

West Liberty Classical Academy is a magnet middle school located on the South side of Pittsburgh. Using a team approach, the staff plans interdisciplinary lessons like Classical Studies, African-American history, and Contemporary Crafts. They also created an 8th period every Wednesday so that students could participate in the band and orchestra ensemble, or choose among a journalism program, the science club, the garden club, the hiking club, creative writing lessons, or the drama club. The students also participate in School-to-Work activities in which they visit senior citizen centers, a neighborhood school for handicapped children, several area elementary schools.

Parents are an integral part of the learning experience at West Liberty. A "Computer Night Live" gives parents and students the opportunity to learn to use computers. Parents and children can also work on their math skills during "Family Math Night."

Thanks to the effort of teachers, students, administrator, and parents, West Liberty provides a quality learning experience while living up to its school motto, "Safe and Secure." I commend West Liberty Classical Academy and the Pittsburgh Public School System for their accomplishments.

THE FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1998, legislation to streamline and improve the federal grant process.

I'm sure all of us have heard from state and local governments or non-profit organizations in our districts who have grown frustrated with the federal grant application process. Most recently, I have heard concerns express from around the country about the implementation of the Drug-Free Communities Act, legislation I sponsored that was enacted last year. Anyone who has attempted to apply for a federal grant has grown frustrated by the miles of red tape, regulations and duplicative procedures they encounter. Applying for the grant is just the beginning of the problem—the administrative and reporting requirements attached to certain grants often make potential recipients wonder whether to apply for funding in the first place.

The legislation we have introduced addresses these concerns. It requires relevant Federal agencies, with oversight from OMB, to develop plans within 18 months that do the following: streamline application, administrative, and reporting requirements; develop a uniform application (or set of applications) for related programs; develop and expand the use of electronic applications and reporting via the Internet; demonstrate interagency coordination in simplifying requirements for cross-cutting programs; and set annual goals to further the purposes of the Act.

Agencies would consult with outside parties in the development of the plans. Plans and follow-up annual reports would be submitted to

Congress and the Director of OMB and could be included as part of other management reports required under law.

In addition to overseeing and coordinating agency activities, OMB would be responsible for developing common rules that cut across program and agency lines by creating a release form that allows grant information to be shared by programs. The Act sunsets in five years and the National Academy for Public Administrators (NAPA) would submit an evaluation of the Act's effectiveness just prior to its sunset.

The bill builds on past efforts to improve program performance through the Government Performance Results Act and to reduce federal burdens through the Paperwork Reduction Act and Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. It has been endorsed by state and local organizations such as the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislators, the National Association of Counties, and the National League of Cities. Identical legislation, sponsored by Senators GLENN and THOMPSON, was recently reported out of the Senate Government Affairs Committee.

This is a good government measure that will make it easier to interact with our federal government, and result in cost savings for grant applicants and federal agencies.

I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. HOYER, and the other original cosponsors for joining me in this bipartisan effort and I encourage my colleagues to support the bill.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW JERSEY FIREMEN'S HOME, BOONTON, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the New Jersey Firemen's Home located in Boonton, New Jersey on the occasion of their 100th anniversary. This anniversary marks the culmination of a long, proud history of providing housing for retired, disabled and indigent firefighters of all ages in the State of New Jersey.

The firefighter's home was the vision of Bird Spencer, President of the New Jersey Firemen's Association. A couple of years before the turn of the century, at the nineteenth annual New Jersey State Firemen's Association convention, President Bird Spencer addressed the need of suitable housing for the state's firemen. He promised that he would make an effort to obtain legislation for the purchase and building of such a place.

Early records indicate that on April 2, 1898 the New Jersey Firemen's Home was incorporated by the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly and on June 27, 1898 the Firemen's Home was purchased.

On June 23, 1900, President Bird Spencer's promise was realized as the doors of the New Jersey Firemen's Home were officially opened during a dedication ceremony attended by Governor Voorhees. In September 22, 1900, the first two New Jersey firemen from Paterson, New Jersey entered the home as the first residents.

