

Jaime Garzon—Radionet (Colombia) in Colombia.

Pablo Emilio Medina Motta—TV Garzon (Colombia) in Colombia.

Guzman Quintero Torres—El Pilon (Colombia) in Colombia.

Hernando Rangel Moreno—Freelance, in Colombia.

Luis Alberto Rincon Solano—Freelance, in Colombia.

Alberto Sanchez Tovar—Producciones Colombia (Colombia) in Colombia.

Roberto Julio Torres—Emisora Fuentes de Cartagena (Colombia) in Colombia.

Agus Muliawan—Asia Press International (Japan) in Indonesia.

Supriadi—Medan Pos (Indonesia) in Indonesia.

Sander Thoernes—Financial Times (United Kingdom) in Indonesia.

Ilan Roeh—Israel Radio (Israel) in Lebanon.

Samuel Boyi—The Scope (Nigeria) in Nigeria.

Fidelis Ikwuebe—Freelance, in Nigeria.

Sam Nimfa-Jan—Details (Nigeria) in Nigeria.

Oleg Chervonyuk—Metropress Agency (Russia) in Russia.

Supian Ependiyev—Groznsky Rabochiy (Russia) in Russia.

Shamil Gigayev—Nokh Cho TV (Russia) in Russia.

Ramzan Mezhidov—TV Tsentr (Russia) in Russia.

Valentina Neverova—Pravo (Russia) in Russia.

Lyubov Sloboda—Vesti (Russia) in Russia.

Alpha Amadu Bah Bah—Independent Observer (Sierra Leone) in Sierra Leone.

Jenner Cole—SKY-FM (Sierra Leone) in Sierra Leone.

Abdulai Jumah Jalloh—African Champion (Sierra Leone) in Sierra Leone.

Mabay Kamara—Freelance, in Sierra Leone.

Mohammed Kamara—SKY-FM (Sierra Leone) in Sierra Leone.

Paul Mansaray—Standard Times (Sierra Leone) in Sierra Leone.

James Ogo—Concord Times (Sierra Leone) in Sierra Leone.

Conrad Roy—Expo Times (Sierra Leone) in Sierra Leone.

Myles Tierney—Associated Press Television News (USA) in Sierra Leone.

Munir Turay—Freelance, in Sierra Leone.

Anura Priyantha Cooray—Independent Television Network (Sri Lanka) in Sri Lanka.

Rohana Kumara—Satana (Sri Lanka) in Sri Lanka.

Vasthian Anthony Mariyadas—Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (Sri Lanka) in Sri Lanka.

Indika Pathinivasan—Maharaja Television Network (Sri Lanka) in Sri Lanka.

Michelle Lima—KSAT-TV (USA) in Texas.

Ahmet Taner Kislali—Cumhuriyet (Turkey) in Turkey.

Slavko Curuvija—Dnevni Telegraph (Yugoslavia) in Yugoslavia.

Gabriel Gruener—Stern (Germany) in Yugoslavia.

Volker Kraemer—Stern (Germany) in Yugoslavia.

IN HONOR OF MRS. GILBERT T. ADAMS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today with great sadness I honor Viola Mae Joss Adams,

who passed away Thursday, June 1, 2000. Viola Adams, known affectionately by all who knew her as Vi, was a woman of grace and elegance.

She was also a woman of intelligence and character. After graduating from high school in 1924 at the age of 16, she continued her education at The University of Texas at Austin. She graduated in 1929 with a double major in English and psychology and went on to teach high school.

Vi met Gilbert T. Adams during her time in Austin, and in 1932 they were married during the Great Depression on "a borrowed fifty dollars and a dime store ring." Vi and Gilbert subsequently moved to Gilbert's hometown of Beaumont, and she became a vital part of the civic life of her new community.

Mrs. Adams championed the issue of safety and received national recognition for her effort to see that every home in the country had first aid training. President Dwight D. Eisenhower recognized the value of Mrs. Adams' work and mandated that first aid be taught in public schools. An active Democrat, and a proud supporter of her husband's professional and political endeavors, Gilbert and Vi Adams were recognized by the Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy and Johnson administrations for their contributions to our democratic process.

A woman strongly devoted to her family, Mrs. Adams had four children: Gilbert Timbrell Adams, Jr., John D'Estang Adams, Elizabeth Vi Adams, and Patricia Ann Adams. She also was graced during her lifetime with eight grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Viola Adams was a remarkable woman who was committed to her community, her country, and above all, her family. She was generous in spirit and was of deep religious conviction. She was of the utmost character, and her attributes of selflessness and commitment to others are rare gifts that this nation was lucky to have. With her passing, a great loss will be felt in the spirit and the heart of Beaumont.

