

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL OF CRANSTON HIGH SCHOOL WEST WITH REGARD TO "THE FEINSTEIN YOUTH HUNGER BRIGADE PROGRAM"

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Student Council of Cranston High School West for their participation for the third consecutive year in "The Feinstein Youth Hunger Brigade Program." Through this year-long community service project, these students will raise awareness of hunger in Rhode Island by distributing a newsletter to elected officials and by collecting and distributing non-perishable food items to a local agency of their choice. The students have chosen St. Vincent de Paul's Emergency Food Center to be the beneficiary of this year's donations.

Already, the students of Cranston High School West have far exceeded the goals they initially set. Originally planning to collect an impressive 2,260 items for donation, the students worked together to collect an astounding 3,163 non-perishable food items throughout the course of their first food drive in December. The students are currently working on a second drive set to take place in April. They hope to surpass their previous record during this spring's drive.

The non-perishables that the students have delivered to St. Vincent de Paul are crucial to the fight against hunger in Rhode Island. Many of our local shelters and food centers find themselves continually dependent upon the goodwill of students like those at Cranston High School West to be able to provide for those in need. The contributions by this very generous group of students will certainly put St. Vincent de Paul in a position to meet the needs of those less fortunate in the community.

I am thrilled and honored to recognize these individuals today. It is through the efforts of students like those at Cranston High School West that we not only fight the current hunger epidemic, but provide hope for the future as well. The students at Cranston High School West have nobly taken on a serious problem in their community and are facing it head on. I am confident that these students will serve as an inspiration for other Rhode Island young people and that leaves me optimistic about the future fight against hunger.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I hope our colleagues will join me in commending the Student Council of Cranston High School West.

PEACE CORPS: A MODEL FOR HOPE

**HON. JAMES A. LEACH**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize that last week

was National Peace Corps Week and to applaud the thousands of Americans who have represented the U.S. since 1961 in the Peace Corps in 138 countries. Emblematic of the idealism of America are the 15 volunteers from my district in Southeast Iowa who are currently serving on four continents, in desert villages, mountain towns and city centers from Ukraine to Panama and Morocco.

A Peace Corps volunteer is charged with three missions: the first is to help the people of host countries in meeting their need for trained professionals; the second is to help promote understanding of America around the world; and the third is to help expand American understanding of other peoples and countries.

Thus, the job of the Peace Corps volunteer is not over when their assignment is completed. Volunteers maintain a duty to share their grasp of the people, the language and the culture of the countries in which they served.

Not long ago, in a speech at Yale University, the first Peace Corps Director, Sargent Shriver, declared that he wanted to add a fourth goal: to "bind all human beings together in a common cause to assure peace and survival for all"

No mission is more altruistic; nor more consequential. Geopolitical realists might consider such majesty of purpose to be naive. Actually, there is no rational alternative in a world where history has known few generations unaffected by the strife of war; where the creation of weapons of mass destruction has increased the vulnerability of the human race. As Einstein noted, splitting the atom has changed everything except our way of thinking. It is the capacity to think that, at its best, characterizes mankind, but, at its least impressive, has yet to be harnessed in such a way as to give confidence that modern man can live with modern technology.

In this context of concern for the common fate of all mankind, the Peace Corps stands out as the singular institution in American society that provides a model for hope and a cause for optimism.

INTRODUCING THE MEDICAL BILLS INTEREST RATE RELIEF ACT OF 2005

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medical Bills Interest Rate Relief Act, a bill to protect Americans from going bankrupt due to high medical costs. Many families and individuals are forced deep into debt by the combination of large medical bills and excessively high interest rates.

The journal Health Affairs recently reported that over two million people are financially ruined by health care costs every year, and these debtors are 42 percent more likely than other debtors to experience lapses in coverage. In fact, many of those bankrupted are middle class and have insurance, and so do not qualify for additional assistance.

A constituent of mine from Margate, Florida was faced with just this situation. He was unable to fully meet the repayment schedule demanded by the hospital. Because he had insurance, he was also unable to qualify for further assistance. The hospital reported him to his credit bureau, which then raised his interest rate to an astronomical level, pushing his financial stability to the very edge of bankruptcy.

