

IN HONOR OF JIM PETRO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jim Petro, Ohio Auditor of State, chief inspector and supervisor of public offices in the State of Ohio.

Mr. Petro has served Ohio in both the public and the private sector. His legal experience spans more than 25 years as a practicing attorney, law partner, city law director and criminal prosecutor. He served eight years in the Ohio House of Representatives and was a ranking member of the House Ethics Committee. He also served as a Cuyahoga County Commissioner for four years, including one as President of the Commission.

Mr. Petro is currently serving his second term as Ohio Auditor of State, responsible for overseeing the financial condition and legal compliance of all 4,500 units of government in Ohio. He has served that challenging role with professionalism and integrity. He has advocated accountability with tax dollars and worked to uncover instances of fraud, waste and abuse in government. He has saved taxpayers millions of dollars. Under his leadership the Audit office has contributed to the improvement of public services. Mr. Petro has been awarded the Mercedes Cotner Scholarship in recognition of his public service.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in honoring Ohio's Auditor, Jim Petro.

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AMBUSH MARKETING

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, with the Olympic Games scheduled to begin shortly in Sydney, Australia, now is an exciting time for all Americans, and we all have high hopes for our U.S. Olympic team. As I can attest through personal experience, these athletes have been working for many years to arrive at this point in their careers and we certainly wish all of them the best of luck.

As these talented and dedicated men and women travel across the world to Sydney they should be reassured by the recognition that they have the complete support of all of us back here in the United States, including a number of major U.S. companies. These companies are the official Olympic sponsors who have invested millions of dollars to ensure that the United States can fully participate in the Olympic Games. However, these companies have been plagued in the past by a problem that is expected to rear its ugly head again in Sydney. The problem is "ambush marketing," a practice in which companies with no relationship to the Olympic Movement nevertheless deceptively portray themselves as being associated with it, thus diminishing the value of an authorized sponsorship, and ultimately depriving American athletes of the necessary funds to prepare for Olympic competition.

The Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act places with the United States

Olympic Committee the responsibility for providing the financial support for American athletes, and for developing all athletic activity in the U.S. related to international competition. All funds for the training and preparation of our athletes for competition in the Olympic, Pan American, and Paralympic Games are generated through private sources, such as Olympic sponsorships, rather than from a government appropriation. Indeed, the USOC is the only National Olympic Committee from throughout the world that receives no government funding, and it is for this reason that the USOC declares with a degree of pride that "America does not send its athletes to the Olympic Games, Americans do."

Apparently the act that gave the USOC the tools to fund its athlete programs privately needs strengthening to ensure that they are not devalued through deceptive practices of ambush advertisers. Congress should consider improvements to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act to prevent harm to the Olympic movement, legitimate official sponsors, and, most important, America's Olympic athletes. I look forward to monitoring the activities surrounding the Summer Games and exploring ways in which we can ensure that the intent and spirit of the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act are followed.

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A SALUTE TO JON HENDRICKS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I honor on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus and salute the lifetime achievements of one of the most important artists in American music history. Jazz vocalist and lyricist extraordinary, Jon Hendricks is widely regarded as the "Father of Vocalese," a unique singing style characterized by the addition of lyrics to complex jazz arrangements. Hendricks' impressive body of work has influenced jazz vocalists for decades. He is an "American original," deserving of recognition by the Congress of the United States.

Born in Newark, OH, in 1921, Jon Hendricks began his career as an entertainer singing in the choir of the church where his father served as pastor. He later began singing professionally in nightclubs around Toledo, OH, where his family moved and he grew up. His accompanist for two years was pianist Art Tatum, who, himself, went on to achieve great renown.

After service in the Army, Jon Hendricks returned home and studied law at the University of Toledo. One night, Hendricks was sitting in with legendary saxophonist Charlie Parker. Parker told him to give up law, come to New York City, and pursue work as a jazz singer. Two years later, Jon Hendricks did just that. He found Parker playing at an engagement in Harlem, and almost fainted when Parker invited him up on the bandstand to sing.

In addition to singing, Hendricks sought work in New York as a songwriter. His first chance to record his own material came when King Pleasure invited Hendricks to write lyrics to his version of "Little Boy, Don't Get Scared." Hendricks subsequently developed into one of the greatest jazz lyricists, having

authored the words to such jazz standards as "Doodlin'," "Tickle Toe," "Cloudburst," and "Yeh Yeh." During the course of his career, he has composed lyrics for music written by such jazz giants as Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, Thelonius Monk, Sonny Rollins, and many others.

