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House of Representatives

IN HONOR OF STORK MEDICAL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 10, 2008

Madame Speaker, I rise today to honor Stork Medical, a company that fulfills a great need in the medical community.

Hope is a powerful emotion. It can turn despair into jubilation; futility into purpose, fear into comfort; and isolation into community. Because Stork Medical and Community Blood Services are helping to provide hope to our military, it is my privilege to honor these patriotic companies with this resolution. Their forward thinking and generous program makes umbilical cord blood storage affordable to all who have ever served in our military, and are thus transforming this abstract word into a tangible commodity.

With the help of Stork Medical and Community Blood Services, the depressed soldier lying in bed, recovering from war injuries, will now have the hope that stored cord blood may one day repair his or her spinal cord injury, brain trauma, or even restore an amputated limb. Hope enables a smile to appear, a laugh to become audible, and allows healing to truly begin. To be sure, hope is potent medicine.

Families of our soldiers bravely live in a perpetual state of anxiety, constantly praying for the safe return of their beloved. These families, who reluctantly send their loved ones

into battle, now have the hope that if a major injury occurs, it may one day be reversible through the use of this "liquid gold." With stem cells already being used to build new fingers, bladders, noses, heart valves, and cartilage, it is more than just a "wish."

Madam Speaker, it is indeed "hope." With their proven ability to treat many leukemias and cancers, these cells, which are harvested without any injury to the baby or mother, offer protection for soldiers exposed to chemical warfare and other toxic battlefield substances. Since these cells can be used for any close family member, they also offer added protection against many of the unspoken fears that young parents harbor.

This gift is a spectacular example of patriotism in its finest form. This program is offered by private enterprise without asking for a single tax dollar. It demonstrates that everyone can play a part in defending our freedom and liberty. As our military and their families sacrifice to defend all that we hold dear, Stork Medical and Community Blood Services have put hope into action.