My constituent is currently selling his home in order to avoid bankruptcy. This is simply unfair. My constituent did not overspend on luxury gifts, buy a fancy car, or take extended vacations. Instead, his family was slammed by an unpredictable and unpreventable medical catastrophe that was no fault of their own. There should be a level of protection for them and the millions of other Americans who struggle to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, credit card issuers tie interest rates to the timely repayment of debt. But many Americans, such as my constituent, are faced with sudden, extremely high medical expenses that simply cannot be repaid within the same constraints as ordinary expenses. Thus, their credit card interest rates may rise dramatically, resulting in an even more burdensome financial situation.

My legislation alleviates this problem by requiring credit card companies to maintain the lowest interest rates possible for persons repaying medical care costs, based on the customers' previous credit rating prior to incurring those costs. My bill further protects patients and families by prohibiting hospitals from reporting for 5 years patients who cannot meet the mandated repayment schedule, provided that those patients demonstrate good faith by maintaining a repayment of 20 percent of their medical expenses. This ensures that patients receive some level of protection from imminent financial disaster while hospitals are also assured of recovering debt.

The extraordinarily high cost of medical care is an enormous burden on American families. Unfortunately, many medical expenses are unforeseen, and the expenses associated with emergency catastrophic care can literally destroy a family's finances. Our constituents should never have to choose between the health and life of a loved one and the financial constraints of medical care.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to protect all Americans from the crushing burden of medical costs.

HONORING THE EXCEPTIONAL COURAGE OF BEN MOYER

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible citizen of the 28th district of Texas. Ben Moyer of Seguin, Texas demonstrated exceptional courage when he saved a man's life last June.

Ben Moyer a senior at Seguin High School in Seguin, TX, has been swimming for most of his life. Last summer while he was working at the local water park Schlitterbahn of Texas,

Ben jumped into a dangerous section of the Comal River and pulled a man to safety.

Ben did not even notice the injury he had sustained when his foot was caught in some rocks; he simply pulled it free and continued with his mission. It was not until after he pulled the man to safety that he realized that he had broken his own leg in this heroic deed.

Ben was aware of the dangers that would come with being a deep water lifeguard, but credited his Boy Scout life guarding classes and Schlitterbahn training classes with enabling him with the skills necessary for this rescue.

This notable act of courage demonstrates Ben's desire to help others, which will come in handy for Ben's aspirations to enter the Naval Academy in Annapolis after graduation. And to eventually reach his goal of flying helicopters.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad I had this opportunity to recognize the act of bravery and determination of Ben Moyer.

CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL  
PEACE CORP WEEK

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 10, 2005*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 44th Anniversary of the Peace Corp and to also recognize National Peace Corp Week, which was officially celebrated February 28 to March 6, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, in 1961, President John F. Kennedy courageously challenged American citizens during his inauguration speech to "ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man." This, along with a speech then Senator Kennedy gave in October 1960 to the graduating students of the University of Michigan, daring them to be agents of peace and freedom by living and working abroad, became the guiding principles of what the Peace Corp has become today.

In countries where poverty is rampant and development lacking, American volunteers, through the work of the Peace Corp, have helped bring medicine to the sick, education to the illiterate, and skills training to the poor. American Peace Corp volunteers accomplish this by living two years of their lives away from their family, away from their loved ones among the people who need their help the most. They are there in the morning, when the farm needs irrigation; during the day, when the children need guidance; and at night, when the community comes together to share the day's experiences. They are there not only as volunteers, but also as advocates and friends.

Mr. Speaker, because of these dedicated and compassionate young men and women and because of their desire to promote equality and knowledge among those less fortunate, the volunteers of the Peace Corp have helped to build a positive image of America around the world, even during some of the most trying times in our nation's foreign policies. As ambassadors of American ideals, they have allowed nations around the globe to gain a better understanding of our country, and have in

turn taught us about the cultures and practices of other nations.

As current Peace Corp volunteers, scattered over 72 countries, carry on the legacy of those before them, I stand here today to applaud all the progress and achievements the Peace Corp has accomplished to date.

