

21ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CENTER FOR MEDICARE ADVOCACY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of the twenty-first anniversary of the Center for Medicare Advocacy. Headquartered in Willimantic, Connecticut, this national non-profit organization is dedicated to educating, advocating for, and providing legal assistance to older Americans and individuals with disabilities. Navigating the waters of the Medicare system can be daunting. However with groups such as CMA, eligible individuals are able to gain coverage and improved access to our health care system.

The Center for Medicare Advocacy was established in 1986 by Judith Stein, who today serves as the Executive Director. In the decade before the founding of the CMA, Ms. Stein was the Co-Director of Legal Assistance to Medicare Patients. There, she managed the first Medicare advocacy program in the country. That passion for advocacy carried over with the creation of the CMA. Most recently, Judith was appointed by Senator CHRIS DODD to the White House Council on Aging, where she served with distinction and was instrumental in crafting the Council's recommendations regarding Medicare improvements.

CMA, with its staff of nurses, attorneys, legal assistants, and information management specialists, has educated thousands of individuals. Their writings on Medicare are a valuable resource and set a high standard for Medicare related outreach. In Connecticut, the organization also provides legal training and support for the State health insurance and assistance program. Additionally, CMA has utilized their incredible wealth of experience to provide invaluable policy advice to the Connecticut Congressional delegation and Congress as a whole during debate over Medicare reform.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the contribution and public service provided by the Center for Medicare Advocacy and its founder Judith Stein, as the organization celebrates 21 years of support for our Nation's seniors and disabled persons.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN PHILLIPS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Phillips for his devotion and tireless efforts for the humane treatment and protection of animals.

As a longtime animal advocate, John Phillips was named the first ever Executive Director of the League of Humane Voters of New York City (LOHV-NYC) in 2004. Under his direction, LOHV-NYC has become a driving force for the defense of animals in New York City by raising tens of thousands of dollars and campaigning for dozens of humane candidates at the local and state level. He also helped organize the first ever humane lobby day, bringing dozens of animal advocates to City Hall to lobby their elected officials.

John Phillips' energy and passion for the creation of effective animal protection legislation at the local, state, and federal level has been a major force in fostering discussion of the issues most important to the LOHV-NYC.

His passion for the protection of animals and the education of people about the suffering of animals started at a young age, when he became a vegetarian at the age of 10 and a vegan at the age of 14. As well as becoming an animal activist, John Phillips has been involved with many other social justice groups, including those committed to the rights of the LGBT community, the homeless, and the environment.

In January 2007, John Phillips was awarded the In Defense of Animals' Companion Animal Guard for his work with LOHV-NYC. We should all take note of his devotion to the protection of animals and I would like to congratulate John Phillips on his many accomplishments.

CHRISTOPHER BRANDON GOODALE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Brandon Goodale, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Brandon Goodale for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, on September 7, 2007, I missed rollcall vote No. 864, on agreeing to the Conference Report on H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act. I was in Iraq, visiting Washington State soldiers. If I had been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, on behalf of more than 110,000 of my constituents who

are of Polish descent, I proudly rise to recognize the 70th anniversary of the Polish Museum of America.

The Polish community has existed in Chicago for more than two centuries, and few immigrant groups have come to Chicago in such consistent numbers over that period of time. Beginning in 1830 when three Polish people voted in the first Chicago mayoral election, the Polish community has left an indelible mark on Chicago's political, cultural, and economic development.

The Polish Museum of America is the oldest ethnic museum in the United States. Founded in 1935, the Museum has preserved the artistic, cultural, historic and literary heritage of Poles in America and throughout the world. More than 10,000 people visit the Museum every year.

The 1939 New York World's Fair included various international exhibits, one of which was Poland's pavilion. When Nazi Germany invaded Poland, it became clear that the exhibit at the World's Fair could not return to Poland. To preserve a portion of the exhibit, the directors of the Polish Museum of America purchased three-fourths of the exhibit from the Polish government. Today, the Museum displays the memorabilia from the 1939 New York World's Fair Polish Pavilion.

Today the Museum also houses the personal possessions of Ignacy Jan Paderewski. A pianist, composer and the third Prime Minister of Poland, Paderewski and his sister, Antonina, were avid supporters of the Museum. Students and researchers of Polish and Polish American history use the rick collections from the Polish Museum's Library and Archives that include collections on Kosciuszko and Pope John Paul II. The Museum also houses large collections of Polish folklore and an art gallery featuring several paintings by Jacek Malczewski and Olga Boznanska.

To commemorate the anniversary, the Polish Museum of America began a photo project to digitize more than 15,000 photographs of the Polish community in Chicago and the United States. They are also offering a traveling exhibit of Poles in Chicago, and are conducting inventories of publishing efforts in America during Germany's occupation of Poland in World War II.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Polish Museum of America on 70 years of enriching the culture of Chicago, and for continuing to be a hub of activity for Poles throughout Chicago and the country. I wish them continued success in the future.

IN HONOR OF DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
2006-2007 PRESIDENT ALAN ROBINSON AND LADIES AUXILIARY
PRESIDENT FLORENCE LEGATES

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the fire service leadership in Delaware during the Annual Conference of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association.

Thousands of the citizens of Delaware participate as volunteer emergency responders

and support personnel in our fire companies across the state. They work tirelessly along side of our career fire service members making our state a safer place to live.

Each year at the Conference firefighters come to training opportunities, business meetings and social events. Firefighters display the pride in their company and equipment during the annual parade.

