

think they are going to find that hockey fever has taken over and is absolutely captivating.

Some of the things that I particularly want to point out as we talk today is this wonderful, wonderful team. You just heard 5 minutes of the same kind of thing we hear over and over again. The fabulous thing about this Avalanche team is they have acted as a team. I do not know if it was their marvelous Canadian trained organization, whatever, but you do not see egos popping out. You see them working together and liking each other, and look what they did in 1 year. There may be some real messages there for politicians, some tremendous messages for politicians.

So I think I would be remiss not to thank our wonderful neighbors to the north in Quebec who helped train this great team and, of course, everybody is particularly fond of the goalie who happens to share my first name, but we are so proud of him. But he would not want to be singled out because they really see themselves as a total working unit. That is kind of a novel concept when it comes to politics, but it could be something we could all learn from.

We know today that Colorado is going to be a work-free zone. It is going to be a total work-free zone. The question is whether the whole week we are going to be a work-free zone only because we are celebrating this great victory. I think all of America can celebrate it, and I mean all of North America, Canadians and North Americans because of the great example they set in showing how to do this, how to do this together, how to do this without ego, how to make it not look like they were kind of throwing it to drag it out and make more money, all the things that have circulated around some of the things we have heard in professional sports. This is about values, and they have really shown us some tremendous values that are the kind that we traditionally had in sports.

That is wonderful to see come back again. So to see the young people in Colorado out there with their roller blades playing hockey is very exciting. I will tell you, we may not have had the hockey players we would like to have had in the past, but I will bet this next generation is going to be there. It is basically going to be because of the leadership and the example of these wonderful, wonderful men who wore this wonderful, wonderful jersey. I think if anybody wants one of these, good luck. I am not giving mine up, and they are not giving theirs up.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This gentleman from Florida would say to the gentlewoman from Colorado that she is justifiably proud, but I did find some pain in her comments.

IN HONOR OF EUGENE ROSSITCH,
JR., M.D.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May

12, 1995, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BURR] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday is Father's Day, a day when millions of Americans will thank their fathers for the special role they play in all our lives—for being a protector and a provider, for being a counselor, a mentor and a friend. On this morning, I would like to take a few moments to share with my colleagues the story of a gifted doctor, a trusted teacher and most importantly a wonderful father, the story of Dr. Eugene Rossitch, Jr.

On November 18, 1994, Gene Rossitch drowned off a Florida beach while successfully saving his young son. I would like to focus this morning, however, on the inspirational life of Gene Rossitch, who accomplished so much in his 35 years with us.

On February 18, 1959, in Guines, Cuba, Eugene and Carmen Rossitch were blessed by the birth of their first child, Gene Rossitch, Jr. In 1962, when little Gene was 3 years old, his parents left Cuba with only one suitcase and their wedding picture and moved the family to the United States. The Rossitches settled in my hometown of Winston-Salem, NC, where they raised Gene and his four younger brothers.

With the support and guidance of a loving and successful family, Gene began to compile a record of extraordinary academic achievement that marked his entire life. While in high school, Gene was the State president of the North Carolina National Honor Society before graduating first in his class from Bishop McGuinness High School in Winston-Salem.

Gene then attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a Morehead Scholar. He graduated from UNC Phi Beta Kappa and then pursued his medical studies at the Duke University School of Medicine. While at Duke, Gene was awarded the John H. Watson, Jr., Medical Fellowship and was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society.

Following his internship at the Duke University Medical Center, Gene began his residency in neurological surgery at Duke, which included 2 years as a research fellow in neurosurgery at Brigham and Women's and Children's Hospitals. During that time, Gene became the first recipient of the Cushing History of Medicine Fellowship. And shortly thereafter, he completed a clinical fellowship in spinal surgery at Duke.

Gene's remarkable career then led him back to Massachusetts, where he was appointed assistant professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School and attending neurosurgeon at the Brigham and Women's and Children's Hospitals in 1992. Gene was the spinal surgery specialist at both hospitals.

Dr. Gene Rossitch's service was not limited to the operating room. Gene served on the premedical advisory board of the Currier House at Harvard University, on the Greater Boston Spi-

nal Cord Injury Planning Counsel, and on the emergency medical services task force on spinal cord injury. Gene was also very active in national neurosurgery organizations. For example, he was chairman of the program evaluation committee for the 1994 Congress of Neurological Surgeons Annual Meeting and he had major roles in several other national meetings.

