

A TRIBUTE TO ONE OF MY DEAREST FRIENDS, THELMA PAULINE MILLER—MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to one of my dearest friends, Thelma Pauline Miller. She passed away on July 27th, leaving a legacy of kindness and consideration that will be remembered by all who knew her. Pauline was not just a great friend of mine, but a friend to the entire community of Herrin, IL. Born on January 23, 1918 in Brookport, IL, Pauline was married for 43 years to Carl Miller, who served as Williamson County Sheriff. Carl preceded her in death as did her parents, Bryan and Clara Johnson, and her sister Geraldine Burgoon.

Pauline touched many people through her devoted work to numerous causes. She was never afraid to roll up her sleeves and get the job done, contributing her time to the Business and Professional Women's Club, Win One Class, First Christian Church in Herrin, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and Eagles Auxiliary. She was also active in politics, serving as a Democrat State central committeeman and as Williamson County chairwoman. Professionally, Pauline worked for the Department of Unemployment for 12 years.

Pauline will be remembered by many people whose lives she graced over the years. She is survived by a loving family, including her daughter Linda, son, John, brother Howard Eugene, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. May God bless her family, and I know that the spirit with which she lived her life will be with us for some time to come.

FOOD SAFETY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, September 24, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

IS YOUR SUPPER SAFE? U.S. FOOD SAFETY POLICY

Many Hoosiers have asked me if the food we eat is safe. Recent news reports on tainted hamburger, contaminated fruits and vegetables, and the impact of microbes on certain fish have renewed concern about the safety of our food supply. People are paying closer attention to food safety, and they are demanding that government and industry deal with those threats.

We continue to have one of the safest food supplies in the world. Publicity about contaminated food is one side-effect of a safer food supply—scientists are better-equipped to identify, trace, and warn consumers about possible risks. At the same time, our enormous food production chain can spread food-borne disease faster and farther than ever before. Food is often processed in huge factories in one state and shipped and eaten by individuals around the country, with plenty of opportunities for mishandling along the way.

Many of these food dangers are difficult to detect. E. Coli, salmonella, and other threats continue despite stronger meat inspection procedures. Vast amounts of imported foods treated with pesticides are entering U.S. markets uninspected. Several steps are needed to improve food safety.

EDUCATION

We need better consumer education. The most important step consumers can take is to prepare foods correctly. Fruits and vegetables should be washed thoroughly. Ground beef should be heated thoroughly to kill E. Coli and other bacteria. Poultry and eggs should be cooked fully to avoid salmonella, and surfaces that come into contact with raw poultry should be immediately cleaned. In fact, the number one cause of salmonella is preparing fruits and vegetables at home on surfaces that have been in contact with raw poultry. USDA offers free advice on safe food preparation on a toll-free hotline (1-800/535-4555).

SAFER PESTICIDES

We should make pesticides safer. Since World War II, agrichemicals have been a key factor in U.S. agricultural productivity—controlling weeds and insects, and boosting crop yields. Yet by definition pesticides are toxic and can pose health risks. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decides which pesticides can be used, but hundreds of pesticides were approved long before we had the technology to assess their risks. It is estimated that these older pesticides constitute 90% of the dietary risk facing the public. Last year Congress reformed pesticide laws to encourage EPA to balance the risks and benefits of newer pesticides. This change should accelerate approval of safer pesticides to replace older ones.

BETTER INSPECTION

Government food inspection, which is currently divided between the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), can be improved. Questions have been raised about illegal pesticides on the market, enforcement against violators has not been strong enough, and FDA tests less than 1% of food shipments. FDA inspections should be strengthened.

Meat and poultry sold in the United States must be inspected by USDA. Meat inspection legislation, which dates back to 1906, is far stricter than the FDA's rules for other foods. Each and every slaughtered animal is inspected by a federal inspector for visual contamination. If USDA has reason to believe a food or processing plant is unsanitary, it can suspend federal inspection—which amounts to shutting the plant down. USDA has used this authority to encourage companies to recall risky products and to insist on changes in processing methods. USDA does not currently have the authority to order a recall by itself.

In 1996, USDA began a program to modernize its meat inspection techniques. The old system, sometimes known as "poke and sniff", relied largely on sight, smell, and touch. While the system has worked reasonably well, it is not so effective at detecting invisible pathogens such as E. Coli. The new Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system will use scientific testing at a series of key points in meat processing. Inspectors will be better able to locate problems before they contaminate large amounts of food. The completed HACCP system should greatly increase our ability to prevent food contamination.

