

At the age of sixty-two, she arrived in Zimbabwe as a Peace Corps volunteer. She served in the city of Mutare as the Information Officer for CADEC, the Catholic Development Commission. She developed HIV/AIDS awareness and education materials and assisted the staff with computers and information technology. She devoted much of her time to the more than 2000 children orphaned by AIDS in the Mutare region. Tragically, her work ended with her death, a suspected homicide. Police took into custody as suspects two citizens of Zimbabwe.

Dr. Jaffe's daughter, Julia Ravinsky, lives in Massachusetts where a memorial service was conducted on October 26. Ms. Ravinsky spoke of her mother's great love of adventure and her even greater love of humankind. She showed slides of her mother riding camels and elephants and mingling joyously with the peoples of three continents. I salute Julia's bravery as well as her mother's.

Two Peace Corps officials eulogized Larisa Jaffe. Acting Deputy Director Lloyd O. Pierson presented an American and a Peace Corps flag and a letter of condolence from President and Mrs. Bush. He spoke of the significance of the Peace Corps in these difficult times. I quote Mr. Pierson: "Larisa's contributions to the Peace Corps and to our country will never be forgotten. The tragic events of September 11 have shown more than ever the need for more individuals, like Larisa, committed and courageous, who are willing to answer the call to service and respond to the challenge of the Peace Corps mission." I thank Mr. Pierson for traveling to Massachusetts to acknowledge Dr. Jaffe's contribution and to comfort her family and friends.

Lois Hobson, Country Director of the Peace Corps for Zimbabwe, accompanied Dr. Jaffe's remains on the sad journey home. I want to thank her personally for bringing Julia's mother home. Director Hobson spoke of her friendship with Larisa Jaffe, of Larisa's fearlessness, her openness, her refusal to find cultural differences obstacles to understanding and cooperation. I quote her remarks in part, "Mutare's mountains impressed her deeply, often prompting her to tell others how comfortable she felt in Mutare, how much she loved the city and the people. When she was required to travel to Harare, she was always in a hurry to return to the beautiful city at the foot of the mountains. Industrious, creative, energetic, feisty, brave, courageous—this was Larisa. Stubborn, independent, mature, sometimes naive, determined, loving, kind. This too was Larisa. We all miss her."

Mr. Pierson is right that we need to remember Larisa Jaffe. She came to the United States as a refugee. She embraced our principles and our customs. She believed that all persons are created free and equal. She believed in volunteering. Like many of those who perished on September 11, she knew our country, her adopted country, to be a land of hope and opportunity. Her example will continue to inspire us.

AIRLINE WORKER MORTGAGE RELIEF ACT OF 2001

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, on September 13, 2001, in response to the September 11th tragedy, Secretary Mel Martinez of HUD directed all FHA-approved lenders to provide a 90-day mortgage forbearance for families with FHA insured mortgages who were affected by the recent terrorist attacks. "Affected, borrowers are those individuals who were passengers or crew on the four hijacked airliners (American Airlines 11 and 77, United Airlines 93 and 175), individuals employed on September 11, 2001, in or near the World Trade Center, or in the Pentagon, and individuals whose financial viability was affected by the . . . events of [that] day." (HUD Mortgage Letter 01-21).

As evidenced by the \$15 billion bail out that followed the events of September 11, the effects felt by the airline industry were amongst the most immediate and devastating experienced within the corporate world. It follows naturally, that the devastation experienced by the airlines will ultimately be felt by the 150,000+ employees whose financial viability has, or will soon be affected by the ongoing wave of post-September 11th lay offs. And while the language of HUD Letter 01-21 may be read to include airline industry workers, the ambiguity of that language leaves open the possibility of denial under the letter. This group is simply, which has been so obviously affected by the events of September 11th, cannot be forgotten.

The Airline Mortgage Relief Act of 2001 addresses the ambiguous language of HUD Letter 01-21 by explicitly applying the aforementioned moratorium to laid off employees of foreign and domestic air carriers and laid off employees of manufacturers aircraft used by foreign or domestic carriers. The bill also expands for all eligible borrowers, the 90-day forbearance to 180 days from enactment; and requires the Secretary of HUD to inform mortgagees of the moratorium.

In light of HUD Letter 01-21, as well as recent Congressional concerns over the health of the airline industry, the Airline Worker Mortgage Relief Act of 2001 would afford Congress the perfect opportunity to give as much attention to unemployed airline industry workers, as has been given to their former corporate employers.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE CHOLESTEROL SCREENING COVERAGE ACT OF 2001

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Medicare Cholesterol Screening Coverage Act of 2001.

Most Americans know that too much cholesterol in their diet is harmful. Many Americans

might not realize, however, that cholesterol levels are the number one indicators of their risk of heart disease. With one simple blood test every five years, doctors can quickly uncover and track a person's risk. This is why the federal government, doctors, health groups like the American Heart Association, and many other science based groups and studies agree—Americans should have their cholesterol checked by their doctor to prevent heart disease in their future.

It is interesting—two major federal guidelines on cholesterol screening were updated in May of this year by the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) at the National Institutes of Health, and by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Both agencies, recommendations agree, stating that every American over the age of twenty should have their cholesterol levels tested every five years.

But read further in the guidelines, and you find the really good news for seniors. While the former federal guidelines on cholesterol screening had suggested that those over 75 do not need to be tested, the most recent guidelines threw that upper age limit out the window. We now know that seniors with high cholesterol can be effectively treated for this disorder and consequently lower their risk of damaging heart disease. For many, treatment can be as simple as adjusting your diet and increasing levels of physical activity.

While Congress looks at ways to update the Medicare System, we must also take every opportunity to make the Medicare program better for seniors—and this is one such opportunity. My bill immediately benefits seniors in Medicare by providing a new benefit that will save lives and reduce disability from heart disease and stroke.

The Medicare Cholesterol Screening Coverage Act of 2001 will add coverage of preventive cholesterol screenings to all seniors in the Medicare Program. It seems counter intuitive that the two-thirds of the Medicare beneficiaries currently eligible for cholesterol screening are those who have already been struck with a cardiovascular illness or other lipid-related diseases. Congress needs to make the Medicare program a more forward thinking program, and this bill is a huge step in that direction. While we have taken steps like this in the past, we have done little to prevent the number one cause of death in the United States—heart disease.

The numbers are staggering regarding heart disease. Each year, more than a million Americans have heart attacks, and about a half a million people die from heart disease. In addition, coronary heart disease accounts for nearly half of the total mortality of Americans over 65.

Regrettably heart attack and stroke victims aren't always given a second chance to lower cholesterol levels. Thus the first step in saving lives must be to identify those in need of treatment. This can only be accomplished by regular cholesterol and blood lipid screening.

By passing this bill, Congress will be helping to provide Americans with the knowledge they need to live longer, healthier and happier lives. As Congress considers further improvements to the Medicare program, I urge my colleagues to support this important effort.