Dr. Gene Rossitch's commitment to finding new ways to treat spinal injury patients can be found in the 61 original scientific journal publications he either authored or coauthored. Gene was also the coeditor of three books. Two dealt with the history of neurosurgery and the third, "A Handbook of Neurosurgery for House Officers and Medical Students," demonstrates Gene's desire to share his vast knowledge with his fellow surgeons of how to treat spinal cord injuries.

While at the Brigham and Women's and Children's Hospitals, Dr. Rossitch supervised the research work of a number of medical students, residents and visiting research fellows. Gene also served as a preceptor for the Introduction to Clinical Medicine Course at the Harvard Medical School.

I have never encountered a more impressive record of service and achievement than that of Dr. Gene Rossitch, Jr. He was recognized by his patients and by those in his field as a gifted and gentle surgeon and caregiver, as an innovative researcher, and as a trusted mentor and teacher of spinal cord injury medicine.

Dr. Gene Rossitch's career is a testament to this young man's dedication to his studies, his sincere concern for his fellow man, and to a willingness to fully utilize the gifts that God bestowed upon him. But as a friend of the Rossitches, I know that the true center of Gene's remarkable life was his family. Gene met his wife Cindy while attending the Duke University School of Medicine and was blessed with three children: Eugene III, Katharine, and Elizabeth. And despite the demands of his clinical schedule, Gene always found time to spend with his family and could be seen on weekends at Chuck E. Cheese, art galleries, and ice cream parlors with his wife and children.

Perhaps the best way to look at how special a person Gene was is to see him through the eyes of the mother of one of his patients. The day before Gene left for Florida with his family for their vacation, he performed a 7-hour operation repairing a congenital abnormality in the neck of Michael O'Loughlin, a 12-year-old boy.

The night before Mike's surgery, the boy was in terrible pain and Mrs. O'Loughlin asked Gene whether they were doing the right thing by operating. Mrs. O'Loughlin remembers asking Dr. Rossitch whether he would perform the operation if Mike were his own son. Gene told her, "Absolutely, without question." Mrs. O'Loughlin tells how Gene insisted that the operation be

done at Brigham and Women's Hospital because he preferred their operating room. And when the hospital refused to take Mike because he was underage and underweight, Gene went before the hospital board to get permission.

The day of the operation, the procedure took much longer than the family expected. But at 7 o'clock, Gene Rossitch came out to tell them everything had gone perfectly. Gene also told the family that the x rays had not shown how serious the problem had been and how glad he was that he had performed the operation before leaving on vacation. Mrs. O'Loughlin says, "I absolutely believe Gene Rossitch saved Mike's life."

A few days later, Gene's last heroic act was to save his own son from drowning in choppy ocean waters near Ft. Lauderdale. I find Gene's last, heroic act a fitting one because Gene Rossitch's lifework had been saving the lives of others.

And since his death, his colleagues have seen fit to honor the life and work of Gene Rossitch. The Humane Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has honored Gene with their silver medal and has donated \$2,500 toward a children's fund named in honor of Dr. Rossitch that has been established at Brigham and Children's Hospital. On June 27, there will be a dedication of the Eugene Rossitch, Jr., M.D. Residents' Library at the Brigham and Children's Hospital in Boston, MA. And finally, on November 22, the Duke Medical Alumni Association will honor Gene Rossitch by posthumously awarding him its Humanitarian Award.

Literally thousands of people enjoy more fulfilling lives because they were touched by the life of Gene Rossitch. And on this Father's Day, I will join Gene's family, his colleagues, his patients, and his community in thanking God that I was fortunate enough to come into contact with the remarkable life of Dr. Gene Rossitch, Jr.

□ 0915

DOLE LEAVING THE SCENE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, today is the day of the "great escape." The presumptive Republican Presidential nominee, ROBERT DOLE, is leaving the U.S. Senate after 35 years of service on Capitol Hill.