ANIMAL AND PLANT RESEARCH

We should increase research on the causes and cures of food contamination. Animals are natural carriers of bacteria, but research

indicates that certain feeds or antibiotics may greatly reduce the amount of harmful bacteria that are produced. New farming techniques and genetic research also offer new ways to reduce the use of pesticides. Some researchers, for example, have identified "good" bacteria that kill E. Coli inside a living animal. Others have developed crops with their own natural pesticides—reducing chemical risk and the cost of production. Congress should devote more attention to research aimed at preventing food-borne diseases.

IRRADIATION

One technique gaining attention is food irradiation. Low doses of gamma rays can kill pathogens and extend shelf-life dramatically. The FDA has approved irradiation for pork, poultry, and produce. A similar proposal for beef is pending. Irradiation does not make food radioactive. It does not change a product's appearance or taste. Many hospitals serve irradiated foods, as do more than 40 countries. Irradiation has been deemed safe by the American Medical Association, the American Dietetic Association, and the World Health Organization. Yet consumers are reluctant to buy irradiated food, and food processors have not widely adopted irradiation. Some consumer groups argue that irradiation is more costly than improving production practices. Irradiation can also kill "good" bacteria, which often help digestion or fight other diseases. However, irradiation appears to be an effective way to increase food safety. We should increase research and consumer knowledge about this important technique.

CONCLUSION

Helping to ensure a safe and healthy food supply is one of government's fundamental responsibilities. Current policies have succeeded by providing a relatively safe food supply at a reasonable cost. Proper food preparation is the most important step, but consumers have a right to demand a more modern system. With common sense and new technology, the United States should continue to have one of the safest food supplies in the world.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE REVEREND DR. ROBERT LOWERY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate the Reverend Dr. Robert Lowery on the 40-year anniversary of his dedicated service to St. Timothy Community Church in Gary, IN. Dr. Lowery will be honored by St. Timothy Church during a 3-day anniversary celebration, which will include a gala banquet to be held at St. Timothy Community Church on Saturday, September 27, 1997, at 6 p.m. The banquet, which is entitled "A Tribute: The Man and His Message," will be in honor of Dr. Lowery's service to his parish, as well as his demonstrated commitment to improving the communities of northwest Indiana.

On September 27, 1957, Dr. Lowery began his ministry at St. Timothy Community Church as an interim pastor armed with several degrees and an enthusiasm for serving the community. With a masters of divinity from Garret Theological Seminary and a doctorate of ministry from Chicago Theological Seminary, Dr.

Lowery was well prepared for the self-defined role he would accept to spiritually guide, sustain, and shepherd the members of his parish and community. Since his arrival at St. Timothy Community Church, Dr. Lowery has devoted his time to providing guidance and training for the youth of northwest Indiana, planning and supporting positive urban initiatives, and addressing crucial issues related to education, health care, crime, and teenage pregnancy.

Dr. Lowery has carried out his youth-, education-, and urban-development-oriented agenda through his voluntarism with a number of prominent community service organizations. Currently, Dr. Lowery serves on the board of directors for the Northwest Indiana Boys and Girls Club, an organization which provides educational, social, and recreational services for young people, supports the Marion Home, a residential facility for young pregnant women, and is a Scoutmaster for Gary Boy Scout Troop 53. Through his work with such distinguished organizations as the Gary Educational Development Foundation and the Northwest Indiana Urban League, he has been instrumental in structuring a comprehensive framework for educational programs, which divert the energies of youth into productive activities. Dr. Lowery has also aided urban development during his tenure as an executive board member for the Northwest Indiana Urban League, Referral Emergency Services, and the Lake County Mental Health Association. In addition to faithfully serving numerous other organizations, Dr. Lowery holds an associate professorship at Indiana University-Northwest, where he teaches in the area of church society and psycho-dynamics of minority problems.

Over the years, Dr. Lowery has been recognized by a number of institutions for his outstanding commitment to northwest Indiana communities. As a result of his theological and humanitarian efforts, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Purdue University-Calumet in 1996, and an honorary doctorate of divinity from the Chicago Theological Seminary in 1991. In addition, he has received countless awards for his community service efforts from such organizations as the Boy Scouts of America, the NAACP, the March of Dimes, and the Lake Area United Way. Some of the more prominent service honors bestowed upon Dr. Lowery include the 1990 State of Indiana Sagamore of the Wabash Award, the 1996 Calumet College St. Joseph the Worker Award, and the 1997 Indiana University-Northwest Chancellor's Medallion Award Citation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Dr. Lowery on his outstanding accomplishments during his 40 years of service to St. Timothy Community Church and its surrounding communities. His wife, Josephine Mathews-Lowery, and their daughters, Gay Marlene Lowery, Lynn Michele Lowery-Darby, and Jan Avis-Lowery, should be proud of his efforts, as his leadership has served as a beacon of hope throughout the Gary community. Dr. Lowery's devotion to improving the quality of life for the people of Indiana's First Congressional District is truly inspirational.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES ROUNDTREE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. James Roundtree, an individual who is dedicated to helping others in the South Bronx community.

