

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING FT. LEWIS COLLEGE
GRADUATES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ft. Lewis College's Winter Graduating Class of 2004. I was unable to attend the ceremony and would like to enter some remarks into the record on behalf of the graduates.

I was asked to serve as the commencement speaker for the December 18th graduation ceremony in Durango, Colorado where Ft. Lewis College is located. Ft. Lewis College is a fine institution of higher learning in the West, and Durango happens to be one of my favorite places in Colorado. For my colleagues who have not had the opportunity to visit Durango, I can tell you that it embodies much of the majesty of the Rocky Mountains and the West. From the high country lakes to the red-rocked canyon lands to the breathtakingly rugged San Juan Mountains, Durango is truly awe-inspiring nature at its finest. I was very much looking forward to talking to these graduates in this beautiful part of our State.

Drawing on my experience as a climber and outdoorsman, I was going to talk to the graduates about the lessons they could learn from the natural world around them as they embarked upon their next journey. I hoped to remind them that they are surrounded by beauty and should take time to take note of the quality of air and light around them. Much like being atop our San Juan Mountains, they too were on the roof of the world. Not only can they look down with a sense of pride from the peak they have just climbed in earning their degree. From this new found height they can see the myriad peaks on the horizon for the first time because they have worked hard to better themselves through education. They can now see the boundless opportunities available to them. Among these opportunities are those involving public service.

A friend and man I admire, Senator JOHN MCCAIN, has said that military service gave him an opportunity to serve a cause bigger than personal self-interest. I could not say it any better, and I hope all graduates take this underlying message to heart whether they enter military service or not. Senator MCCAIN's wisdom speaks to all of us.

I want to take this opportunity to recognize their hard work and the support of their families and congratulate them on their graduation. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Ft. Lewis College Winter Graduating Class of 2004. I know I join their friends and family in taking great pride in this laudable achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF JONATHON
DEAN SISTO UPON HIS ACHIEVE-
MENT OF EAGLE SCOUT COURT
OF HONOR

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent Jonathan Dean Sisto of Eagle Scout troop #204 in Lafayette, California, as he receives the distinguished honor of the Eagle Scout rank.

The honor of Eagle Scout is given only to those young men who have demonstrated that they have fulfilled its rigorous requirements, including living by the Scout Oath and Law, rising through the Boy Scout ranks, earning 21 merit badges, serving as a leader, and planning and leading a service project for their community. This is not an honor given out lightly: this young man is becoming an Eagle Scout because he is intelligent, dedicated, and principled.

I am proud to call Jonathan Dean Sisto my constituent, for he is a shining example of the promise of the next generation. Indeed, he represents the best of the young people in our country. I extend my sincere congratulations to him and his family, on this momentous occasion.

SENIORS' HEALTH CARE FREEDOM
ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Seniors' Health Care Freedom Act. This act protects seniors' fundamental right to make their own health care decisions by repealing federal laws that interfere with seniors' ability to form private contracts for medical services. This bill also repeals laws which force seniors into the Medicare program against their will. When Medicare was first established, seniors were promised that the program would be voluntary. In fact, the original Medicare legislation explicitly protected a senior's right to seek out other forms of medical insurance. However, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 prohibits any physician who forms a private contract with a senior from filing any Medicare reimbursement claims for two years. As a practical matter, this means that seniors cannot form private contracts for health care services.

Seniors may wish to use their own resources to pay for procedures or treatments not covered by Medicare, or to simply avoid the bureaucracy and uncertainty that comes when seniors must wait for the judgment of a Center from Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) bureaucrat before finding out if a desired treatment is covered.

Seniors' right to control their own health care is also being denied due to the Social Security Administration's refusal to give seniors who object to enrolling for Medicare Part A Social Security benefits. This not only distorts the intent of the creators of the Medicare system; it also violates the promise represented by Social Security. Americans pay taxes into the Social Security Trust Fund their whole working lives and are promised that Social Security will be there for them when they retire. Yet, today, seniors are told that they cannot receive these benefits unless they agree to join an additional government program!