COMMENDING THE MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS GROUP FOR ADDRESSING OVER FOUR DECADES OF INJUSTICE AND EXTENDING TEMPORARY MEMBERSHIP TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation, along with Congressman ROTHMAN, commending the member countries of the United Nations' Western European and Others Group (WEOG) for addressing four decades of discrimination in the UN and admitting Israel as a temporary, conditional member to that regional bloc.

For those of my colleagues who are unfamiliar with this issue, this is an important milestone for Israel because it places them firmly on the road to becoming a fully participating member of the United Nations. In order to be a fully participating member of the United Nations, countries must serve in a regional group.

Members of regional groups select member states on a rotating basis to serve on important United Nations bodies such as the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. Because of anti-Israeli sentiment, Israel has been denied the opportunity to serve in the Asian States Group at the United Nations, even though it geographically belongs in that bloc.

Until such time as Israel can be an effective member of the Asian States Group, Israel has expressed a strong desire to serve on WEOG. WEOG consists of Western Europe, the United States, Canada, Turkey, New Zealand and Australia.

The struggle to gain Israel membership in WEOG has been a long and difficult one. And, until last week, one thought to be impossible by some. But, with Congressional support, dedicated individuals in the Clinton Administration, such as Vice President AL GORE and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Richard Holbrooke, were able to raise this issue with the highest levels of WEOG member governments and make it a clear priority. I thank them for all of their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, Congressional support for Israel's acceptance into WEOG is very strong. Last October, I led a letter to Ambassador Richard Holbrooke signed by over 60 members, requesting that he make Israel's membership in WEOG a high priority. Additionally, legislation introduced by Congressman ROTHMAN calling for full equality at the United Nations for Israel has 63 cosponsors. I am proud to be an original sponsor of this legislation.

So Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate, for we have achieved something truly notable. However, the struggle for Israeli acceptance continues.

Israel's membership in WEOG is only temporary and must be reevaluated in four years. Additionally, Israel cannot participate as a WEOG member in meetings in Geneva, or on the Human Rights Committee at the United Nations. Although I have a great deal of respect for the human rights efforts of the U.N., they have been particularly unkind to Israel and it is a bitter pill to swallow to have them excluded from this committee.

This legislation, "Commending the member states of the United Nations Western European and Others Group for addressing over four decades of injustice and extending temporary membership to the state of Israel," also mentions the new hurdles that must be overcome to finally gain Israel status as a full member of the United Nations. It urges the WEOG member countries to admit Israel as permanent member, without conditions, until such time as she can play an effective part as a member of the Asian group.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all of my colleagues to give strong consideration to cosponsoring this legislation. It took four decades to get Israel this far; it must not take as long to reach the final goal of full membership for Israel.

I would again like to thank my friend and colleague, STEVEN ROTHMAN, for his help and leadership on this issue. I would also like to thank Vice President GORE, along with Ambassador Holbrooke, for working so hard and keeping the pressure on the WEOG member countries. A copy of the legislation follows.

Commending the member states of the United Nations Western European and Others

Group for addressing over four decades of injustice and extending temporary membership in that regional bloc to the state of Israel.

Whereas Israel has played an active role in the international community and within the United Nations;

Whereas in order to be a fully participating member of the United Nations countries must serve in a regional group;

Whereas members of regional groups select member states on a rotating basis to serve on important United Nations bodies such as the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council;

Whereas Israel has been denied an opportunity to serve in the Asian States Group at the United Nations, even though it geographically belongs in that block;

Whereas the Western European And Others Group (WEOG) at the United Nations consists of Western European nations, the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Turkey, and Australia and is the only group at the United Nations that is not geographically based;

Whereas Israel was offered membership in the WEOG regional bloc at the United Nations on Friday, May 26, 2000, by the chairman of WEOG at the time, Ambassador Peter van Walsum of the Netherlands;

Whereas that offer was officially accepted by Israeli officials on Sunday, May 28, 2000; and

Whereas Israel is a democracy and an ally and friend of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) commends the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) members for extending temporary membership to Israel;

(2) congratulates Israel on its new-found role in the United Nations;

(3) reaffirms Israel's right to be a full participating member and equal partner in the United Nations; and

(4) urges the members of WEOG to extend full and permanent membership to Israel, without conditions, until such time as Israel can serve as an effective member of the Asian States Group.

INTRODUCTION OF MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG ACT OF 2000

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, when Medicare was created in 1965, seniors were more likely to undergo surgery than to use prescription drugs. Today, prescription drugs are often the preferred, and sometimes the only method of treatment for many diseases. In fact, 77 percent of all seniors take a prescription drug on a regular basis.

And yet, nearly 15 million Medicare beneficiaries don't have access to the lifesaving drugs you produce because Medicare doesn't cover them. Countless others are forced to spend an enormous portion of their modest monthly incomes on prescription drugs with 18 percent of seniors spending over \$100 a month on prescriptions.

