

provide for the collection of data with respect to the number of nonimmigrations who remain in the United States after the expiration of the period of stay authorized by the Attorney General:

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, the issue before us today is not a question of illegal immigration, there is no threat of an impending wave of illegal Greek or Portuguese immigration to the United States.

The question before us is one of fairness. It is a question of doing what is right by two countries who are our allies, our friends and our business partners. It is fair and right to extend the same rights to Greece and Portugal that we do to 25 other nations—the right to enter the U.S. freely for travel and business.

Prior to the passage of the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform Act, Greece and Portugal would have been admitted to the Visa Waiver Program because their visa refusal rates are below three percent.

Concern about illegal immigration is misplaced and fails to recognize that the Greek and Portuguese economies are strong and unemployment rates are among the lowest in Europe—there is little incentive for people to leave their enchanting countries for ours.

Moreover, immigration to the United States from those countries is no greater than U.S. immigration to Greece and Portugal.

Finally, both of these communities have made enormous contributions to our country. In my district, the Portuguese American community has transformed part of New Jersey's great cities—Newark, Elizabeth, and Perth Amboy. And the Greek community's influence has been equally remarkable.

We need to level the playing field and let the Portuguese and Greek people know that the United States welcomes them as tourists and business travelers, as we do their other European counterparts.

CONFIDENCE IN THE FAMILY ACT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, there now exists a serious defect in our Federal criminal and civil law and procedures that has unfortunately been brought into focus by Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's investigation of the President. Under Federal law and the law of most States, children can be compelled to testify against their parents, and parents against their children. Although most prosecutors refrain from subjecting a family to this terrible situation, it can and does occur. I have long believed that parents and their children should be shielded from this trauma, and that doing so would not do significant damage to the administration of justice.

Therefore, today I am introducing a bill, the Confidence in the Family Act, to ensure that parents and children cannot be compelled to testify against one another, and that confidential communications between parents and children will be protected. These privileges would be similar to the privileges provided to spouses under current Federal law, and would be developed by the Federal courts in light of the common law, reason, and experience.

Under current law a mother can be given the choice of providing testimony that reveals

her daughter's most personal confidences, or go to jail herself. A child can be put on the witness stand and forced to reveal personal discussions with his Dad. It does not matter if this testimony relates to the most private confidences that parents and children often share in the course of seeking comfort, support, or advice.

The damage that such an experience can cause parents, children, and familial relationships is readily apparent, and worthy of our concern.

It is not at all clear that forcing parents and children to testify against each other provides great access to truth and justice. When a potential witness is put into such a predicament, they face what legal scholars refer to as the cruel "trilemma." The witness has three choices: they may testify truthfully, they may testify and lie, or they may refuse to testify and risk contempt charges and imprisonment. Among these options, testifying falsely may often be the most appealing. The other choices certainly have serious societal repercussions.

Most jurisdictions recognize privileges for individuals in certain relationships (e.g., husband-wife, lawyer-client, psychiatrist-patient) to refrain from testifying. Surely, the confidences shared between a mother and daughter deserve at least as much respect as those between psychiatrists and patients. I believe that the law should recognize the special nature of the relationship between a parent and child, and that is the basis for this legislation.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in support of this important decision.

PERSIAN GULF VETERANS HEALTH CARE EXTENSION ACT OF 1998 H.R. 3571

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to extend the period that Gulf War veterans with undiagnosed illnesses will be able to receive Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care. This measure will extend the authority for VA to provide treatment from December 31, 1998 until December 31, 2001. This extension makes the timeline for health care eligibility consistent with the presumptive period the Secretary of Veterans Affairs defined for compensation for disabilities due to undiagnosed illnesses.

More than a year ago, I encouraged VA to extend the presumptive period for compensation because no one could explain why so many veterans had health care problems following their military service in the Persian Gulf. Former VA Secretary Jesse Brown justified the extension of the presumptive period by stating that no one knows why so many veterans are still sick—seven years after serving in the Southwest Asian theater. Of the almost 700,000 individuals who served in the Persian Gulf, about 65,000 veterans have signed onto the VA's Persian Gulf Registry and about 19,000 have registered for DOD's Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program. VA's latest Gulf War Veteran's Statistics indicate that, of those veterans on VA's registry, about 11% have undiagnosed illnesses. In re-

sponse to the continuing health care problems reported by these veterans, Congress enacted legislation last year to require VA to develop innovative treatment programs for these veterans and to document the effectiveness of these programs in treating veterans. I believe the large number of veterans still suffering demonstrates the need for continuing to provide VA health care services for undiagnosed illnesses.