On the 44th Anniversary of this uniquely American institution, I urge the volunteers of the Peace Corp to remember their responsibility to the world and to the nation they represent. I urge them to maintain the idealism that brought them to countries such as Albania, Niger, El Salvador, Uzbekistan, and East Timor. And in return, I ask my colleagues to help promote the same ideals of peace and freedom within our Nation.

Let us not forget the poor and the unfortunate inside and outside our borders, let us not forget the underprivileged, and let us continue to fight for equality for all.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF ROTARY INTER-  
NATIONAL

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 10, 2005*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Rotary International, the world's first service club, and to mark the 52nd year of the Rotary Club of Great Neck.

Since their establishment on February 23, 1905, by Paul P. Harris, the members of Rotary International have been completely dedicated to fulfilling the goal of their motto: service above self. Over the past 100 years, Rotarians have been providing humanitarian services in communities, workplaces, and throughout the world. In doing so, Rotarians have developed numerous community service projects that assist communities in responding to the critical issues they face, including hunger, poverty, illiteracy, vocational and career development, the environment, and protecting at risk children.

The popularity of Rotary International has quickly spread throughout the world, with clubs forming across the United States and on six continents. Currently, there are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians who belong to more than 31,000 Rotary clubs in 166 different countries.

The Rotary Club of Great Neck was chartered in 1953, and since then their members have been very active in local and international humanitarian projects. Each November, the Rotary Club of Great Neck holds a Thanksgiving Turkey Drive, where volunteers pack more than 26 tons of food into complete Thanksgiving dinners and distribute them to needy families in the New York metropolitan area. The Great Neck club is also very active in the Gift of Life Program, which provides life saving open-heart surgery to needy children across the world, at no cost to them or their families. Great Neck Rotarians also work with and mentor local students on a weekly basis, teaching them about the joys of giving back to the community and assisting the students with their own service projects.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Rotary International, the Rotary Club of Great Neck, and Rotarians across the world for their continued and dedicated service. These fine men and women selflessly volunteer their time to help make our world a better place, and their contributions are immeasurable. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in honoring Rotary International as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

THE SCIENCE OF FREEZING'S  
BENEFITS FOR FOOD SAFETY

**HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 10, 2005*

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the hope that a scientific review article may spur research that could benefit public health. Specifically, Douglas L. Archer, Ph.D. authored a paper titled, "Freezing: An underutilized food safety technology?" which was published in the January 15, 2004, International Journal of Food Microbiology.

The article has attracted attention over the past year, including a presentation today by Dr. Archer for the House Frozen Food Caucus, of which I am co-chairman. I would like to submit for the record the abstract of Dr. Archer's article, and emphasize its conclusion: "Through research, it seems possible that freezing may in the future be used to reliably reduce populations of food-borne pathogens as well as to preserve foods."

Mr. Speaker, I call this article and this opportunity for improving public health to the attention of my colleagues and to the research community.

[From the International Journal of Food Microbiology, 2004]

FREEZING: AN UNDERUTILIZED FOOD SAFETY  
TECHNOLOGY?

(By Douglas L. Archer)

Freezing is an ancient technology for preserving foods. Freezing halts the activities of spoilage microorganisms in and on foods and can preserve some microorganisms for long periods of time. Frozen foods have an excellent overall safety record. The few outbreaks of food-borne illness associated with frozen foods indicate that some, but not all human pathogens are killed by commercial freezing processes. Freezing kills microorganisms by physical and chemical effects and possibly through induced genetic changes. Research is needed to better understand the physical and chemical interactions of various food matrices with the microbial cell during freezing and holding at frozen temperatures. The literature suggests that many pathogenic microorganisms may be sublethally injured by freezing, so research should be done to determine how to prevent injured cells from resuscitating and becoming infectious. Studies on the genetics of microbial stress suggest that the induction of resistance to specific stresses may be counteracted by, for example, simple chemicals. Research is needed to better understand how resistance to the lethal enact of freezing is induced in human pathogens and means by which it can be counteracted in specific foods. Through research, it seems possible that freezing may in the future be used to reliably reduce populations of food-borne pathogens as well as to preserve foods.