

A SALUTE TO JAMES W.  
GALLAGHER

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 1997*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding American, James W. Gallagher. A resident of Newtown Square, PA, I am proud to call this fine man a resident of the Seventh Congressional District.

A tireless servant of his local community and the entire Nation, Jim served his country as a U.S. marine in World War II. Beyond his military service, Jim continued his service to the public. He has been an active member of the American Legion for over two decades, serving in numerous local and State leadership posts.

And each Christmas, Jim led a local Toys for Tots effort for the Marine Corps. This important program provides both the toys and the means for the area's poor to give their children a more joyous holiday season. For these and other charitable works, Jim is well-known and respected throughout the community.

I rise today to mark a special moment in Jim's life, a passing of the torch, if you will. This past Christmas Day, on the 220th Anniversary of George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River during the American Revolution, Jim portrayed General Washington his 12th and final year in Pennsylvania's annual reenactment of the famous crossing.

More than 9,000 individuals were on hand as Jim surveyed his troops for his final time, reciting "These are the times that try men's souls" from Thomas Paine's "The Crisis," a work credited with boosting the morale and courage of General Washington's small army. And, quite fittingly, Jim delivered Washington's farewell address upon his retirement from the Army, saying to his troops "I now take my leave of you."

Jim will be remembered for years to come for his memorable portrayal of George Washington, not just in the annual reenactment of the Delaware River crossing, but also in parades and even in our Nation's Capitol Building.

But even more importantly, Jim will be remembered for embodying the ideals of George Washington through his dedication and service to the country and the entire community. His work and effort will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring James Gallagher, a true American.

NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE  
SUPPORTS MEDICINAL USE  
OF MARIJUANA

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 1997*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, when I came to Congress in the early 1980's, our late colleague Stewart McKinney of Connecticut was the sponsor of a bill to allow doctors to prescribe marijuana for medical purposes when they found this to be in the inter-

est of their patients. When Mr. McKinney tragically died in 1987, depriving this Congress of one of its most valuable Members, the bill lapsed. A few years ago, at the urging of some people interested in this subject, I reintroduced the bill, essentially the legislation which Mr. McKinney had initiated. While no action was taken on that bill in the previous Congress, and while some of the prior cosponsors had in the interim changed their mind on the bill—for example, Mr. GINGRICH of Georgia—I will be reintroducing the bill this year. In the interim, voters in the States of Arizona and California have given their endorsement by solid majorities to this principle. I hope we will in this Congress seriously debate this issue. I have been disappointed by the failure of the Clinton administration to be more forthcoming, but I have been encouraged by the increasing interest in debating this subject seriously among many members in the medical profession.

Recently, one of the leading outlets for informed opinion about medicine, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, carried an editorial by Dr. Jerome P. Kassirer, editor of the *Journal*, on this subject. His title—*Federal Foolishness and Marijuana*—accurately sums up his point of view.

Dr. Kassirer says in this editorial that he believes "that a federal policy that prohibits physicians from alleviating suffering by prescribing marijuana for seriously ill patients is misguided, heavy handed and inhumane." I should note that it is now in direct conflict with the wishes of the people of Arizona and California as expressed in referenda. Indeed, I await the support for my bill that I assume will be forthcoming from my conservative colleagues who are great supporters of States rights, and who in particular believe that when the public has expressed its view in referenda, Federal officials should acknowledge the validity of that point of view.

Mr. Speaker, in the hope that we may again be able to change your mind so that you go back to your position of the 1980's in support of this proposition, and in the interest of furthering debate on this matter, I ask that the thoughtful editorial by Dr. Kassirer be printed here.

[From the *New England Journal of Medicine*  
Jan. 30, 1997]

#### FEDERAL FOOLISHNESS AND MARIJUANA

(By Jerome P. Kassirer, M.D.)

The advanced stages of many illnesses and their treatments are often accompanied by intractable nausea, vomiting, or pain. Thousands of patients with cancer, AIDS, and other diseases report they have obtained striking relief from these devastating symptoms by smoking marijuana. (1) The alleviation of distress can be striking that some patients and their families have been willing to risk a jail term to obtain or grow the marijuana.

Despite the desperation of these patients, within weeks after voters in Arizona and California approved propositions allowing physicians in their states to prescribe marijuana for medical indications, federal officials, including the President, the secretary of Health and Human Services, and the attorney general sprang into action. At a news conference, Secretary Donna E. Shalala gave an organ recital of the parts of the body that she asserted could be harmed by marijuana and warned of the evils of its spreading use. Attorney General Janet Reno announced that physicians in any state who prescribed

the drug could lose the privilege of writing prescriptions, be excluded from Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, and even be prosecuted for a federal crime. General Barry R. McCaffrey, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, reiterated his agency's position that marijuana is a dangerous drug and implied that voters in Arizona and California had been duped into voting for these propositions. He indicated that it is always possible to study the effects of any drug, including marijuana, but that the use of marijuana by seriously ill patients would require, at the least, scientifically valid research.