The Persian Gulf Veterans Health Care Extension Act of 1998 follows my introduction of H.R. 3279, the Persian Gulf Veterans Act of 1998. H.R. 3279 establishes a permanent process for awarding compensation for conditions presumed to be service-connected by virtue of Gulf War service. It also addresses the need for research in many areas, including defining effective health care treatments for those who have vague or undiagnosed symptoms and investigating emerging technologies to assess exposure to various hazards and agents. The legislation would also require VA and DOD to develop information resources, and mandate VA and DOD to document their outreach programs for veterans and active duty military members.

Our nation must continued to respond to Persian Gulf veterans' need for a complete range of benefits. Veterans still want to know why they are sick, but also need health care that can alleviate their pain and compensation to ensure that the effects of their illnesses do not impoverish them and their families. Continuing VA's authority to deliver health care benefits for conditions resulting from undiagnosed illnesses is critical to ensuring that Persian Gulf veterans get the services they still need. It is essential to continue to provide health care treatment to veterans as we continue to seek answers about the cause of their conditions.

FAIRNESS FOR SMALL BUSINESS AND EMPLOYEES ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3246) to assist small businesses and labor organizations in defending themselves against government bureaucracy; to ensure that employees entitled to reinstatement get their jobs back quickly; to protect the right of employers to have a hearing to present their case in certain representation cases; and to prevent the use of the National Labor Relations Act for the purpose of disrupting or inflicting economic harm on employers.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this legislation, which attempts to silence workers and diminish their ability to stand against discrimination in the workplace.

This bill prevents employees the opportunity to bargain or to protect their rights in the workplace. The bill subjects workers to an unreasonable and unjust test of motivation in order to gain employment, and will intimidate employees into giving up their right to join a union.

We currently have established laws to protect employers from workers performing illegal

activities in the workplace. Union organizing is not an illegal activity. This bill would overturn a unanimous Supreme Court decision which provided that a union organizer should be treated as an employee as long as union organizing does not interfere with his or her service to the employer. This bill singles out the National Labor Relations Board for the unreasonable burden of paying all attorney's fees of all prevailing parties in judicial proceedings, regardless of whether the boards position was justified.

Mr. Speaker, this is not fairness for employees. This is an unfair gag on working people. I urge my colleagues to oppose this harmful legislation.

RAISING THE AWARENESS OF FIBROMYALGIA

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise the awareness of a debilitating illness that currently affects more than five million Americans—fibromyalgia.

Fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS) is a chronic, widespread musculoskeletal pain and fatigue disorder that afflicts two percent of the general population. There is no known cause for FMS, a disease whose symptoms—in addition to the pain and fatigue—include chronic headaches, cognitive or memory impairments, and decreased endurance. FMS can be as disabling as rheumatoid arthritis, and while 24 percent of rheumatoid arthritis sufferers are classified as disabled, FMS is not recognized in the Social Security Disability Law.

A majority of FMS patients are female, and symptoms may begin in young, school-aged children. The average person spends five years and thousands of dollars in medical bills just to receive a diagnosis—all because few physicians possess the education to diagnose and treat FMS. In fact, prior to diagnosis, often 60 percent of patients with FMS undergo costly and unsuccessful surgeries. Tragically, even with a diagnosis there is no single therapeutic agent capable of controlling the symptoms of FMS.

Mr. Speaker, it is overwhelmingly apparent that awareness of this disease must be increased so as to ease the suffering of millions of Americans. Research funding for Fibromyalgia at the National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin disease measured out to only 0.6 percent of their annual budget in 1996. Unfortunately, very little grant money is awarded because awareness of this problem is so low. The time has come to address this obstacle so that the proper attention can finally be given to fibromyalgia sufferers. I challenge the medical and research communities to work toward increasing awareness and promoting treatments for fibromyalgia.

TOWN OF ONONDAGA CELEBRATES BICENTENNIAL

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, as a newly born nation expanded and grew two centuries ago, townships in America sprouted amidst the excitement of freedom and despite great obstacles. Such was the founding experience of my home town, the Town of Onondaga, which this week celebrates its 200th Birthday.