Seniors want and need prescription drug coverage. Hence, the question before Con-

gress is not whether we should provide a Medicare drug benefit but how to do it?

There are some in Congress who think that the way to do this is to turn the problem over to the private insurance market, but the private insurance market is pulling out from under seniors in the Medigap and Medicare+Choice markets. Others believe that we should limit how much drug companies can charge. I disagree. I understand the investment required for R&D and I believe that price controls will ultimately limit access.

I've devised what I believe is a common-sense approach that incorporates a generous, defined benefit that's easy for seniors to understand with provisions that reduce administrative inefficiencies and increase competition. The result will be a more affordable drug benefit for both beneficiaries and the Federal Government.

The bill is simple. Available to all Medicare beneficiaries, the Federal government will pay half of an individual's drug costs up to \$5,000 a year (when fully phased in). There are no deductibles and a modest premium of approximately \$44 a year. For seniors who exceed \$5,000 in drug expenditures or \$2,500 in out-of-pocket costs—the Federal Government picks up the whole tab.

What about drug costs? By allowing multiple PBM's to participate, my bill will, for the first time, introduce open competition into Medicare and drive down prices. We know from the private marketplace that simply purchasing a large quantity of drugs does not drive down prices. Drug companies grant discounts when a PBM can show that it will increase its market share. By allowing multiple PBMs, my bill increases competition, lowers prices and provides greater consumer choice.

We also removed administration of the program from HCFA. The healthcare system has evolved rapidly, and regrettably HCFA has not kept pace. HCFA lacks the expertise to run a benefit that relies on private sector competition to control costs. Fortunately, there is another agency that has expertise interacting with private sector health plans, and has proven that it can administer benefits effectively and efficiently with a minimum of bureaucracy. It's the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) which runs the widely acclaimed Federal Employee Health Benefit (FEHB) program. Under OPM's leadership, I'm confident that an efficient and effective competitive benefit can be integrated successfully into the Medicare program.

Congress must enact a Medicare drug benefit this year. For our Nation's seniors, prescription drugs are not a luxury. During these times of historic prosperity and strength, there is absolutely no reason that we should force seniors to make between buying prescription drugs or groceries. In introduction today I urge all of my colleagues to give careful consideration to my bill. It provides a real answer for seniors without price controls and without threatening innovation.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER STEPHEN PATRICK (PAT) WISNESKE ON THE OCCASION OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF HIS ORDINATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a most remarkable individual—a dear friend, a counselor, a shepherd, a man of the people and a man of God. I pay personal and heartfelt tribute to Father Stephen Patrick Wisneske, the pastor of Holy Spirit Church of Menominee, MI, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination, his golden jubilee.

Father Pat came to Menominee 28 years ago. He came to town at a particularly difficult time for the local Catholic faithful, who were being reorganized from the five traditional congregations—including the old settlement alignments of the French church, the Irish church, the Polish church, and the German Church—to three new congregations, based on neighborhood and proximity. The restructuring made sense in terms of reducing the infrastructure that church members needed to support, but it presented real challenges in forging new congregational bonds and establishing new ministries. Father Pat became pastor of the newly structured Holy Spirit Church.

He brought years of service in other northern Michigan communities to his new task. Born in 1922, Father Pat was raised in a Catholic home, attended Catholic school for 12 years, served as an altar boy, and was interested in Church affairs even before he was called to his religious vocation. Father Pat was ordained on June 3, 1950 by Bishop Francis J. Hass at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Grand Rapids, and within the month he was assigned as assistant at Holy Trinity in Ironwood. In 1951 he became an assistant at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Escanaba, and in 1953 became an assistant at St. Mary and St. Joseph in Iron Mountain, where he also served as chaplain to veterans in the hospital there.

Like his religious predecessor Bishop Baraga, Father Pat spent time in several small parishes in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan—Dollar Bay, Loretto, Quinnesec, White Pine, and Bergland, before his posting to Menominee.

Perhaps because of his own Catholic schooling, Father Pat has always shown that his commitment to his parish—to all local families—lies outside the walls of his beautiful and more than 100-year-old Gothic church. He regularly visits Menominee Catholic Central School, meeting and greeting parents, teachers and children in this more informal setting.

Father Pat has become well-known for his homily—his brief moment of addressing the congregation during each Mass. A quick sense of humor has always served him well in helping to drive home the important lesson he wished to teach each week.

I have always admired Father Pat for his positive outlook and his concern for his congregation. But it was when tragedy struck my own family that the depth of his wisdom, love, and advice, to me, to my wife Laurie and my son Ken was truly revealed. He counseled, sheltered, and guided us through our darkest hours, and his homily to my son BJ captured