For over a century the Firemen's Home has offered housing for any paid or volunteer firefighter who has served at least one year on a department, or who was injured while on duty. Since its inception, the New Jersey Firemen's Home has housed approximately 1,775 men. Some have been guests others have been long-time residents. Today the home is operated by a twenty-three member board and the staff is made up of one or two firefighters from each county in the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, throughout its long history, the New Jersey Firemen's Home has provided a place to live for retired and injured firefighters from across the state. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, to please join me in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the New Jersey Firemen's Home.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centennial Anniversary of the City of Port Arthur, Texas and request that the following Proclamation be made a part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas Arthur E. Stilwell of Rochester, New York founded the City of Port Arthur on the western shoreline of Lake Sabine in 1898, and

Whereas the City of Port Arthur has grown and developed into a major center of petrochemical manufacturing, shipping, and offshore oil exploration, and

Whereas the City of Port Arthur has been home to such industrial giants of the 20th Century such as Texaco, Inc., the Gulf Oil Company, Chevron Companies, Fina Oil and Chemical Corporation, Clark Manufacturing Corporation, Star Enterprise, Huntsman Corporation, Equistar Corporation, and

Whereas the City of Port Arthur has served not only the industrial and consumer needs of the United States and the world, it has also contributed significantly to the defense of the nation in World Wars I and II and other international conflicts by providing men and women as well as ship construction, merchant marine services, and a sea of petroleum products necessary to win those wars, and

Whereas the City of Port Arthur has been home to some of the most colorful people of the 20th Century including former Texas Governor Allan Shivers, Oscar award winner Leach Rhodes, former President of the American Medical Association Daniel "Stormy" Johnson, NFL Coach Jimmy Johnson, rock icon Janis Joplin, abstract expressionist Robert Rauschenberg, motion picture actress from Hollywood's Golden Era Evelyn Keyes, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Lucian Adams, Texas businessman and Presidential appointee Mach Hannah, rhythm and blues great Ivory Joe Hunter, and hundreds more who have contributed not only to life in this community, but persons whose contributions are recognized not only to life in this community, but persons whose contributions are recognized throughout Texas, the nation and around the world.

Now therefore be it resolved that the City of Port Arthur, a progressive community proud of its multi-cultural heritage of 60,000

citizens, is hereby recognized on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

NATIONAL BONE MARROW REGISTRY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1998

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. YOUNG. of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD, this statement which should have followed my remarks in the House yesterday during Consideration of H.R. 2202, to Reauthorize the National Bone Marrow Donor Registry. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure and thank the Chairman of the Commerce Committee, Mr. BILEY, and the Health Subcommittee Chairman, Mr. BILIRAKIS, for their efforts to help bring this legislation reauthorizing the lifesaving work of the National Marrow Donor Program to the floor for consideration.

H.R. 2202 will guide the National Marrow Donor Program into the next century by reauthorizing the program's core function of maintaining a bone marrow donor registry, strengthening efforts to increase minority recruitment, and improving patient and donor advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, with 218 cosponsors this bill enjoys the broad bipartisan support of our colleagues, as well as the support of the National Marrow Donor Program, the American Red Cross, the American Association of Blood Banks, the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

The National Bone Marrow Donor Registry is an outstanding program that was created by the Congress to give hope to families where none would have otherwise existed. Since its establishment a little more than 10 years ago, this program has given life to thousands of people here and around the world.

It was on April 2, 1987 that I first testified before the House Commerce Committee on this issue. That was very early in my search for a home for a national bone marrow registry. In fact, that was very early in my education on the many issues that surrounded bone marrow transplantation. What I knew at the time, though, was that without a national registry, men, women, and children with leukemia and other fatal blood disorders would continue to die because there was no way to find unrelated marrow donors for them.

What I remember from that hearing 11 years ago was that there was nowhere within the Department of Health and Human Services to call home for a national registry. In fact, the Director of the National Institutes of Health testified after me that day saying there was no way that a national registry of unrelated volunteer donors would ever succeed. He told the Committee we would never find more than 50,000 people willing to take the simple blood test required to enter such a registry.

Mr. Speaker, while I already felt personally challenged to do something about creating a national registry, those remarks that day gave me the final incentive I needed to do all within my power to make this program a success.

A little over six months after that hearing, with a small appropriation I requested for the

United States Navy, we activated National Marrow Donor Program. And on my birthday, December 16, 1987, an airplane took off from a snowy airfield in Milwaukee to deliver the first bone marrow to a dying child from North Carolina.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I proudly report to you that we proved those skeptics wrong. We now have a national registry of 3,134,601 people willing to donate their bone marrow to save a life. In addition, our national registry is linked with 14 other similar registries around the world to allow us to ship bone marrow across the oceans to save lives.