Although many of the festivities will occur this summer, culminating with a Bicentennial Parade on August 15, many proud residents are focused now on the Annual Dinner Dance April 4.

On behalf of our forefathers and generations to follow, I would like to thank the entire Town of Onondaga Bicentennial Committee for their important and historic work. I would ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these civic leaders for their dedication to preserving the history which guides us into the future.

They are: L. Jane Tracy, town historian and co-chair; Thomas Andino, town supervisor and co-chair; Charles Petrie; David and Cathy Hintz; Kenneth Pienkowski; Gwynn Morey; Beatrice Malfitano, dinner dance chair; Mr. and Mrs. Willie Royal; Bonnie Romano; Dr. Gary Livent; Suzanne Belle; Mary Ryan; Donald Hamilton; Dorothea Schmitz; Leo Kelly; Dr. Arthur Dube; Margaret Boyd; Sherman V. Saunders; Mary Nowyj; Cara Burton; Jeff Martin; Mr. and Mrs. Michael Keegan; and Daniel Willis.

On a related note, I am very proud to be one of three Onondaga residents in town history to have represented Central New York in Congress. The others included my father, William F. Walsh, and one of the first settlers, James Geddes, who also served as Town Supervisor in 1799.

I am pleased also to mark this memorable time for all Town of Onondaga families in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on this date, forever preserving this memorable time.

Together, we in the Town of Onondaga thank God for our freedom, our country and our homes—just as we pray that we will impress on the next generation the importance of what the Founders of our nation and our town accomplished and the magnitude of the task. Only from history will we learn.

IN HONOR OF THE FIFTEENTH AN- NIVERSARY OF THE NAM VETS ASSOCIATION OF THE CAPE AND ISLANDS, INC.

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 1998

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw my colleagues' attention to a remarkable institution located in my Congressional District, that through years of hard work and sacrifice has become one of the premier social service centers for Vietnam-era veterans in the country.

For the past fifteen years, the Nam Vets Association of the Cape and Islands has pro-

vided a haven in Hyannis, Massachusetts for the veterans throughout our region. I would like to recount the story of how this organization was created by a handful of men, and how it has since affected so many lives.

In 1983, after viewing the unveiling of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, five Vietnam vets from Cape Cod decided to create an organization to address the human service needs of veterans at home. The five leased a small room staffed by a single volunteer to provide peer counseling. Today, the association purchased its own building and developed it into a well-equipped, one-stop Veterans Service Center that distributes over 55,000 meals annually from its food pantry, and provides over 1,300 units of social services a month.

The Nam Vets Association stepped in to provide desperately needed services that the state was not equipped to supply. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts granted Nam Vets a contract to oversee the delivery of these services but required a \$10,000 balance in the association's account before disbursing any funds. Short on cash, but not on valor, James Michael Trainor, then the group's president, mortgaged his own home to obtain the funds to ensure that the necessary care would be delivered to Cape and Islands vets.

The Nam Vets have also struggled through times when there was no state support. When the Commonwealth rescinded funding due to state budget constraints, the association's Board of Directors, made personal loans to cover staff salaries and maintain operations without interruption.

Over the past decade and a half, the Nam Vets Association has opened its doors to all local veterans. As the executive director John Eastman said, "Let no generation of veterans ever forget another generation of veterans." The Outreach Center has become a major health care facility—providing prescription drugs, psychiatric diagnosis, and follow-up counseling. For years, the Center was the only place on the Cape and Islands where these types of services were made available to veterans.

The Nam Vets have also become deeply involved in addressing the problem of adequate housing by providing assistance to vets and their families in finding affordable shelter. In 1993, working with the Barnstable Housing Authority, Nam Vets won a HUD Section 8 Single Room Occupancy Program grant to address the needs of the area's single homeless vets. The structure that became the SRO is affectionately known as "The Homestead" and was originally intended to house 40 to 60 homeless veterans. Since 1994 it has processed over 300 applications. The Nam Vets Association also participates in the VA's Homeless Provider Program which markets foreclosed properties at a discount to non profit agencies. Nam Vets has successfully found two homes for needy families through this program and is currently looking for other affordable homes to meet demand.

The Vietnam Veterans of America Convention recently acknowledged something I have known all along, that the Nam Vets Association is worthy of national attention. The Convention honored the Nam Vets with the 1997 Community Service Chapter of the Year award for their outstanding commitment and for the variety of the services they provide to the community.