This year the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association was led by President Alan Robinson of Citizen Hose in Smyrna. As a life member of Citizen Hose, Alan has been a tremendous asset to the community serving as a Past Chief of Citizen Hose and as past President of the Kent County Volunteer Firemen's Association. His dedication to the fire service is without question and his leadership as a teacher in the public and parochial schools has provided many young individuals with an opportunity to succeed. All of us in the community greatly appreciate his dedication and commitment to serving others and during his leadership we have seen many great accomplishments in the DVFA. We are forever in his debt.

The Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association Ladies Auxiliary leader and President for the past year, Florence Legates, has given her time and energy for many years serving in many capacities. As a public safety fire educator with the Delaware Fire School, Florence was nationally recognized as a fire educator. In addition, Florence's service as President of the Kent County Ladies Auxiliary and her overall commitment to the fire service helped bring about positive change. Her service on the National Fire Protection Association Committee has been remarkable and we in Delaware know the value of what she has been able to accomplish as our President of the DVFA Ladies Auxiliary.

Fire Company leaders like Alan and Florence exemplify a commitment of service to our citizens not unlike the service provided by all the members of the Delaware Fire Service. I wish them well over the next year as they transition out of their role as President and thank them for their dedicated service leading our first responders.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOSEPH
STEPHEN ZORETIC

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the life of a courageous and passionate man, Joseph Stephen Zoretic, who dedicated his life to fighting for sensible drug policy and to free others from suffering. Along with his devoted wife, Dee Dee, he was a founding member of the Ohio Patient Network and its lobbying component, the Ohio Patient Action Network.

Joe started his life-long residency in the Cleveland area on December 25th, 1968. He became an active figure in the medical marijuana movement in the 1990s, when his wife was diagnosed with Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy and needed cannabis to relieve the pain other medications could not. Since then, Joe provided policy ideas and inspiration to the state marijuana legalization activist com-

munity, from speaking at mainstream political events to testifying for better drug policy. Even if it meant going to jail, Joe stood up for what he knew: that love and bravery can overcome injustice.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring and remembering an extraordinary husband, father, citizen, and activist, Joseph Stephen Zoretic, who demonstrated the power we all possess to make change in this world.

COLTON DAVID PRICE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Colton David Price, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Colton has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Colton has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Colton David Price for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE DANIEL F.
SPALLONE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise in tribute to the life of Judge Daniel F. Spallone. Mr. Spallone passed on August 20, 2007, after a full life of public service to his state and country. He was 85 years old.

As was common for men of his generation, the college career of a young Daniel Spallone was interrupted by the events of World War II. While he was unable to enlist in the armed forces due to childhood polio, he felt the call to duty and volunteered for the American Field Service (AFS) ambulance corps. Members of the AFS drove life-saving ambulances under extremely dangerous conditions on the war front, and Mr. Spallone served bravely with British forces in Burma, India, and Italy from 1942–1945. By virtue of his service to his country, he and other AFS volunteers were awarded an honorable discharge from the United States Army by act of Congress in 1991.

Following his war service, Mr. Spallone returned to the University of Connecticut and received his bachelor's degree in 1949 and obtained his law degree in 1960, also from UConn. Spallone served as town attorney to Deep River, Connecticut from 1965 to 1970 and also served on a number of elected and appointed local boards and commissions. In 1970, he was appointed to the Circuit Court

and in 1974 was elevated to the Court of Common Pleas. This was followed by a 1978 appointment by Governor Ella Grasso to the Superior Court bench. In 1984, Mr. Spallone was appointed as a charter member of the Appellate Court where he was noted for his keen ability to focus on the key issues in cases before the court. He served on the bench until his retirement in 1991, after which he continued to work as a trial judge referee.

Mr. Spallone's distinguished record has carried over to a second generation of the Spallone family. His son Jamie is a State Representative from the 36th Assembly District of Connecticut. He does an outstanding job for his constituents and the State of Connecticut, just as his father did.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of Judge Daniel F. Spallone and his service to our great nation. His years of dedication to the ideals of the American judicial system has left a lasting legacy for the State of Connecticut and his knowledge, generosity, and dedication will live on in the memory of all those he has touched.

IN TRIBUTE TO SHAWN JOHNSON

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a young Iowa woman whose inspired, gymnastic talent has made her a key player on the international Olympic stage. Shawn Johnson, age 15, is quickly becoming a force to be reckoned with amongst some of the best female gymnasts in the world. No stranger to media attention, Shawn was honored this week as ABC News' "Person of the Week."

A Des Moines native, Shawn began practicing gymnastics at the age of six, as a way to channel excess energy. Originally thought to be incapable of attaining the grace that modern gymnastics requires, Shawn's future as a world-class gymnast looked rather bleak. However, with the right coach, hard work, and a positive attitude, she was recently named "World Champion" at the contest in Stuttgart, Germany. This year alone, she has been named the 2007 U.S. National Champion, the AA and Beam Champion in Lisburn, the 2007 American Cup All-Around Champion, and the "all-around" gymnast at the 2007 Pan-American contest, among many others.

Aside from her athletic aptitude, Shawn is also an exceptional student, and having just started her junior year at Valley Southwoods High School in West Des Moines, she is interested in her high school football team, horseback riding, scrap-booking, and spending time with her friends and family. Shawn feels that the discipline she has learned from her involvement in gymnastics has helped her to excel in other areas of her life.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this impressive and determined young lady. We wish you the best of luck as you continue to represent your community and your country in all of your athletic endeavors.