There are so many heroes that have made this program such a success that my time today does not allow me to name them all. There are my colleagues in the House and Senate who were willing to take a chance and support this program when the so-called experts said it couldn't be done. A number of our colleagues have been personally touched by the success of this program when they were called to donate bone marrow or when one or family members received the tragic news that they would die without a bone marrow transplantation.

There are many other heroes, some such as Admiral Bud Zumwalt. It was Admiral Zumwalt that I bumped into in the early months of 1987 when he was working the halls of Congress searching for the same thing as I was, a home for this national registry. Together we joined as a team with Dr. Bob Graves, a cattle rancher from Colorado, Dr. John Hansen, a rising young physician and researcher from Seattle, and Captain Bob Hartzman, a Navy doctor from Bethesda. Together we found a willing partner in the United States Navy whose Surgeon General said he would give us a federal home for this great national program.

Then Mr. Speaker, there are the countless heroes around our nation who are the volunteers willing to be a part of the national registry and the patients who have undergone bone marrow transplants and have helped us learn and improve the process with each and every procedure. There are the families who have given us the support and the energy to push ahead. And there are those who have sponsored the thousands upon thousands of recruiting drives all around our nation to help us build such a large and diverse registry.

The result of our work is a program that saves lives every day by matching patients and donors. Few federal programs have been as successful in such a short period of time and it is the involvement of the federal government that has been the key to this success. Prior to our establishment of a national registry, there was only a piecemeal network of independent local registries of all sizes, with very little intercommunication. With the support of Congress, we activated a national registry in September 1987 that now links together more than 98 donor centers, through which donors are recruited and entered into the registry, and 112 transplant centers, which work with the patients to complete the transplants. From a small, fragmented system of individual donor centers was born a true national and international treasure that is the National Marrow Donor Program and links the United States with eight foreign donor centers, 23 foreign transplant centers, and 14 national registries in foreign nations.

With the support of Congress, the United States Navy, and the Department of Health

and Human Services, we have come a long way these past 11 years, but there is still a ways to go. With the number of bone marrow transplants using unrelated donors still increasing dramatically from year to year, it is obvious that we must continue to grow the size of the registry to save lives and give the largest number of children and adults the best possible opportunity to find a matched donor. While the likelihood of a patient identifying a fully matched unrelated donor has increased dramatically from 30 percent in 1989, to nearly 80 percent today, our continued commitment can help bring that figure closer and closer to 100 percent.

Much of the federal support we provide each year is for donor recruitment and education activities. With this federal support, we are maintaining the registry's remarkable rate of growth. Last year the donor rolls increased 17 percent by a total of more than 450,000.

Still, despite all of our good work, we have a ways to go to ensure that all ethnic groups have the best possible chance of finding a matched donor. The federal resources we began earmarking for minority recruitment beginning in 1991 have made a tremendous difference in the rate at which we have been able to increase minority participation in the program. In fact, the number of minority donors in the national registry have increased by 140 percent in the past four years, a rate far greater than the growth of the overall registry. As a result, there has been a corresponding 140 percent increase in the number of minority patients receiving life-saving transplants over the past four years. More minority patients received transplants last year than in the program's first seven years combined.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said time and time again, the key to the success of the National Marrow Donor Program is people—people who are willing to save a life by donating a small amount of their bone marrow. Unfortunately, people alone have not made this program the success that it is today. Without the federal support Congress has provided the National Marrow Donor Program over the past 11 years, we would still have a fragmented network of donor centers each sponsoring bake sales and other fund raising drives to pay for the testing of donors. Without federal support, it would be virtually impossible to maintain, let alone continue to increase the donor rolls of the national registry. With an attrition rate of just 5 percent, the national program will have to recruit more than 150,000 donors per year just to maintain the current size of the national registry.

Suffering the greatest from any reduction in our federal support for this program, would be the minority groups that we are working so hard to recruit and continue to be underrepresented in the national registry.

Our efforts here and now must build on our success, taking what we have learned since the program's establishment and applying this to improve our future. Likewise, we must recognize that we have learned of ways in which the program could do a better job. This is the goal of H.R. 2202.

The program's success is grounded in the more than 3 million donors who have volunteered to donate their bone marrow, in the coordinated system of donor, transplant and recruiting centers that has grown around the registry, and in the increased awareness of bone marrow transplantation. My legislation