I believe that a federal policy that prohibits physicians from alleviating suffering by prescribing marijuana for seriously ill patients is misguided, heavy-handed, and inhumane. Marijuana may have long-term adverse effects and its use may presage serious addictions, but neither long-term side effects nor addiction is a relevant issue in such patients. It is also hypocritical to forbid physicians to prescribe marijuana while permitting them to use morphine and meperidine to relieve extreme dyspnea and pain. With both these drugs the difference between the dose that relieves symptoms and the dose that hastens death is very narrow; by contrast, there is no risk of death from smoking marijuana. To demand evidence of therapeutic efficacy is equally hypocritical. The noxious sensations that patients experience are extremely difficult to quantify in controlled experiments. What really counts for a therapy with this kind of safety margin is whether a seriously ill patient feels relief as a result of the intervention, not whether a controlled trial "proves" its efficacy.

Paradoxically, dronabinol, a drug that contains one of the active ingredients in marijuana (tetra-hydrocannabinol), has been available by prescription for more than a decade. But it is difficult to titrate the therapeutic dose of this drug, and it is not widely prescribed. By contrast, smoking marijuana produces a rapid increase in the blood level of the active ingredients and is thus more likely to be therapeutic. Needless to say, new drugs such as those that inhibit the nausea associated with chemotherapy may well be more beneficial than smoking marijuana, but their comparative efficacy has never been studied.

Whatever their reasons, federal officials are out of step with the public. Dozens of states have passed laws that ease restrictions on the prescribing of marijuana by physicians, and polls consistently show that the public favors the use of marijuana for such purposes. [1] Federal authorities should rescind their prohibition of the medicinal use of marijuana for seriously ill patients and allow physicians to decide which patients to treat. The government should change marijuana's status from that of a Schedule 1 drug (considered to be potentially addictive and with no current medical use) to that of a Schedule 2 drug (potentially addictive but with some accepted medical use) and regulate it accordingly. To ensure its proper distribution and use, the government could declare itself the only agency sanctioned to provide the marijuana. I believe that such a change in policy would have no adverse effects. The argument that it would be a signal to the young that "marijuana is OK" is, I believe, specious.

This proposal is not new. In 1986, after years of legal wrangling, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) held extensive hearings on the transfer of marijuana to Schedule 2. In 1988, the DEA's own administrative-law judge concluded, "It would be unreasonable, arbitrary, and capricious for DEA to continue to stand between those sufferers and the benefits of this substance in light of the evidence in this record." [1] Nonetheless, the DEA overruled the judge's order

to transfer marijuana to Schedule 2, and in 1992 it issued a final rejection of all requests for reclassification.[2]

Some physicians will have the courage to challenge the continued proscription of marijuana for the sick. Eventually, their actions will force the courts to adjudicate between the rights of those at death's door and the absolute power of bureaucrats whose decisions are based more on reflexive ideology and political correctness than on compassion.

## REFERENCES

1. Young FL. Opinion and recommended ruling, marijuana rescheduling petition. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, Docket 86-22. Washington, D.C.: Drug Enforcement Administration, September 6, 1988.

2. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, Marijuana scheduling petition: denial of petition: remand. (Docket No. 86-22.) Fed Regist 1992;5759:10489-508.

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### TRIBUTE TO REV. RONALD PACKNETT

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 1997

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to pay tribute to my constituent and friend, Reverend Ronald Packnett, who died on December 17, 1996.

Rev. Packnett was an extraordinary community leader. He was a vital pillar of the St. Louis community. He pastored a prominent spiritual institution, Central Baptist Church in St. Louis, that has a progressive and active congregation. Under Rev. Packnett's leadership they become important activists in causes that affected the broader community.

I want to share with our colleagues an editorial that tells of the many lives Rev. Ronald Packnett touched both as a spiritual leader and friend of the community. This enlightening story entitled, "Packnett Touched Many Lives, Stood Up For Important Causes" was written by Gregory Freeman and appeared in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on December 20, 1996.

[From the St. Louis (MO) Post Dispatch,  
Dec. 20, 1996]

PACKNETT TOUCHED MANY LIVES, STOOD UP  
FOR IMPORTANT CAUSES

(By Gregory Freeman)

There's A void today at Del Monico's Diner. The Rev. Ronald Packnett, pastor of Central Baptist Church, was a fixture at the restaurant. He could be found at the restaurant at Delmar Boulevard and Euclid Avenue almost every morning, chowing down on one of their hearty pancakes-and-sausage breakfasts. And he had a passion for Del Monico's fried chicken legs.

Packnett, who died Tuesday at 45 after a long illness, called restaurant matriarch Eva Bodo his mother away from home. His mother lives in Chicago.

The Rev. Gary Tyler was busy working at Del Monico's on Tuesday when he learned of Packnett's death. He said Packnett was his mentor. "I was an associate pastor at Greater Paradise," Tyler said, "Rev. Packnett heard me preach and invited me to his church to speak. Before I knew it, I was speaking there all the time."

Packnett got Tyler, 31, the training he needed, and installed him at Central Baptist.

Other employees and customers overheard our conversation and joined in. "Rev. Packnett? He married me," one man called out.