In the late 50s, Jon Hendricks joined Annie Ross and Dave Lambert to form the groundbreaking jazz vocal trio known as Lambert, Hendricks, and Ross. The group quickly gained fame, winning an award in Down Beat's 1959 Poll. Hendricks wrote lyrics to many of the jazz standards that were performed by the group. A trademark of his work is that each song's lyrics constitute a fully realized story. For this, he earned the nickname "the James Joyce of Jive."

Jon Hendricks has recorded numerous albums during his career, the latest being "Boppin' at the Blue Note," released in 1995. On that particular recording, he is accompanied by a vocal ensemble that includes his wife, Judith, their daughters Michele and Aria, and Kevin Burke.

At 79, Hendricks continues to actively pursue his recording and performing career. He has been called "The Poet Laureate of Jazz" and "The James Joyce of Jive." Among his honors are the Grammy Award, as well as Emmy and Peabody Awards for his work on the CBS-TV documentary, "Somewhere to Lay My Weary Head." Congressman CONYERS, along with ASCAP, will bestow special awards upon Mr. Hendricks during a brief ceremony during the concert.

Last year, Hendricks received an honorary Doctor of Performing Arts degree from the University of Toledo. He was also named Distinguished Professor of Jazz Studies and has just begun teaching classes at the university.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present to this body the accomplishments of Jon Hendricks, a musical genius whose songs we all have come to enjoy.

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TRIBUTE TO COACH ROBERT LONEY

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor Coach Robert Loney. For 42 years, Coach Loney has inspired students and athletes to strive for their personal best.

A native Californian, Coach Loney was born in Riverside and grew up in the City of Pomona. He received his undergraduate degree at Anderson College in Indiana and completed the coursework for his masters degree at Claremont Graduate School in California.

In the fall of 1958, Coach Loney began his career at Upland High School where he taught mathematics and coached the cross country and track teams. In addition, he found time to advise several YMCA clubs. During the course of his career, Coach Loney impacted the lives of well over 1,600 student athletes.

Coach Loney's leadership resulted in 34 League Cross-Country/Track Team Championships, four California Interscholastic Federation Cross-Country/Track Team Championships, and eight California Interscholastic Federation Titles. He has coached two Olympic

athletes and launched the collegiate athletic careers of hundreds of students.

While many accolades have been bestowed on Coach Loney, few can compare to the praise his former students continue to express. Years later, his former students attest that he changed their lives by offering the motivation and inspiration they needed to succeed. Coach Loney believed in his athletes, even when they did not believe in themselves.

On Saturday, September 9, 2000 hundreds of former students will return to Upland High School to celebrate Coach Loney's recent retirement. As these individuals pay tribute to a great American by running one final lap for their devoted coach, I ask that this House please join me in recognizing, honoring and commending Coach Robert Loney as an American Hero.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE HEPATITIS C HEALTH CARE ACT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Comprehensive Hepatitis C Health Care Act. This bill would fundamentally change the way the Department of Veterans Affairs is addressing the growing Hepatitis C epidemic, and would create a national standard for testing and treating veterans for the virus.

For several years, I and other members of this chamber from across the country have been asking the VA to look at the growing problem of Hepatitis C among the veterans population, and to dedicate the necessary resources to fighting this disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Hepatitis C is a disease of the liver caused by contact with the Hepatitis C virus. It is primarily spread by contact with infected blood. The CDC estimates that an estimated 1.8 percent of the population is infected with the Hepatitis C virus, although that number is much higher among veterans. Vietnam-era veterans are considered to be at greatest risk, since many may have been exposed to Hepatitis C-infected blood as a result of combat-related surgical care during the Vietnam War.

Despite all the attention to Hepatitis C, and all that we are learning about this disease, the VA still lacks a comprehensive, consistent, uniform approach to testing and treating veterans for the virus.

We know this because the VA's handling of Hepatitis C has been raised in hearings in the House, both in the VA/HUD Appropriations subcommittee, of which I am a member, as well as the House Government Reform Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs and International Relations and the Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Benefits.

In fact, in the VA/HUD Appropriations subcommittee hearing held on March 22, 2000, former VA Secretary Togo West claimed that the VA was unable to spend all of the Fiscal Year 2000 Hepatitis C funding of \$195 million because the demand was not there. He said, "if you are hearing that we are not using all of say the \$199 million that was appropriated in

2000 for hepatitis C, it would be because we are not seeing that incidence of patients that add up to that much money, essentially."

Unfortunately, we are seeing that incidence of patients, most acutely in New Jersey and New York, but across the country as well. If the VA had properly spent the \$195 million allocated in FY2000 on Hepatitis C testing and treatment, then there would have been little reason for the VA to release \$20 million from the National Reserve Account on June 28, 2000. Based on the VA's own figures, the \$20 million allocation was half of what the 22 Veterans Integrated Service Networks, or VISNs, had spent on Hepatitis C in just the first two quarters of FY2000 alone! This money was not even a downpayment toward the Hepatitis C costs being incurred by all 22 VISNs.