As a loyal Democrat, let me first salute Mr. DOLE. His service to his country, both in World War II and since, has been exemplary. He has been a legislative leader, one that is virtually unparalleled in terms of his own party's leadership, and he has been at the table when many of the most important legislative achievements of the last several generations have been enacted, and I salute him for that.

But I certainly do understand why he wants to escape from the 104th Congress, the Congress which the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] called his "revolution."

Take a look at what Mr. DOLE is leaving behind as he leaves Washington, DC. First, the failure of this 104th Republican Congress to enact meaningful health insurance reform. Families that I speak to across the State of Illinois and around the country are justifiably concerned about the availability and cost of health insurance. There is a bipartisan bill, the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill, that is languishing now between the House and the Senate waiting for enactment. Mr. DOLE will be leaving Washington without the enactment of this important health insurance reform legislation to help working families.

Second, Mr. DOLE is leaving town without a minimum-wage increase. That is something that is long overdue. Fortunately, 30 or 40 Republicans broke from Speaker GINGRICH here in the House of Representatives and joined the Democrats in passing minimum-wage increase legislation just a few weeks ago, but Mr. DOLE will be leaving town without this bill being enacted into law.

He came into Chicago a few weeks ago and took off his tie, and put on a sports coat and said, "I'm just a plain individual out here running for President, just one of the people." I hope he gets a chance in that capacity to meet some minimum-wage workers, and I hope they get a chance to ask Mr. DOLE why he left town without helping them and their families cope with the increasing cost of raising their families and providing for a sound future.

He will be leaving town without a balanced budget, and that is something which could have been achieved with bipartisan cooperation.

Mr. DOLE will be leaving Washington without this 104th Congress having acted to expand access to educational opportunity. Instead, the Gingrich-Dole agenda cut back on college student loans for kids from working families. I do not understand that. I would not be standing here today if it were not for a college student loan through the Federal Government. My story has been repeated millions of times over in the United States: kids from working families who could not afford college tuition turn to the Government for a helping hand. Instead of providing that hand, the Gingrich-Dole Congress has basically cut off educational opportunity for so many kids, not only at the college level but also at the lower levels.

There has been no real welfare reform when there should have been. We ought to be able to agree that this welfare system can be reformed meaningfully, that we can, in fact, have provisions that are tough on work but not tough on kids, and unfortunately the Gingrich-Dole proposal was not one that really would reform welfare and

help people come off of welfare and become taxpayers.

There are no tax cuts for working families that Mr. DOLE can point to from the 104th Congress. The Gingrich-Dole Republicans have wanted to make tax cuts for the wealthy, to cut Medicare to come up with money to give to wealthy individuals.

But what the President has proposed is much more sensible: Let us give working families a helping hand to pay for the college education of their kids. Now, that is something that families all over America can identify with. People, when they have a new baby in the family, go over and greet the new baby and congratulate the new parents, and after a few minutes inevitably the conversation turns to, well, we better start saving some money for this little boy or this little girl and their college education.

President Clinton has a proposal to give working families a helping hand, a tax deduction or a tax credit to pay for college education expenses. Mr. GINGRICH and Mr. DOLE will hear nothing of this, and, as a consequence, Mr. DOLE will leave Washington without having done anything in the 104th Congress to help expand that opportunity.

There have been no improvements in pension security. A lot of workers across America are paying into pension funds wondering if the time comes when they retire that the money will be there. The gentleman from Georgia [GINGRICH] has provided in his own bill opportunities for corporations to raid these pension funds. The people that I speak to, the workers I speak to, want security in those pension funds. It is a shame that Mr. DOLE is leaving Washington without the 104th Congress having addressed that.

And, finally, no improvements in environmental protection. In fact, the Republican budget that Mr. GINGRICH and Mr. DOLE worked on would cut the number of Superfund sites that will be eradicated in this country.

It is understandable that Mr. DOLE is leaving Washington. Certainly we can understand why a presidential candidate would want to leave the scene of this political accident known as the 104th Congress.

IT IS TIME TO FACE OUR REAL PROBLEMS IN THIS COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I picked up this morning's newspaper with dismay and read about the President of the United States traveling across the country. I guess he was in Las Vegas yesterday looking for answers to some of the problems facing our Nation. In particular he said he is obsessed with the juvenile crime problems. So he is wandering around the country trying to find out what has caused juvenile crime.