At a time when the fiscal solvency of Medicare is questionable, to say the least, it seems foolish to waste scarce Medicare funds on those who would prefer to do without Medicare. Allowing seniors who neither want nor need to participate in the program to refrain from doing so will also strengthen the Medicare program for those seniors who do wish to participate in it. Of course, my bill does not take away Medicare benefits from any senior. It simply allows each senior to choose voluntarily whether or not to accept Medicare benefits or to use his own resources to obtain health care.

Forcing seniors into government programs and restricting their ability to seek medical care free from government interference infringes on the freedom of seniors to control their own resources and make their own health care decisions. A woman who was forced into Medicare against her wishes summed it up best in a letter to my office, ". . . I should be able to choose the medical arrangements I prefer without suffering the penalty that is being imposed." I urge my colleagues to protect the right of seniors to make the medical arrangements that best suit their own needs by cosponsoring the Seniors' Health Care Freedom Act.

TRIBUTE TO ATTORNEY JERRY
MILANO

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Jerry Milano was one of Cleveland's most aggressive, flamboyant and skilled defense lawyers. He was equally respected by veteran trial lawyers and the young lawyers, who were "just learning the ropes." Attorney Kenneth Seminatore remembers being "educated" by the seasoned trial lawyer Milano.

"I learned a great deal about attitude and technique from him. In the courtroom, Milano was magic. He never used notes when talking to the jury. He had an uncanny ability to focus on the facts that were important, that would persuade a jury, and which appeared to be coming from his heart, not a script."

Seven years ago Milano's friends in the Cuyahoga County Defense Lawyers Association honored him with its Lifetime Achievement

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

award. They roasted him by sharing stories of his nearly fifty year career. According to a friend "Jerry had a terrific sense of humor. And that he just laughed and laughed."

Jerry Milano had a reputation of being a tough, thorough and always prepared advocate for his clients. He also had a reputation of being a kind and generous man who counted among his friends one-time adversaries. Many stories have been told over the years of his many generous acts on behalf of other lawyers, friends and persons he only knew as acquaintances.

Stories have been told about some of Jerry Milano's courtroom antics. Many of the stories describe humorous, good natured acts before the bench. Some of the stories, while humorous, led to the mischievous lawyer having his wrist slapped by the presiding judge. His comic behaviors, never mean spirited, showed his quick wit and light-hearted sense of humor.

Attorney Jerry Milano, a graduate of Kent State University and Cleveland Marshall College of Law, tried cases of great notoriety. His clients, his opposing counsel, the presiding judge and jury had an opportunity to witness a professional. He defended his clients aggressively, competently, and according to the Canons of Ethics. After more than fifty (50) years of practice in Ohio, Florida and Alabama, Attorney Jerry Milano retired because of illness.

As a young assistant county prosecutor, I watched in awe, and gained valuable insight, as Attorney Milano examined a prosecution witness. As a judge I enjoyed trying cases with Jerry. He made the prosecutors do their jobs. As friends, Jerry and Rita Milano have been with me through all of my ups and downs. Thank you for your friendship.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the citizens of the 11th Congressional District, Ohio, I extend condolences to Rita, Jay and Debbie Milano on the loss of a loving family man and friend. I join the Bar in celebrating the life and times of a legal superstar.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
"REMEMBER 9/11 HEALTH ACT"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Remember 9/11 Health Act" with Representatives SHAYS, NADLER, OWENS, RON KIND, McDERMOTT, MCCARTHY, and HINCHEY.

During the days following September 11, 2001, tens of thousands of people rushed to the World Trade Center to assist in the rescue and recovery efforts. Their mission was clear—to help the people suffering from the attack. Now, more than 3 years after the attacks, rescue and recovery workers remain sick and out of work as a direct result of their exposure to Ground Zero. To make matters worse, many sick rescue and recovery workers no longer have health care insurance due to their long-term unemployment. Despite this public health emergency, there is still no one in charge, there is no money for treatment, there is no research into its cause, the monitoring program established by Congress can only screen a fraction of those exposed to

Ground Zero and it only has been funded for a 5-year period, not the 20 years suggested by the medical community.

