

Washington Report

By Congressman JAMES T. EROYHILL

In a significant action last week, the House passed legislation to establish a national crusade to conquer cancer.

In previous newsletters, I have outlined the serious need for a bill that would commit additional Federal resources to finding a House of Representatives, in response to strong public demand, passed a bill that would set a budget of \$1.5 billion over a three-year period for this purpose and would accelerate the existing program under the National Institutes of Health. The bill would retain the present National Cancer Institute within NIH, rather than establish it as a separate agency, as had been provided in the Senate version of this bill.

Special notice was taken of the need to coordinate the diverse research programs that are currently being undertaken in the cancer field. The National Institute of Health has a world-wide reputation as a leader in biomedical research, and leading scientists in the cancer field recommended during committee hearing on this bill that the national cancer crusade be retained within NIH.

The necessity of making grants to local cancer research facilities would be expedited. It is estimated that this accelerated procedure would affect approximately 40 percent of all grant applications and make possible their speedier approval.

Cancer control programs would receive a three-year budget of \$90 million. These programs on the State local levels would enable a comprehensive testing program for early cancer detection, the training of additional cancer specialists, and the gathering of cancer statistics to better inform the medical scientific community of the progress being made in this vital area.

I have actively supported this legislation both in the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, of which I am a member, and on the House floor. Faced with the realization that 20 percent of our population may one day be confronted with this disease, it is time that the Congress make a strong national commitment to increase funds toward finding a cure.

The Senate has also passed a cancer research bill which differs in several respects from the House version. These differences are presently being worked out in a conference committee, and it is my hope that final action can occur in the near future.

vent those receiving from loss or reduction in pension as a result of the increase in Social Security benefits which became effective on January 1, 1971. The cost-of-living increase, computed from the last effective date of a pension increase, would average 6 1/2 percent for veterans and widows.

The pension program is a long-standing Federal program which provides monthly payments to needy veterans who are disabled and who have served in the armed forces during a war-time period. In addition, it provides payments to widows and dependent children of such veterans after their deaths. All payments are based upon the financial need of the veteran and his family. I have always supported this worthwhile program which has assisted so many of our nation's veterans.

The second bill to extend veterans' benefits would provide a cost-of-living increase in payments to survivors of veterans who died as a result of service-incurred disabilities. Under this measure, approximately 176,000 widows would receive a 10 percent increase and 46,000 children would receive a 5 percent increase. The amounts of these increases are computed from the last statutory increase — December 1, 1969 for widows and July 1, 1970 for children. In addition, an average increase of 6 1/2 percent is provided for payments to dependent parents. Approximately 63,500 dependent parents of deceased veterans now receive compensation under this program.

Both bills now go to the Senate for action and it is hoped that final passage will occur before the end of the year. I feel these measures, which are so important to the nation's veterans, should not be delayed.

Huffstickler Aboard "America"

USS AMERICA. — Navy Petty Officer Second Class Charles M. Huffstickler, husband of the former Rhonda Sherrill of Park Lane, Grover, N. C., is serving with Reconnaissance Attack Squadron 13 on board the aircraft carrier USS America with U. S. Sixth fleet in the Mediterranean.

L/Cpl. John Bunch At Camp Lejeune

CAMP LEJEUNE. — Marine Lance Corporal Johnny H. Bunch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kelly A. Bunch of 3009 Margrace Ave., Kings Mountain, N. C., has reported to the Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, for duty with the Second Marine Division's Second Short Party Battalion.



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WERE THE GOOD OLD DAYS — REALLY GOOD?

Nostalgia seems to be the rage these days. There is a great deal of public sentiment for a return to old values, morals and ethics. In many ways this would certainly be good but in the context of good health the golden age is right now.

Man's progress in fighting disease and illness has achieved spectacular results in recent years. Most of the medicines that your doctor is prescribing for you were not even known just a few short years ago. And, everyday we are receiving new drugs that have been approved for public use.

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