

March 13, 2001

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A NATIONAL REFLEX SYMPATHETIC DYSTROPHY (RSD) MONTH

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of and support for people like Betsy Herman who suffer from an excruciatingly painful disease called Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD). RSD is a post-traumatic condition triggered by an injury, surgery, or infection. In simple terms, it is a malfunction of the nervous system in the body's attempt to heal. It may strike at any time, resulting in intense inflammation, swelling, stiffness and/or discoloration of the nerves, muscles, bones, skin and circulatory system.

Because RSD is a complex and little-known disease, Betsy, like scores of RSD sufferers, went for years without being diagnosed with this debilitating disorder. Instead of receiving prompt treatment for RSD after a sprained ankle and pulled muscle when she was 12 (which could have led to full recovery), Betsy was accused of faking and exaggerating her condition and was sent for psychological counseling.

Unfortunately, six years and several surgeries later, Betsy now walks with the help of an implanted device and must drive over 100 miles once a week for treatment. While other teenagers play sports and attend proms, Betsy must wait until classes are in session until she walks the halls of her high school to assure that she isn't bumped, since even the slightest touch can sometimes cause severe pain.

Despite the tremendous physical agony and emotional pain Betsy has suffered at the hands of RSD, she has worked diligently to educate the public about the condition. She recognizes that public education will help lead to correct diagnosis and increased investments in research and treatment for RSD. She also created an on-line support group for teens with RSD, providing a crucial lifeline to other young people afflicted with this incurable disease. In recognition of her efforts, the RSD Hope Group recently presented Betsy with its Humanitarian of the Year Award.

It is for Betsy Herman and other RSD sufferers that I introduce this Concurrent Resolution today expressing the sense of Congress that May should be named "National Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Awareness Month." I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this effort to increase awareness, augment funding, and better diagnose and treat this horrible disease.

HONORING BOB WESTMORELAND
AWARD RECIPIENT, JEANNE
BURNS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

friend of Northern Virginia, Ms. Jeanne Burns, for her many years of service to the community. Her dedication throughout our region is being rewarded at the Springfield Inter-Service Award Ceremony on March 14, 2001.

Ms. Burns' outstanding contributions to Northern Virginia have paved the way for many tremendous achievements. She served on the PTA Board at Crestwood Elementary School, where she assisted in raising thousands of dollars last year alone. The money went to support after-school programs for at-risk children, fund school field trips, provide summer school tuition for children in need, and to promote art programs through a grant with the Virginia Fine Arts Commission.

Her time is split between her work at the elementary school PTA and the PTA Board at both Key Middle School and Lee High School. Ms. Burns is also active in the schools' booster clubs. Part of her time is spent raising money for all-night graduation parties.

Ms. Burns contributed to the planning of millennium activities in Fairfax County with the group "Celebrate Fairfax." One of her other community endeavors was the Fairfax Fall Festival, which is held every year in the downtown area of the City of Fairfax. She was active in securing health care exhibits for the festival, as well as for a community health fair held at Crestwood Elementary School.

She is currently doing volunteer work at Crestwood Elementary every Monday and Wednesday night, where she works with non-English-speaking adults in literacy classes. Ms. Burns volunteers earlier on those days to teach English to young, immigrant mothers. She provides the classes with supplements that she prepares herself.

Ms. Burns continues to actively support Crestwood Elementary School with fundraising efforts and fulfills her commitment to educate non-English-speaking residents. She reminds us that there are people who are willing to give so much and ask for so little in return.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish the very best to Ms. Burns as she is honored at the Springfield Inter-Service Awards Banquet in Springfield, Virginia. She certainly has earned this recognition, and I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in applauding her remarkable achievements.

CONGRATULATING THE
MONMOUTH "HAWKS"

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to Monmouth University in West Long Branch, NJ, which captured the Northeast Conference basketball championship Monday night. This gives Monmouth University a berth in the NCAA basketball tournament, the second time it has qualified for the national championships.

Monmouth defeated St. Francis of New York 67-64 under the leadership of four-year head coach Dave Calloway. I congratulate Coach Calloway and his team for reaching this impressive milestone.

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Monday night's achievement offers me the opportunity to highlight Monmouth University—an outstanding educational institution located near the seashore in Monmouth County, NJ. I have always been very proud of "Monmouth" which has educated thousands of my constituents over the years with the highest academic standards. In recent years, it has grown from a small college to a university. It now has a total student population of 5,635 and an outstanding faculty of 220. It features the only B.S. and M.S. program in Software Engineering in New Jersey, not to mention many other innovative academic offerings.

Originally its only large campus building was Wilson Hall—the summer home of Woodrow Wilson when he was President. In 1961, Monmouth College was bequeathed the summer home of the wealthy Guggenheim family for use as a library. Both structures are on the National Register of Historic Places. Since then, many impressive campus buildings have been constructed including one named after my predecessor, Representative James J. Howard.

The success of the Monmouth "Hawks" basketball team has in many ways paralleled the growth of Monmouth University as an educational institution. I congratulate them on their success and wish them the best of luck on their near and long-term endeavors.

WAIVING THE MEDICARE PART B
PENALTY FOR MILITARY RETIREES
WHO ENROLL IN TRICARE
FOR LIFE

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill to amend the portion of last year's Defense Authorization Act that extends health care benefits to military retirees.

Congress made great strides toward fulfilling its promise of health care for life for all members of the military when it extended TRICARE benefits to retired members of the military and their families. However, the legislation required that beneficiaries have Medicare Part B.

I have been contacted by several constituents who would like to take advantage of the new health benefits, but never enrolled in Medicare Part B. Current law states that if a person is not enrolled in Medicare Part B, their monthly premium is increased 10% for each year past the age of 65 that they have not been enrolled. For example, an 80-year-old individual enrolling in Medicare Part B for the first time would have a 150% penalty. Their monthly premium would be \$125. The base premium for Medicare Part B is \$50.

My bill waives the 10 percent penalty for enrolling in Medicare Part B. It also waives the Medicare Part B requirement for military retirees who are already enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan.

Military retirees should not be penalized for not having Medicare Part B. In addition, retirees should not be forced to enroll in Medicare Part B if they are already enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan.