

The World Health Organization estimates that 50,000–100,000 new cases of obstetric fistula develop each year, adding to the estimated 2 million current cases, with most cases occurring in poor communities in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia where access to maternal and obstetric care is limited.

Fortunately, there is hope. This condition is almost entirely preventable. Prevention efforts include medical interventions such as skilled attendance present during labor and childbirth, providing access to family planning, and emergency obstetric care for women who develop childbirth complications as well as social interventions such as delaying early marriage and educating and empowering young women.

This condition also is treatable in up to 90 percent of cases, costing an average of \$300 for repair. The treatment requires a specially trained surgeon and support staff, and access to an operating theater and to attentive post-operative care.

This bill supports a comprehensive approach to end obstetric fistula—prevention to eliminate occurrences, treatment to repair those women who already suffer, and rehabilitation to help those recovering fully heal and reenter society. It focuses on efforts to build local capacity and improve national systems to prevent and treat obstetric fistula.

Women are fundamental to ensuring the health of their children and other family members.

Obstetric fistula is devastating; but doesn't have to be life-shattering. With our bill, we can provide hope and a healthy future. I urge my colleagues to support the Obstetric Fistula Prevention, Treatment, Hope, and Dignity Restoration Act of 2010.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LAWRENCE A. RUBIN—FATHER OF THE MACKINAC BRIDGE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a true Michigan legend, Lawrence A. Rubin, the father of the Mackinac Bridge. Through his hard work and unbridled passion, Larry was at the heart of funding and building the Mackinac Bridge. It was with a heavy heart that I learned of his passing on May 11 at the age of 97, but I know that Larry's spirit will live on each time someone makes their first trip across that five mile expanse of concrete and steel suspended over the sparkling blue waters of the straits separating Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

Although he was born December 7, 1912 in the suburbs of Boston, Massachusetts, we Michigananders count Larry as one of our own. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1934 with a degree in business. In addition to his studies, Larry played on Michigan's football team serving as a backup to future President Gerald Ford. After graduating, Larry opened an advertising agency and held several transportation focused positions before being appointed as Executive Secretary of the Mackinac Bridge Authority in 1950.

The building of the Mackinac Bridge was by no means non-controversial, and Larry was a key player in negotiating both the funding and construction phases of this expensive and expansive project. He not only attracted investors to purchase the bonds needed to fund construction of the bridge, but he also worked to make sure those bonds were repaid.

Larry's vision for the Mackinac Bridge extended beyond simply making transportation between Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas more convenient. From the beginning he recognized its potential to draw vacationers and tourists to the area. At five miles from shore to shore, it was the longest suspension bridge in the world in 1955 with 46-story tall towers stretching to the sky. Whether driving in daylight over the churning waters of the Straits of Mackinac or under the illumination of its thousands of lights at night, the trip across the Mackinac Bridge is a captivating experience.

One of the best known traditions of the Mackinac Bridge is the Labor Day Bridge Walk. This too can be traced to Larry, who organized the first Bridge Walk in June, 1958. The following year the Mackinac Bridge Walk was moved to Labor Day weekend. Larry's talent for accomplishing big things was again recognized—the Bridge Walk has grown from 68 participants its first year to an average of 50,000–65,000 participants.

Larry may have officially retired from the Bridge Authority in 1983, but even in retirement he continued his involvement with the bridge, writing two books about the Mighty Mac, participating each year in the Labor Day Bridge Walk and even building his home overlooking the straits to allow him to see his beloved bridge each and every day.

It was Larry's unflinching energy that ensured the success not only of the Mackinac Bridge, but in each endeavor he set out to do. He was active in the St. Ignace community, serving as director of the Upper Peninsula Travel and Recreation Association, chairman of the Mackinac Straits Hospital board and as a founder and board member of the local library. He was an avid downhill skier, and could be found hitting the slopes until he was 90.

Madam Speaker, it is difficult to envision how the Mackinac Bridge would exist today without the drive and the vision of Larry Rubin. The bridge is a lasting symbol of a unified Michigan and for this we owe our heartfelt thanks and Michigan pride to Larry. With his passing, Michigan has lost an icon and our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Elma and their family. Therefore Madam Speaker, I ask that you, and all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, join me in honoring the life and accomplishments of Lawrence A. Rubin—the great champion and father of the Mackinac Bridge.

DEKALB COUNTY VETERANS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker: Whereas, DeKalb County serves as home for many of our Veterans that have served in the United States Military; and

Whereas, the day-to-day operations of our government on a local, state and federal level impact the lives of our Veterans either directly or indirectly; and

Whereas, our beloved county continues to rely on the wisdom and suggestions from the DeKalb County Veterans Affairs Advisory Board members to address concerns and issues of our military community; and

Whereas, this unique board has given of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to preserve integrity, advocate for our enlisted service personnel and veterans; and

Whereas, the DeKalb County Veterans Affairs Advisory Board continues to serve our county by being involved in the planning, organizing and conducting of ceremonies that commemorate and recognize those who served our country in the United States military; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the DeKalb County Veterans Affairs Advisory Board for their outstanding service to our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim May 24, 2010, as DeKalb County Veterans Affairs Advisory Board Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO THE BAKERSFIELD NATIONAL CEMETERY

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bakersfield National Cemetery located in Kern County, California. The Bakersfield National Cemetery opened in July of last year and we will all be honoring veterans at the cemetery's first Memorial Day this weekend. This cemetery will serve as a final resting place for our veterans and their family members for many years to come.

The Bakersfield National Cemetery covers more than five hundred acres and includes full-casket gravesites, pre-placed crypts, in-ground cremation sites and columbarium niches. Additionally, the grounds will include a public information center, a maintenance complex, a flag assembly area, a memorial walkway, a committal service shelter, as well as interment areas, plus irrigation and support facilities that will keep the grounds pristine as the final resting place of many of our heroes from the Central Valley of California who have served and sacrificed for our country.

It is of the utmost importance that the brave men and women who keep us safe be honored. This cemetery provides solace to the families of service personnel; for others, it will serve as a reminder of the sacrifice that patriots have made, and will continue to make, on behalf of our nation.

The Bakersfield National Cemetery is a monument not only to the sacrifice of our local veterans, but also to Kern County's unending commitment to those who serve, and the cause of freedom for all. The Bakersfield National Cemetery is a small token of appreciation for our men and women in uniform who