

TRIBUTE TO OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVANT, DR. PHILLIP GORDEN, DIRECTOR OF NIDDK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a moment this afternoon to praise a truly outstanding public servant of the Federal Government, someone who has contributed to healthier lives for literally millions of Americans. I speak of Dr. Phillip Gorden, who is stepping down this year after 13 years as head of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

As a member of the appropriations subcommittee which funds the National Institutes of Health, I have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Gorden for the past 5 years. He is one of the Nation's preeminent health care professionals, and I am proud to say he is a fellow Mississippian. Dr. Gorden's hometown of Baldwin, Mississippi, is in my congressional district, and I know he maintains close ties to his Mississippi roots. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, he and I are among the few people in Washington, D.C. who subscribe to the Baldwin News, a small but very informative weekly newspaper in North Mississippi.

After earning an undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University and then graduating from the Vanderbilt School of Medicine, Dr. Gorden completed residency and a fellowship at Yale University before joining the NIH back in 1966. He began his career as a senior investigator in the clinical endocrinology branch at the NIDDK and later became its clinical director. He assumed the position of NIDDK director in 1986.

I share the strong interest Dr. Gorden has in supporting the NIH's mission to acquire new knowledge to prevent and treat disease and disability. I have seen firsthand the results of his commitment to this important mission. Dr. Gorden's effective leadership has led the institute to great advances in fighting some of the most chronic and debilitating diseases which afflict the American people.

On his watch, Dr. Gorden has seen the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases grow to become the fifth largest NIH institute, with a budget expected to top \$1 billion when NIDDK celebrates its 50th anniversary next year.

The institute's research efforts have brought breakthrough discoveries in the prevention and treatment of diabetes, digestive ailments, nutritional disorders, diseases of the kidney, urological tract and blood.

In his final testimony before our subcommittee this year, Dr. Gorden expressed great optimism about the prospects for the NIDDK as it prepares for the 21st Century. He said we are on the brink of enormous clinical progress and pointed to extraordinary research mo-

mentum propelling us toward major medical advances. His leadership has been a key factor in making these advances possible.

Though he will soon leave as head of the institute, Dr. Gorden has charted an ambitious and steady course for the NIDDK as it begins both a new century and its second 50 years of service to the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate for us to recognize outstanding public servants for a job well done. Our thanks today go to Dr. Phillip Gorden for his lifetime commitment to improving the quality of life for his fellow citizens. Millions of Americans are living healthier lives as a result of the research Dr. Gorden and his colleagues have done and continue to do at NIH.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXPRESSION OF SORROW AT TRAGIC DEATH OF JOYCE CHIANG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, like the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) who spoke before me, and like the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Mrs. LOIS CAPPS) who will speak after me, I rise to express sorrow at the tragic death and to commemorate the short but inspirational life of Joyce Chiang.

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On January 9, Joyce was last seen in Dupont Circle, and she was not seen thereafter. A body was discovered on April 1, and yesterday that body was positively identified as being Joyce.

Joyce lived a life of public service and public involvement, starting with her involvement with the student body government at Smith College, where she served as student body president, continuing here in the House of Representatives on the staff of the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), and continuing to her service at the INS, where she spearheaded the implementation of the 1996 immigration bill.

Joyce never stopped contributing, never stopped involvement in public life. And Joyce was an incredible human being to all who knew her. As everyone who I have talked to says, and we all say the same thing, she lit up a room every time she walked in.

Those who knew Joyce were not surprised at what was an incredible and unprecedented outpouring from her friends when she became missing. I participated in the first of many vigils for Joyce held at Dupont Circle, and hundreds showed up to express their con-

cern and their love of Joyce. And almost immediately, posters of Joyce appeared all over the City of Washington, urging people to contact authorities if they had any knowledge of her whereabouts.

Not only her friends, but also and especially her family missed and worried about Joyce. Her family endured with courage and religious faith the unendurable 3 months knowing that their sister, their daughter was missing.

Our heart goes out to her brother Robert, in Texas, and her brother Roger, who lives here in the District of Columbia and who spent so much time publicizing Joyce's absence in the hope that someone would be able to identify Joyce's whereabouts, hopefully to help us find her, help the authorities find her during her life.

And I am proud to represent and my heart goes out to two residents of the San Fernando Valley, her mother Judy, who has spent so long and prayed so hard for Joyce, and especially to my very close friend, my successor in State government and Joyce's brother, John, who has lived through with his family what I just cannot imagine living through, 3 months of Joyce's absence.

Joyce will be remembered by so many. She was an inspiration to so many, and she will be missed by so many.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California (Mr. SHERMAN) for yielding.

And with our mutual colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), I simply want to join on this sad day to remember Joyce Chiang and send my most heartfelt condolences to her family and her many friends, her friends particularly here on Capitol Hill.

As the mother of two grown daughters, I can only imagine the suffering of this family, and the anguish, over the past 3 months. I realize that mere words can be of little consolation at a time like this, but I do hope that the warm memories and very fond recollections that Joyce inspired will provide some comfort over time.

I did not know Joyce like my colleagues, but I feel connected to her through her brother Roger, who has been the family's courageous public voice over these past several weeks. And Roger is from my family, that is, the University of California at Santa Barbara family. He was a student of my husband Walter, an active UCSB alumnus, and is a close friend of many of the young people who worked for Walter and work with me.

To Roger and to the countless others who loved Joyce, my heart is with them today.