Mr. Roundtree is currently the director of St. Benedict the Moor Neighborhood Center, a grassroots organizations which provides assistance to people living with AIDS and with substance abuse problems.

At the center, located on St. Ann's Avenue, hot meals are served to 200 people a day, 5 days a week. The center also provides referrals to medical facilities, housing, and 12-step programs for victims of substance abuse problems.

The center is funded in part by donations. Some of the center's staff are paid by the national Americorps Program; however, many workers are volunteers.

Mr. Roundtree became the director of the center after Rev. Roger Ciglio, the founder of the program, passed away in 1990. Once a patient of the center himself, Mr. Roundtree has been committed to giving back to those in need.

Over the past 7 years, Mr. Roundtree has been a friend, a counselor, and an inspiration for many who, like him, have been victims of substance abuse.

Mr. Roundtree says that he does not give up on anybody. He knows first hand the difficult challenges faced by recovering victims.

St. Benedict the Moor Neighborhood Center formed a coalition with St. Ann's Church, Public School 30, and the Parks Council, to revitalize the area surrounding the center—the Mott Haven community. The coalition created a garden from 139th to 140th Street. Recovering patients take part in a gardening program as part of their therapy sessions. The garden is now visited by students and families with children. It is also the home for summer jazz concerts.

Mr. Roundtree may leave the center because of health reasons. His contributions to the community have not gone unnoticed and will not be forgotten. They are encouraging to the many individuals he has helped and for those who may follow in his footsteps.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. James Roundtree for his compassion and dedication to helping others in our South Bronx community.

THE REOPENING OF THE BURLINGAME PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege and honor to pay tribute to the Burlingame, CA, Public Library, one of the finest community institutions in our country. To me and to the thousands of Bay Area residents who have had the pleasure of using this outstanding facility, the importance of the Bur-

lingame Public Library cannot be measured merely by its diverse collection of 239,000 books, nor its 400 periodical subscriptions, nor the beautiful Tuscan-style building which has housed these items since the days of the Great Depression; rather, the library is seen by all of us in terms of the memories amassed under the shadow of its beautiful tapestries. It is a place where our children learned to read, our high school students researched their first school reports, and our eyes were opened to limitless intellectual, educational, and creative pleasures.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute not only to this establishment's storied past, but to its glowing future. On October 4, 1997, more than 85 years after the people of Burlingame joined together to build their first public library, and after 8 years of dedicated planning, a new Burlingame Public Library will be dedicated by a justifiably proud and delighted community. The new structure will maintain the charm and elegance of the initial structure, while offering state-of-the-art facilities in line with the 21st century information age.

The grand tradition of the Burlingame Public Library came into being in the early 1900's as Burlingame experienced an influx of new residents from San Francisco and from other parts of the country. The creation of a new, free library in 1912 was one of many milestones in the town's growth. The library's first home was a former church building at Primrose and Bellevue, but this small structure was soon made obsolete by the continued growth of Burlingame's population. In 1930, construction began on a new Burlingame Public Library.

Designed by Col. E.L. Norberg, a longtime Burlingame resident, the new building was erected in a romantic style which evoked images of Tuscan villas and monasteries. Norberg's beautiful creation would serve Burlingame for over six decades as a cultural and literary center, a community gathering place, and a second home to thousands of students exploring its first rate academic collections. As Burlingame grew so did the library, and new additions were dedicated in 1960 and 1972. By the mid-1980's, the success of the Burlingame Public Library prompted calls for even more significant improvements to the building's structure, foundation, and technological facilities.

With the full support of the community, the process of planning and organizing the library's reconstruction soon began in earnest. This operation was led by Burlingame's skilled city librarian, Mr. Al Escoffier, along with an able library board, a wonderful staff, and untiring volunteers. Financial backing came from throughout Burlingame, most notably from two devoted sources: The Friends of the Library, which has been raising funds for the library for over four decades, and the Burlingame Library Foundation, organized in 1994 to collect moneys for furnishings and technology in the new space. These dedicated groups provided vital assistance during years of preparation and design study.

Group 4/Architecture, Research and Planning, Inc., one of northern California's most distinguished architectural firms, was selected to formulate a plan for the new library. The product of its labors was masterful, a blueprint for renovation that would merge the timeless beauty of Norberg's original composition with