

and casualties mounted. As the fighting intensified, Filipino community leaders worked to save lives and countless civilians evacuated from the area with many families sheltering in the mountains.

In a push to gain control of the port at Ormoc, on December 7 infantry regiments of the 77th Division conducted an amphibious landing 3 miles south of Ormoc. In the most intense aerial battle of the Leyte Campaign, allied aircraft dropped 97,000 pounds of munitions on enemy shipping sinking several ships. Over 75 vessels of the Ormoc Attack Group came under constant and intense kamikaze attack. The destroyers *Ward* and *Mahan* were lost in the engagement with several other ships badly damaged. The Battle of Ormoc Bay was the only naval engagement during the war where the enemy brought every type of weapon to bear against the Allies.

The Battle of Ormoc Bay brought terrible destruction and incalculable loss of life. Countless individuals risked their lives to free a nation with thousands making the ultimate sacrifice. Before being able to celebrate the liberation of the Philippines, many Filipinos bravely fought for freedom and suffered tremendous loss throughout the war.

Madam Speaker, we are once again honored to remember all those who sacrificed in the liberation of the Philippines. Their dedication paved the way to victory in the Pacific and provides us an example to which we all strive to live up to. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing these outstanding heroes.

COMMENDING GEORGE MASON
UNIVERSITY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend George Mason University's 50th Anniversary.

In 1957, George Mason College was established as the Northern Virginia branch of the University of Virginia. Mayor John "Jack" Wood and the then-Town of Fairfax were instrumental in acquiring the original 150 acres of land for the Fairfax Campus in 1958. Shortly after, Rector John "Til" Hazel, Jr., helped acquire an additional 421 acres of land to expand the Fairfax Campus in 1969.

Fifteen years after its inception, on April 7, 1972, a contingent from George Mason College met with Governor A. Linwood Holton in Richmond to sign House Bill 210, establishing George Mason University as a free-standing four-year public institution of higher education. George Mason University now operates three campuses in the Commonwealth—including the Fairfax campus that is located in Virginia's 11th District.

George Mason University is home to academically driven students and professors, as well as state-of-the-art facilities and programs. GMU Professor James Buchanan won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1986 and Professor Vernon Smith won the prize in 2002, making them the Commonwealth of Virginia's first two Nobel Memorial Prize recipients. The university achieved R1 "Highest Research Activity" status in 2016, and 2018, from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

GMU has worked to provide opportunities for all and break down the barriers that often keep people from achieving academic success. In 2018, GMU and Northern Virginia Community College created the ADVANCE program, a partnership that assisted students as they transfer from a two-year program to earn a bachelor's degree, helping more than 2,020 students through the pathway program. During the pandemic, 61 percent of GMU students received some form of financial aid, including almost a third of Undergraduates who received Pell Grants. A quarter of GMU's undergraduate students are first-generation college students, and approximately 1 in 12 GMU students are affiliated with the military, including veterans, active-duty personnel, military dependents, reservists, and guardsmen.

George Mason University is the most diverse, fastest growing, and largest public four-year institution in the Commonwealth, serving 39,134 students with close to 11,000 staff and faculty. There are more than 215,900 GMU alumni, including 135,300 currently in Virginia. The hundreds of thousands of alumni are reflective of the 70 percent six-year graduation rate that has little to no disparity on ethnicity or economic status.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending George Mason University on its 50th Anniversary. GMU exemplifies the tremendous success that institutions of higher education can achieve when equity, diversity, and accessibility are of paramount importance.

RECOGNIZING GBS AND CIDP
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of May as GBS CIDP Awareness Month and draw attention to the insidious nature of these terrible diseases.

Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) is an inflammatory disorder of the peripheral nerves outside the brain and spinal cord. GBS is characterized by the rapid onset of numbness, weakness, and often paralysis of the legs, arms, breathing muscles, and face. Paralysis is ascending, meaning that it travels up the limbs from fingers and toes towards the torso. Loss of reflexes, such as the knee jerk, are usually found. Usually, a new case of GBS is admitted to ICU (Intensive Care) to monitor breathing and other body functions until the disease is stabilized. Plasma exchange (a blood "cleansing" procedure) and high dose intravenous immune globulins are often helpful to shorten the course of GBS. The acute phase of GBS typically varies in length from a few days to months. Patient care involves the coordinated efforts of a team such as a neurologist, physiatrist (rehabilitation physician), internist, family physician, physical therapist, occupational therapist, social worker, nurse, and psychologist or psychiatrist. Recovery may occur over six months to two years or longer. A particularly frustrating consequence of GBS is long-term recurrences of fatigue and/or exhaustion as well as abnormal sensations including pain and muscle aches.

Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP) is a rare disorder of

the peripheral nerves characterized by gradually increasing weakness of the legs and, to a lesser extent, the arms. It is the gradual onset as well as the chronic nature of CIDP that differentiates it from GBS. Like GBS, CIDP is caused by damage to the covering of the nerves, called myelin. It can start at any age and in both genders. Weakness occurs over two or more months. Unlike GBS, CIDP is chronic, with symptoms constantly waxing and waning. Left untreated; 30 percent of CIDP patients will progress to wheelchair dependence. Early recognition and treatment can avoid a significant amount of disability. Post-treatment life depends on whether the disease was caught early enough to benefit from treatment options. The gradual onset of CIDP can delay diagnosis by several months or even years, resulting in significant nerve damage that may take several courses of treatment before benefits are seen. The chronic nature of CIDP differentiates long-term care from GBS patients. Adjustments inside the home may need to be made to facilitate a return to normal life.

I call on my colleagues to join me in recognizing May as GBS CIDP Awareness Month. Together we can promote important scientific breakthroughs that improve the lives of individuals and families battling GBS, CIDP and MMN.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
CURRAN SMOLINSKY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2022

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Curran Smolinsky and his service to Virginia's First District and the Nation.

Curran earned his bachelor's degree in Political Science and Government from the University of Mary Washington, a prestigious university in Virginia's First District. As the Captain of the soccer team, Curran helped lead the Eagles to their first Continental Athletic Conference soccer championship in 16 years. Needless to say, Curran was as integral to the Mary Washington team as he was to my staff.

Curran first joined my office as an intern in my office during the summer of 2015. During the summer of 2016, he rejoined my staff and assisted the other interns with integrating into our office. After graduation, Curran worked at Infinity Support Services as a program analyst, but after a call to rejoin our office, Curran gladly accepted. He has been with us for over three years now. During his time serving Virginia's First District, Curran admirably worked as a staff assistant, and quickly climbed the professional ladder to become a Legislative Aide in the Spring of 2021. Throughout his tenure here, Curran always put the concerns of Virginia's First District's constituents first.

Curran has devoted his talents to the common good and dedicated his heart and mind to civil service. I would like to thank Curran for his contributions over the past three years. I wish Curran the best as he continues his career on the other side of the Potomac as he continues serving the nation at the Department of Defense.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Curran Smolinsky for his dedicated service to Virginia's First District. May