"He baptized me," yelled another.

Bobo couldn't say enough about him. "He helped my granddaughter," she said. "He carried her to church every Sunday, and he had her involved in everything."

Packnett loved young people. "He'd always make sure the youth could take part in the National Baptist Convention every year," Tyler said.

"That's right," added Bobo, "my granddaughter got to go places she never could have gone."

"San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, wherever the convention was held, he always made sure that young people could go," Tyler said. "And then he made sure that they weren't just running around when they got to those cities. They always had some kind of class; and they went to places like churches and historical sites."

Some spoke of programs he had set up through the church, including one that provided clothes and lunch for the homeless every Tuesday, and a "Rites of Passage" African heritage program. Others talked about the hours he spent visiting sick church members at hospitals and in their homes.

In there's one thing a journalist learns early, it's that there are phonies and there are real articles.

Packnett was the real article.

While he often rubbed shoulders with mayors and congressmen and powerful people, he was clearly as much at ease with average people and willing to help anyone. Like the day the restaurant was shorthanded. Packnett took off his coat, went to the kitchen and cheerfully pitched in to wash dishes.

At 5 feet, 6 inches, Packnett wasn't tall in stature. But he was tall in the minds of those whose lives he touched. And he wasn't afraid to speak out, even when he knew he'd be sharply criticized.

Packnett took a great deal of heat last year from some blacks when he endorsed Francis Slay, who is white for president of the city's Board of Aldermen over his black opponent, Alderman Velma Jean Bailey. The criticism didn't bother him. "What's right is right," he said then.

Others didn't care for him four years ago when he made a stink after taking his two children to Union Station to see Santa and discovering that they had no black Santas. He called the company that supplies Santa to malls nationwide and learned the company had supplied no black Santas here.

He faxed letters to marketing directors at seven malls and a department store on behalf of the St. Louis Clergy Coalition, a group of black ministers that represents various denominations. The letter said, in effect, we spend money in your stores and we want a black Santa. Two of the malls told him they would hire a black Santa right away.

Last year, a day before the Million Man March, Packnett led more than 100 people in prayer at Central Baptist Church before they headed off to the event in Washington. After praying, he led the audience in song, delighting the crowd when he changed the words to a spiritual from "Ain't gonna let nobody turn me 'round" to "Ain't gonna let Newt Gingrich turn us 'round'."

The members of his church remember him best for his work at Central Baptist. "He was always helping people, doing for people, teaching people right from wrong," Bobo said.

"We'll not get any more pastors like that," Bobo said adding, "If they do, it'll probably be long after I'm not around anymore."

THE RETIREMENT OF REAR ADM.  
LUTHER F. SCHRIEFER, USN

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 1997

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Rear Adm. Luther F. Schriefer, U.S. Navy, retired on February 1, 1997, after nearly 37 years of honorable and distinguished service.

Rear Admiral Schriefer served as the Division Director for the Navy's Environmental Protection, Safety and Occupational Health Division since November 1994. As the Navy's senior environmentalist, he was responsible for several key initiatives that have enabled the Navy to operate in harmony with the natural environment by achieving safe and environmentally sound ships, aircraft, and installations. He has testified before congressional committees to ensure that members and their staffs understand the Navy's impact on the environment, as well as the effects of environmental laws and regulations on the operations of our Nation's Navy.

Prior to his assignment as the senior environmentalist, he was the Director, Inter-American Region, International Security Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense. He was the director of the Caribbean task force during the 1994 Haitian and Cuban crises. Prior to his assignment for the Secretary of Defense, he was the Commander at the Naval Base in San Diego.

Rear Admiral Schriefer was assigned to numerous other commands over the course of his distinguished career, including Commander, Anti-Submarine Warfare Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet at Naval Air Station North Island and Director Tactical Air, Surface, Electronic Warfare Research and Development (OP-982). He was selected for two commands at sea: the amphibious assault ship USS *Belleau Wood* (LHA 3) and the amphibious cargo ship USS *Mobile* (LKA 115). He also held three air commands: the Air Anti-Submarine Wing 1 at Cecil Field, FL, Carrier Wing 3 onboard the USS *Saratoga* (CV-60) and Air Squadron VS-22 aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Intrepid* (CV 11). He served his country as an officer at the VRC-50 Detachment at Danang Air Base, Republic of South Vietnam, and VS-28 on board the USS *Independence* (CV-61).

Rear Admiral Schriefer has enjoyed several proud moments in his service to our country, including several exhilarating moments as a junior officer flying for our Navy resolving technical challenges associated with his aircraft's performance. He retires as the Navy's "Gray Eagle," a term reserved for the senior aviator in the Navy.

Rear Admiral Schriefer is a native of Oshkosh, WI. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1960 and was designated a naval aviator in October 1961. He studied naval communications management at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. He also attended the Naval War College in Newport, RI, and graduated in June 1971. He was awarded a master of science degree in international affairs from George Washington University. He is married to the former Sandra N. Swanson of Detroit, MI. The Schrieferes have four children: Kim, Scott, Michael, and Kelly.