To remedy this problem we are reintroducing the "Remember 9/11 Health Act" (H.R. 4059 in the 108th Congress).

The "Remember 9/11 Health Act" contains four main points: Treatment, Expanded Monitoring, Research and Coordination.

I. Providing Treatment.—Modeled after a program that provides health insurance for injured volunteer forest firefighters, this bill provides federal health insurance to individuals suffering injuries and/or health problem as a result of the September 11th Terrorist Attacks. Recipients do not pay for any health care expenses, including prescription drugs and copayments. This program also includes mental health coverage.

II. Expanding Health Monitoring.—Maintains current monitoring program that is screening a limited number of rescue and recovery workers, including the separate program for the Fire Department, while expanding it to a level recommended by the public health community.

III. Research.—Directs the National Institutes of Health to conduct or support diagnostic and treatment research for health conditions that are associated with the exposure to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

IV. Coordination.—Establishes the 9/11 Health Emergency Coordinating Council under the direction of the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of discussing, examining, and formulating recommendations for the adequacy and coordination of the Federal Government, State government and local governments response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Providing a coordinated federal response that includes not only monitoring, but treatment and research is the right thing to do. We need to send a message to rescue and recovery workers everywhere that if you are there for us when we need you, we will also be there when you need us. Anything short of that is unfair and could jeopardize the rescue and recovery response to future national emergency.

HONORING SUSAN KIRK

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor University of Colorado Regent Susan Kirk. Regent Kirk was elected to represent the First Congressional District in 1992 and was re-elected in 1998 by an overwhelming margin. She was elected chair of the board in 1997 where she provided leadership on the creation of a Women's Studies degree and the application for transfer and conveyance of the Fitzsimmons property. Susan had served the maximum 12 years allowed when her term ended in 2004.

Regent Kirk has been a tireless champion of women's and children's rights, equal opportunity and treatment, and expanding access to higher education. Her altruistic efforts in the community are legendary. She and her husband Dick established the Susan Kirk Scholarship for female students in the Graduate School of Public Affairs. She has also been a

contributor to and advocate for the Center for Women's Health Research. Susan Kirk is a key player in many, if not most, charitable endeavors in our community.

Susan held leadership roles at the University of Colorado during both triumphs and challenging times. She has always been more interested in staying true to friendships and looking for solutions than in stirring controversy and grabbing headlines. The strength and grace of her leadership has meant a great deal to our community and is something I personally admire.

I ask my colleagues to join me recognizing my friend, Susan Kirk for her immeasurable contribution to the University of Colorado. I wish her and her husband Dick much health and happiness in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMESON JOSEPH COLLINS UPON HIS ACHIEVEMENT OF EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent Jameson Joseph Collins of Eagle Scout troop No. 204 in Lafayette, California, as he receives the distinguished honor of the Eagle Scout rank.

The honor of Eagle Scout is given only to those young men who have demonstrated that they have fulfilled its rigorous requirements, including living by the Scout Oath and Law, rising through the Boy Scout ranks, earning 21 merit badges, serving as a leader, and planning and leading a service project for their community. This is not an honor given out lightly: this young man is becoming an Eagle Scout because he is intelligent, dedicated, and principled.

I am proud to call Jameson Joseph Collins my constituent, for he is a shining example of the promise of the next generation. Indeed, he represents the best of the young people in our country. I extend my sincere congratulations to him and his family, on this momentous occasion.

CONGRATULATING THE 2004 FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CLASS 4A STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the 2004 Florida High School Athletic Association, FHSAA, Class 4A State Football Champion Seffner Armwood High School Hawks from the 12th Congressional District of Florida.

The Hawks won their second straight State title after a hard fought victory over the Lake Gibson Braves also from 12th Congressional District. I also want to recognize the valiant efforts of the entire Lake Gibson football team, even though they came up short in this year's state championship game.