

After Al-Amin was located in a wooded area, he fired upon USMS personnel with an assault rifle. Despite the danger Al-Amin posed to their lives, Inspectors Jerry Lowery and Joseph Parker, and Deputy U.S. Marshal James Ergas maneuvered through the snake infested woods toward Al-Amin.

They succeeded in containing the armed suspect for two hours while awaiting backup, and established a perimeter. Due to their competence and bravery, Al-Amin was arrested without further loss of life, and the weapons he used in both incidents were recovered.

The bravery of Inspectors Lowery and Parker, and Deputy Ergas is yet another example of the high standards of professionalism and dedication honored by Federal law enforcement officers every day. I add my voice to the many others who truly appreciate the work they do to keep our homes, schools, and neighborhoods safe.

STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT PROTECTION ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I join today with Mr. Shaw and a broad bipartisan group of our colleagues from the House Ways and Means Committee in introducing the Structured Settlement Protection Act.

I was the Chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee that considered the original bipartisan legislation in 1982 that enacted the structured settlement tax rules. The Ways and Means Committee, acting on a bipartisan basis, adopted the structured settlement tax rules that are in the Code today to provide long-term financial protection to seriously-injured victims and their families, so that these families would not have to turn to taxpayer-financed programs to meet their basic living and medical needs.

As a long-time supporter of structured settlements, I have been gravely concerned about the impact of so-called "factoring"—in which future damage payments are sold off for a discounted lump sum—on this long-term financial security that Congress intended to achieve for injured victims and their families. That is why I have worked actively with Mr. Shaw and our colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee over several years to put forward legislation to protect structured settlements and the injured victims and their families who depend upon them.

The Structured Settlement Protection Act that we are introducing today with broad bipartisan support on the Ways and Means Committee will bring a final resolution to the factoring issue, protecting the hundreds of thousands of structured settlement recipients and the longstanding Congressional policy of almost two decades.

The Act works in conjunction with complementary State structured settlement protection legislation that already has been enacted by 19 States and is under active consideration in an additional 20 States. The Act and the complementary State legislation rely upon a

State court review process to ensure that the structured settlement fulfills its intended purpose of providing long-term financial protection for injured people, while enabling the victim to get access to future payments if the court determines that such access is in the best interests of the injured person, taking into account the welfare and support of his or her dependents, and determines that the sale of future payments does not violate any State or Federal statutes or existing court orders.

This Federal legislation is necessary to ensure compliance with State regulation given the nationwide operation of the factoring industry, to encourage the remaining States to adopt the necessary regulatory legislation, and to put to rest tax uncertainties that factoring transactions have created for the other parties to the structured settlement.

I understand that the Act has the support of both the National Structured Settlements Trade Association on behalf of the structured settlement industry and the National Association of Settlement Purchasers on behalf of the factoring industry. Given this joint support, the legislation should be non-controversial.

We have worked hard on a bipartisan basis to resolve this issue. I strongly urge that we move forward to enact this bipartisan legislation as soon as possible.

TRIBUTE TO HERMOSA BEACH POLICE CHIEF VAL STRASSER

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, a man with an even bigger heart retired March 31 as chief of police for the city of Hermosa Beach.

Chief Val Strasser served the community tirelessly. Joining the Hermosa Beach police force on September 16, 1973, he was promoted through the ranks until he was appointed chief in July 1993. During the course of his career, he made many friends and I am proud to be counted among them.

Chief Strasser was the epitome of community policing. He is remembered for fostering close ties between the department and the community. He understood that for law enforcement to be successful, it has to enlist all citizens and recruit them to be vigilant.

Chief Strasser had an open-door policy and encouraged citizens to drop in without an appointment to share their concerns, offer advice, or just plain complain. He always received them warmly and always tried to be responsive. Along the way, he made many, many friends and admirers.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Hermosa Beach is known for its surf, sand, and sea. Because of the leadership of Chief Strasser and the dedication of his officers and civilian personnel, Hermosa Beach is also a safe city where residents and visitors can enjoy its small town quaintness as well as its diverse cultural and recreational opportunities.

Val Strasser will be remembered fondly by residents and this Member of Congress. I join in wishing the best to Chief Strasser and his wife, Becky, as they look forward to their retirement years together.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. THOMAS E. STARZL

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Dr. Thomas E. Starzl, a pioneer in the field of organ transplantation, on this year's 20th anniversary of the first liver transplant performed in Pittsburgh.

Born on March 11, 1926 in LeMars, Iowa, Dr. Starzl received a bachelor's degree in biology at Westminster College before going on to earn a master's degree in anatomy, a Ph.D. in neurophysiology, and an M.D. with distinction at Northwestern University Medical School. Following postgraduate work and a number of surgical fellowships and residencies, he returned to Northwestern University to serve on its faculty. Dr. Starzl moved on to the University of Colorado School of Medicine in 1962, and performed the world's first human liver transplant the following year.

Dr. Starzl joined the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, which already had an established kidney transplant program, in 1981 as a professor of surgery. On February 26 of that year he performed the region's first liver transplant. Amazingly, of the 30 transplant patients that first year, 11 are still alive today because of Dr. Starzl's commitment to the great promise of the procedure despite earlier failed attempts.

A major factor in the success of organ transplantation is the development of immunosuppressant drugs. Dr. Starzl was instrumental in this development, which advanced transplantation to an accepted form of treatment for patients with end-stage diseases of the liver, kidney and heart. It also shed light on the possibility that other organs could be successfully transplanted.

With Dr. Starzl as chief, the University of Pittsburgh transplant program soon became the largest in the world. In the past two decades, over 11,300 transplants have been performed at UPMC Presbyterian, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, and major advances by university faculty have had a tremendous impact on the entire field of transplantation. Among the countless "firsts" for this transplant program are the world's first multivisceral transplant, heart/liver transplant, and heart/liver/kidney transplant.

From the first successful liver transplant in 1967, through the development of surgical techniques and anti-rejection drugs that revolutionized the field, to his pioneering efforts at xenotransplantation, Dr. Starzl is among the most cited scientists in the field of clinical medicine. Now retired from clinical practice, he continues to influence all aspects of organ transplantation as director emeritus of the institute that now bears his name, the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Dr. Tom Starzl for his tireless devotion and countless accomplishments in the field of organ transplantation.