Further, only a fraction of the 3.5 million veterans enrolled nationally with the VA Health Care System have been tested to date. Part of the problem stems from a lack of qualified, full-time medical personnel to administer and analyze the tests. Most of the 172 VA hospitals in this country have only one doctor, working a half day a week, to conduct and analyze all the tests. At this rate, it will take years to test the entire enrolled population—years that many of these veterans do not have.

As a result of the VA's inaction, I am introducing the Comprehensive Hepatitis C Health Care Act.

This bill would improve access to Hepatitis C testing and treatment for all veterans, ensure that the VA spends all allocated Hepatitis C funds on testing and treatment, and set new, national policies for Hepatitis C care.

First, the bill would improve testing and treatment for veterans by requiring annual screening tests for Vietnam-era veterans enrolled in the VA system, and provide annual tests, upon request, to other veterans enrolled in the VA system. Further, it would require the VA to treat any enrolled veteran who tests positive for the Hepatitis C virus, regardless of service-connected disability status or priority group categorization. The VA would be required to provide at least one dedicated health care professional—a doctor and a nurse—at each VA Hospital for testing and treatment of this disease.

Veterans who request a liver biopsy or Hepatitis C genotype from VA would be able to receive those tests under this bill. Under the VA's current policy, veterans in some areas of the country have been denied access to these critical tests. And, VA staff would be provided with increased training options intended to improve the quality of care for veterans with Hepatitis C. Finally, the VA is encouraged to provide each VA hospital with one staff member, preferably trained in psychiatry, psychology or social work, to coordinate treatment options and other information with patients.

This bill would increase the amount of money dedicated to Hepatitis C testing and treatment, and would make sure these funds are spent where they are needed most. Beginning in FY01, the \$340 million in Hepatitis C funding would be shifted to the Specific Purpose account under the Veterans Health Administration, and will be dedicated solely for the purpose of paying for the costs associated with treating veterans with the Hepatitis C virus. The bill would allocate these funds to the 22 VISNs based on each VISN's Hepatitis C incidence rate, or the number of veterans

infected with the virus. The VISNs will be allowed to use other funds to pay for the costs associated with Hepatitis C testing and treatment, but the \$340 million in the Specific Purpose account could be used to pay for the costs related to Hepatitis C care.

Finally, this bill will end the confusing patchwork of policies governing the care of veterans with Hepatitis C in each of the 22 VISNs. This legislation directs the VA to develop and implement a standardized, national Hepatitis C policy for its testing protocol, treatment options and education and notification efforts. The bill further directs the VA to develop a standard, specific Hepatitis C diagnosis code for measurement and treatment purposes. Finally, the VA must develop a national "reminder system" to alert untested veterans to the need and availability of Hepatitis C testing.

Mr. Speaker, many veterans do not even realize that they may be infected with the Hepatitis C virus, and the VA is doing little to encourage them to get the critical testing they need. The VA currently lacks a comprehensive national strategy for combating this deadly disease. With the passage of the Comprehensive Hepatitis C Health Care Act, veterans will finally be provided with access to testing and treatment that they have more than earned and deserve.

The VA has known about the problem of Hepatitis C since 1992. They have not acted, and they must not be allowed to continue to push this disease under the rug. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

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TEN YEARS AFTER, U.S. POLICY TOWARD KUWAIT STANDS THE TEST OF TIME

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, it was 10 years ago that the tiny Persian Gulf nation of Kuwait was invaded by Saddam Hussein's ruthless regime in Iraq. As a result of the exceptional leadership of President George Bush, the United States led a coalition of forces that soundly defeated the aggressor, and restored legitimate rule to Kuwait. At the time, the President's decision was heavily criticized by some; but the intervening decade has demonstrated that the decision to oppose Saddam Hussein was correct.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate for Members of this body to reflect on the risks that were involved in Operation Desert Storm. It was a remarkable achievement, made possible by the professionalism and dedication of our armed forces and those of our allies. In an era when politicians motives are cynically dissected by self-appointed pundits, we should be grateful that 10 years ago America stood against tyranny and barbarism.

Mr. Speaker, this Member would commend to his colleagues an editorial in the August 12, 2000, edition of the Omaha World-Herald. As this editorial correctly notes; "Operation Desert Storm prevented Iraq's dictator from spreading instability throughout the Middle East. Stopping that threat was an honorable cause of which Americans can be proud."