

He has been married for 44 years to his beloved Cecile. It is partly to spend more time with her that he is leaving us and I can think of no more compelling reason.

Although most Democrats may not realize it, JIMMY QUILLEN is one of the few Members with an assigned seat on the House Floor. He sits in the second seat in the second row from which he discussed his trademark wisdom and anecdotes. Anyone who tries to sit in that seat supposedly learns very quickly that it is not theirs to use.

But it has not only been in the Congress where JIMMY QUILLEN made his mark. I'm told that nearly every single road, medical school, and institution in eastern Tennessee is named after JIMMY QUILLEN. And, after 34 years of unparalleled service to the people of the First District of Tennessee, JIMMY deserves every accolade he gets.

Like many of my colleagues, I always admired JIMMY QUILLEN. I heard the story of his taking his office door off the hinges to represent his open-door policy when we was first elected and it has served as a great inspiration to me and to many of my colleagues as we work to emulate his great record of constituent service.

He has been a distinguished hard-working, kind member of the Rules Committee and although I often wished he were arguing on our side, he has been a very worthy adversary and he will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a great honor serving with JIMMY QUILLEN on the Rules Committee and I join the entire Congress in wishing him well in his retirement.

CONSTITUTION WEEK, SEPTEMBER 17-23, 1996

HON. JAN MEYERS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mrs. MYERS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, September 17 to 23 is Constitution Week. On behalf of the Daughters of the American Revolution I take pride in reminding my colleagues and all Americans to take a few minutes to reflect on that great document written and ratified 209 years ago this week.

The Constitution of the United States of America is an enduring safeguard of our freedom. Its Framers knew then that personal liberty is inherent in every human, but that a careful balance between that liberty and social order was the key ingredient of a strong nation. Our Republic's longevity throughout the crucible of history is testament to their success at achieving that balance in our basic framework. Our generation will be judged by future generations on how well we maintain that delicate balance, not forgetting that with our unparalleled freedoms, each of us also shoulders unparalleled responsibilities.

My heartfelt thanks go to the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Kansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution for their distinguished service to our Nation by helping to make every American aware of the foundation of our glorious freedom. Hopefully, through the efforts of patriotic Americans such as they, our enhanced knowledge of our own Constitution will help make us a stronger and more cohesive nation.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 3666, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the motion to instruct the conferees on H.R. 3666, Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act of 1997, which the House passed on September 11, 1996. The issues of parity for mental health coverage and allowing a 48 hours hospital stay for newborns and mothers following child birth are extremely timely and relevant.

As an active participant in the fight for health care reform, I continue to believe that all Americans should have the security of knowing that they will have health care coverage—regardless of their health or economic status.

Perhaps no group of individuals has faced more discrimination by our Nation's health care system than those with mental illnesses. In the past 15 years, a revolution has occurred in neurobiology that has clearly documented that many of these severe mental illnesses are, in fact, physical illnesses. These physical disorders of the brain—neurobiological disorders—are characterized by neuroanatomical and neurochemical abnormalities. Controlled clinical research undertaken by scientists across the Nation have produced a body of irrefutable scientific evidence documenting the physical nature of these disorders.

Despite this, individuals with neurobiological disorders and their families continue to face discrimination and stigmatization by health insurance plans and society at large. I have visited with families who have had to cope not only with the emotional pain of dealing the neurobiological disorders, such as schizophrenia and autism, but the financial hardship as well.

Health insurance coverage for mental disorders is often limited to 30 to 60 inpatient days per year, compared with 120 days for physical illnesses; copayments, which are usually about 20 percent for physical illnesses, are often raised to 50 percent. Because of these arbitrary limits on coverage, individuals and families affected by these disorders are faced with onerous financial burdens. These people deserve the same kind of care and treatment that is available to those who suffer from other severe illnesses such as cancer, diabetes, or heart disease.

Families who are faced with severe mental illnesses should not be placed in a different category—financially burdened, stigmatized, and treated as if they had done something wrong.

On June 8, 1995, I introduced the Equitable Health Care for Neurobiological Disorders Act of 1995. My bill would help these individuals and their families by requiring nondiscriminatory treatment of neurobiological disorders. Health care plans would be required to provide coverage that is not more restrictive than coverage provided for other major physical illnesses and that is consistent with effective

and common methods of controlling health care costs—such as copayments and deductibles. My bill also stipulates specific benefits that must be provided and assesses a penalty on those plans that do not comply with the Act's requirements.

I believe that the provisions included in the Senate's version of the VA/HUD appropriations bill is a strong start toward achieving equity for those who truly suffer from mental illness. Requiring equal health coverage for these disorders is not just important to individuals suffering from neurobiological disorders and their families. It is also important to the Nation. According to the National Institutes of Mental Health, equitable insurance coverage for severe mental disorders will yield \$2.2 billion in net savings each year through decreased use of general medical services and a substantial decrease in social costs.

