, as citizens of the United States, stand united and will not tolerate terrorism or be diminished by its actions, but rather we, as a free people, will prevail against evil and continue to be a beacon of freedom for the world.

#### A PRAYER FOR MY COUNTRY

##### HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues a poem written by Sarah Shaw for her Jerome, Michigan, church service, September 30, 2001.

#### A PRAYER FOR MY COUNTRY

It's utter terror—disbelief, at what my eyes behold.

It's so unbelievable, as I watch this scene unfold.

Where three years ago I'd been there, and had marvelled at the sight.

The majestic New York City skyline, all lit up by night.

Now horror, seeing attacks, watching both towers aflame

Saw the huge plane flying, as for its attack it came

With total disbelief I stood, staring at my T.V.

This cannot be happening!! This cannot truly be!!

But it was real indeed, the U.S.A. had been attacked!

So our nation plunged into war—it's a deadly fact.

The scene was there before me, the story slowly revealed.

For the passengers in four hi-jacked planes—their doom was sealed.

The hi-jackers were so full of hate flying through the sky,

Their aim to "kill America" to do so they would die.

Two of the planes hit both twin towers squarely—all aflame.

One plane to the Capital, the Pentagon, was its aim.

The last plane met resistance from some passengers, so brave,

A Pennsylvania mountain became its deadly grave.

So the tale of this tragedy spread across our Nation,

Dazed people unable to believe this revelation.

How could it be? How can lives be changed in just a moment?

How could anyone hate like that? With so much vengeance vent?

But it was real indeed, the U.S.A. had been attacked,

Our Nation plunged into a war, it was a deadly fact.

Through the days that followed, found me glued to my T.V. set,

This tragedy consumed me, I felt so helpless—and yet

My deep desire was to be a part of the rescue teams,

Then I could go into combat against those evil schemes,

Of those who brought destruction, who had attacked our Nation.

Since I could not go, I'm left with sadness and frustration.

The scene was utter destruction, the question, where to start?

Many rescue workers poured in, coming to do their part.

Firemen and police men, skilled workers with their big machines.

Doctors and nurses and ambulances, also on the scene.

All working tirelessly, upon this mountain of debris.

How frantically they struggled, to find victims to set free.

Then new disaster, damaged buildings suddenly collapsed,

The rescue teams became the victims, as many were trapped.

Rescuers continued working, they knew they must go on.

The missing, numbered thousands, so they searched from dawn to dawn.

Our Nation now in mourning, candles lit across the land.

Our red, white and blue flags waving, many in childrens hands.

At Washington Cathedral, folks of all creeds gathered there.

Joining our President and Congress, in a time of prayer.

Also at this service, four past Presidents of our Nation,

With all heads bowed, aching hearts, seeking God's affirmation.

In churches, and in town halls, in parks all across our land.

Prayers of every creed and language, God will understand.

So now in our sorrow, we must all turn to God above,

May he surround our Nation with his everlasting love! Amen.

#### CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN ON NATIONAL DAY

##### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend to the people of Taiwan my congratulations on the occasion of National Day. Today's event reminds us of the strong ties and shared principles between the United States and the people of Taiwan.

Today, the people in Taiwan continue to enjoy high standards of living. Under the leadership of President Chen Shui-Bian, Taiwan has demonstrated great economic resilience and has made gestures to improve dialogue with the mainland. Additionally, Taiwan's relationship with the United States is becoming increasingly strong. Bilateral trade between Taiwan and the United States topped \$64.8 billion last year, and Taiwan is the United States'