CHICAGO – Today, Congressman Mike Quigley (D-IL) issued the following statement about Ryan White, who died on this day twenty years ago:

“At a time of panic and mistrust, Ryan White humanized the AIDS virus and changed the history of the United States. He was a regular kid from the Midwest who told his remarkably tragic story to the world, eliciting compassion for a condition so many refused to understand. Today would have been his 38th birthday, but instead we honor the 20th anniversary of his passing.

I would like to thank Ryan for living such a courageous and inspirational life that touched so many, and remind everyone that his legacy lives on each day in the CARE Act that bears his name and helps so many stricken by HIV and AIDS. I eagerly look forward to the day when we can celebrate Ryan’s life knowing we will never lose another loved one to this terrible disease.”