I also strongly support the provision included in the Senate VA/HUD appropriations bill requiring health plan coverage for a minimum hospital stay of 48 hours for newborns and mothers following childbirth.

I have spoken with Wilfred Reguero, M.D., the chairman of the St. Raphael OB/Gyn Department, and other hospital staff at a trip to St. Raphael's Hospital in my district. They told me of the dangers of early discharges for new mothers and their infants—discharges that are dictated by certain insurance companies, not doctors. The decision to discharge a new mother and her child should be based on medical criteria, not on the bottom line.

According to reports published by the University of California San Francisco and Dartmouth's Hitchcock Medical Center, a post-delivery hospital stay of 24 hours or less means infants are not adequately tested and monitored by medical professionals for conditions that appear in the first few days of life, including jaundice and excessive weight loss. The reports found that mothers also experience medical difficulties, including lactation difficulties, urinary tract infections, incisional pain and post-partum pain and depression.

I have cosponsored two bills H.R. 1948 and 1950 which would require health plans to provide maternity benefits for a minimum hospital stay for a mother and her newborn following the birth of her child. The bills do not mandate the length of hospital stays, but requires that longer stays are covered if deemed necessary by a woman, her family, and her physician. The legislation includes:

A minimum stay of 48 hours for vaginal deliveries and 96 hours for caesarean-section deliveries.

An exception for home births.

A requirement for health plans to provide written notice to enrollees regarding coverage included in the act.

I know that many States, including Connecticut, are pursuing similar laws, but we need Federal legislation to make sure that women who are covered by health insurance companies that are headquartered in other States are protected under the law. That's why I am so pleased that this legislation was included in the Senate VA/HUD appropriations bill and should be included in the final VA/HUD appropriations bill as well.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting these instructions. Adoption of these policies will go a long way toward saving billions or dollars, eliminating the stigma and misunderstanding so often associated with

neurobiological disorders, and ensuring that all mothers and babies are adequately cared for.

A SALUTE TO PFC JAMES W.
REESE OF CHESTER

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to PFC James W. Reese on the occasion of the rededication of the James W. Reese Army Reserve Center.

PFC James W. Reese, a native son of Chester, PA, and Delaware County Congressional Medal of Honor winner, was born April 16, 1920. Bill, as he was affectionately referred to by his friends, attended public school in Chester, graduating from Chester High School in 1938. Entering the service in November 1941, Bill was assigned to the 26th Infantry, First Infantry Division stationed in Florida. Bill was with the division when they landed in North Africa and crossed the Mediterranean to assault the shores of Sicily at midnight on July 9, 1943. It was there that Bill won his country's highest decoration, the Congressional Medal of Honor, as he lost his life fighting bravely against heavy enemy odds. His citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty in action involving actual conflict with the enemy on August 5, 1943 at Mt. Vassillio, Sicily. When the enemy launched a counterattack which threatened the position of his company, Private Reese, as Acting Squad Leader of a 60MM mortar squad, displayed superior leadership and on his own initiative, maneuvered his squad forward to a favorable position, from which, by skillfully directing the fire of his weapon, he caused many casualties in the enemy ranks and aided materially in repulsing the counterattack. When the enemy fire became so severe as to make his position untenable, he ordered the other members of his squad to withdraw to a safer position, but declined to seek safety for himself. So as to bring more effective fire upon the enemy, Private Reese, without assistance, moved his mortar to a new position and attacked an enemy machine gun nest. He had only three rounds of ammunition but secured a direct hit with his last round, completely destroying the nest and killing the occupants. Ammunition being exhausted, he abandoned the mortar, seized a rifle and continued to advance, moving into an exposed position overlooking the enemy. Despite a heavy concentration of machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire, the heaviest experienced by his unit throughout the entire Sicilian campaign, he remained at his position and continued to inflict casualties upon the enemy until he, himself was killed. His bravery coupled with his gallant and unswerving determination to close in on the enemy, regardless of the consequences and obstacles which he faced, are a priceless inspiration to our armed forces.

In light of these brave and unselfish acts in the face of enemy fire, I am honored to join the U.S. Army in rededicating this reserve center to Bill Reese who represents all of the many heroic service personnel both past and present who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that you and I may live as free Americans.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DONALD SUGGS

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY
OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, constituent, and a wonderful American, Dr. Donald Suggs.

Dr. Suggs is a man of many gifts and talents, and shares each selflessly with his community and friends. As president and publisher of the No. 1 African-American weekly newspaper in America, the St. Louis American, Donald keeps the metropolitan St. Louis community apprised of prevalent issues on the Federal, State, and local levels. Each week more than 65,000 readers in the area pick up a copy of the free publication to read about politics, business, the arts, and other subjects of interest to the broader African-American community.

Each year the St. Louis American spotlights the community's unsung heroes at the "St. Louis American Salute to Excellence in the Community". Proceeds from the banquet held in honor of the recipients are used to fund scholarships for promising young men and women in the community.

In addition to running the newspaper company, Dr. Suggs provides medical service to indigent residents in his successful oral surgery practice. He is also president of Alexander-Suggs Gallery of African American Art, a founding board member of the Center for African Art in New York, and serves on the board of directors of the Regional Commerce and Growth Association.

It gives me great pleasure to share with our colleagues an inspirational account of the life of Dr. Donald Suggs as recorded in the September 1996 edition of St. Louis Commerce.

[From the St. Louis Commerce/September 1996]

THE AMERICAN WAY

In addition to being a practicing oral surgeon, an activist during the civil rights movement, an art dealer and collector, a managing principal in a pre-paid dental plan and a partner in an airport retail concession business, Donald M. Suggs somehow has found the time and energy to steer one of the most acclaimed African-American newspapers in the country into 40 to 45 percent of all African-American households in the St. Louis metro area.

Suggs and two partners bought the St. Louis American in 1980. A few years later, Suggs brought a majority share and took an active role in the paper's operation in 1984.

"The decision to be involved in The St. Louis American was not a well-thought-out business decision," remembers Suggs, who is president and publisher. "The paper was burdened with debt in a segment of publishing that didn't have any discernible prospects for growth."

As publisher, Suggs has been able to raise capital through his personal resources and company earnings, reduce the paper's debt load, increase circulation and bolster the staff in key positions.

"Revenues have multiplied by five in the last nine years and our revenue from the first two quarters of this year is up 23 percent over last year," remarks Suggs. The newspaper is distributed free from more than 650 distribution points throughout the St. Louis area.

Ten years ago, the circulation for the American averaged from 4,000 to 6,000 copies

per week. Today, the audited circulation is 65,500, making the 68-year-old paper the area's largest black weekly, the largest black newspaper in Missouri and one of the largest in the country. In relation to the size of St. Louis' African-American population, the paper's percentage of household penetration ranks at or near the top in the nation.

In addition to increased revenues and circulation, The St. Louis American has improved dramatically the quality of the news content. Earlier this summer, the American was named the best African-American newspaper in the nation by the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) in competition with 220 other papers.

The John B. Russwurm Award is named after the co-publisher of the first African-American newspaper in America. On March 16, 1827, Russwurm and Samuel E. Cornish began publishing Freedom's Journal, whose goal was to "arrest the progress of prejudice and to shield ourselves against its consequent evils."

This year was the first time any newspaper in Missouri had received the Russwurm award. In the finals, the American topped the Baltimore Afro-American and the Los Angeles Sentinel.

Suggs says, "(The Russwurm) is a premier award and it has been a great boost for morale of the staff." Besides winning NNPA awards for general excellence and best paper, the American also won awards for writing, layout and design, special sections and advertising.

Another indication of the improved quality of the American has been the regularity with which it has either won or placed high in recent Missouri Press Association competitions which include all papers in Missouri. The American has 18 full-time employees.

Suggs' earlier interests didn't point to his becoming a newspaper publisher.

Born and raised in East Chicago, Ind., in a solid, 2-parent household, Suggs went to Indiana University where he received a bachelor's degree and a doctorate in dental surgery. He did his post-graduate work at Washington University and Homer G. Phillips Hospital. He was chief of oral surgery at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware before coming back to St. Louis.

"In 1961, I was completing my tour with the Air Force. I was offered a job at Washington University's dental school. When I arrived, the offer was rescinded because I was black," notes Suggs. He later was asked to join the faculty at Saint Louis University's dental school where he served as the school's first African-American associate clinical professor. During this period, Suggs also worked in anesthesia at various hospitals in St. Louis to supplement his income.

During his tenure as a part-time faculty member, Suggs became active in the civil rights movement during the 1960s and 1970s. In 1968, he served as St. Louis chairman of the Poor People's March in Washington.

"After my third child was born, I knew I had to have more money than the amount I was earning teaching and giving anesthesia, so I started my oral surgery practice on North Kingshighway. I'm still practicing part-time," says Suggs.

After his private practice became successful, Suggs was able to pursue his growing interest in serious art. "I slowly started acquiring pieces. Some time later, I had the opportunity to get into the business side of art," says Suggs.

As long-time president of the Alexander-Suggs Gallery of African Art based in St. Louis and New York City, he broadened his contacts in the art world. Later, as founder and chairman of the African Continuum, he helped bring non-commercial artistic endeavors to St. Louis. He also was a founding