

IN MEMORY OF MILTON ROEMER—
ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCATES
AND HEALTH POLICY THINKERS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, one of the world's most thoughtful health policy experts and advocates, Dr. Milton L. Roemer has passed away. His brilliance and insights will be sorely missed by all those who were his students and who had the privilege of working with him.

Few of us in Congress ever get a law named after us, and even fewer people throughout the world get a law of nature or science named after themselves—but Roemer's law is a law that all of us in health policy and finance must live and deal with daily. In popular language, Roemer's law is "build it and they will come"—which he postulated way before the movie was ever dreamed of. In health policy, it means that in an insured population, if you add beds to a health care facility, they will get filled. In medicine and health care, supply can drive demand. The implications for health policy, costs, and financing are key to many of the problems we face and will be facing in the decades to come.

Roemer's law is just one of the innumerable contributions he gave the world. Since earning his medical degree 60 years ago, he worked on public health problems in 71 nations, published as sole author 20 books[!], co-authored 12 other books, and 430 articles. The doctor was obviously possessed of energy and talent almost beyond imagination.

Dr. Roemer earned the MD degree from New York University in 1940, along with a master's degree in sociology from Cornell University in 1939, and a public health degree from the University of Michigan in 1943.

As a medical officer of the New Jersey State Health Department, he supervised 92 venereal disease clinics, as they were called in 1943. During World War II as a member of the commissioned corps of the US Public Health Service, he served as Assistant to the Chief Medical Officer of the War Food Administration and Associate in Medical Care Administration to the Chief of the State Relations Division. His 1948 book, written with F.D. Mott Rural Health and Medical Care was the first to analyze systematically rural health care needs and services in the United States.

As county health officer of Mononghela County, West Virginia, he introduced public health innovations, including pioneering a cancer detection clinic, for this mining community, against the objections of organized medicine. Dr. Roemer explained to the doctors that this screening clinic would provide more patients for them to treat. This experience led him later to establish a prize for a creative, local public health leader who had overcome opposition to advances in public health. He early called for the integration of public health and medical care and launched the Medical Care Section of the American Public Health Association.

Dr. Roemer's international work began in 1951 when he served as chief of the Social and Occupational Health Section of the newly formed World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland. In 1953, in the midst of the McCarthy hysteria, he was forced to leave

Switzerland and his work as an international civil servant, when the US government withdrew approval of his appointment at WHO.

In 1953 the Province of Saskatchewan, Canada, had just introduced hospital insurance for its people in this prairie province and was on the verge of extending it to include insurance for doctors' care Dr. Roemer was appointed Director of Medical and Hospital Services of the Saskatchewan Department of Public Health, North America's first social insurance program for hospital care.

After teaching at Yale and Cornell Universities, in 1962, Dr. Roemer came to the UCLA School of Public Health, where he taught health administration for 38 years and served as chairman of the Department of Health Services for eight years. The capstone of Dr. Roemer's many publications was his 2-volume work, National Health Systems of the World, a monumental, comparative analysis of national health systems of countries of the world set within a logical and coherent framework.

At UCLA, Dr. Roemer's research encouraged the development of not for profit HMOs, promoted the use of ambulatory care, and documented the need for a national health insurance covering the total population. He advocated the development of doctoral training in health administration to prepare students for leadership in public health practice and established an endowed fellowship to support students in this program.

The American Public Health Association awarded Dr. Roemer its International Award for Excellence in Promoting and Protecting the Health of People in 1977. In 1983, APHA awarded him its highest honor—the Sedgwick Memorial Medal for Distinguished Service in Public Health. In 1992, the Centers for Disease Control gave Dr. Roemer its Joseph W. Mountain Award. In 1997, he was given the Lifetime Achievement Award of the APHA International Health Section and the Distinguished Career Award of the Association for Health Services Research.

Dr. Roemer is survived by his wife of 61 years, Ruth Roemer, his son, John E. Roemer, of New York City, his daughter, Beth Roemer Lewis, of Berkeley, California; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at UCLA in the spring. Contributions in Milton Roemer's memory may be made to the American Public Health Association, Washington, DC, the Department of Health Services, UCLA School of Public Health, or Physicians for Social Responsibility.

To repeat, America and the world have lost a wonderful teacher who truly had a sense of the whole and of the oneness of mankind—and that a just and honorable society should join in helping ensure that no member of that society goes without health care.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE R.P. "BOB"
STRINGER

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend and constituent R.P. "Bob" Stringer who passed away on January 15, 2001, at Scott Regional Hospital in

Morton, Mississippi. Bob, as he was affectionately called by his close friends and colleagues, was preceded in death by his wife, Mrs. Mary Cooper Stringer, who died on the same date as Bob, two years ago.

Bob was a native of Noxubee County and lived in Forest, Mississippi, since 1960. He was a World War II veteran and was actively involved in veterans activities that enhanced and promoted esprit de corps among veteran organizations at the local, county, state, and national level. He was a member of the Forest Presbyterian Church, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the American Legion. He served as past county and district president of the Mississippi State University Alumni Association. He was also a past post commander of the VFW. As if this was not enough to keep him busy, he was a board member of the MF&G Association and served on the Forest Board of Aldermen for sixteen years.

My predecessor, former Congressman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, was a very close friend of Bob's and has been quoted as saying that "Bob Stringer was really an All-American. He loved his family and country very much. He served in the Marine Corp at Iwo Jima and after the War he was very active in the VFW and the American Legion. He was proud of his community and served both the City of Forest and Scott County in a commendable manner. I have lost one of my closest friends."

Bob is survived by daughters, Anne Stringer Land and Jean Stringer Ellis; sons, Robert P. Stringer, Jr., and John Walter Stringer; their husbands and wives, thirteen grandchildren, one great grandchild, and one brother, John.

Bob was the originator of the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Annual Hunters Stew held in Forest and personally hosted it, along with members of the American Legion and VFW, for more than twenty-four years. He even continued this tradition after Congressman Montgomery stepped down from office in 1996 because he knew how much the community loved and respected "Sonny."

The legacy that I am sure Bob would want us to remember him by is his love for the Lord, his family, his friends, his country, his state, and by all means his love for the City of Forest and Scott County. Thus, it is an honor for me to express my appreciation, and that of all the citizens of the Third Congressional District, for his life of service and contributions to the betterment of our world.

HONORING A LIFELONG COMMITMENT
TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a law enforcement leader in Southwest Missouri.

John T. Pierpont has always had law enforcement blood running through his veins. John's personal experience with law enforcement began early in life; his father was Sheriff of Greene County. During the last two decades of the 20th century, the Sheriff of Greene County in Missouri was again a Pierpont, this time John.

John Pierpont started his law enforcement career as the U.S. Marshall for the 66 counties of western Missouri, a job he held for eight years.

In 1981 voters choose him to be sheriff and they re-elected him four more times. During that period, the facilities for law enforcement in Greene County underwent major transformation and the approach to fighting crime got a new more pro-active philosophy. John embraced public participation in crime prevention and quickly had in place a county wide series of "neighborhood watch" districts. The new sheriff also stepped up regular patrols to curb burglaries, thefts and vandalism. He made citizens partners with sheriff's office in the fight against criminal activity.

Perhaps the most startling change guided by Sheriff Pierpont was in the Greene County jail. The old jail, built more than 40 years ago, housed a hundred inmates in 1981. Pierpont pushed for more facilities and new technology. The last of three major modernizations and additions were underway at the time of his retirement. The new jail will house five hundred inmates in the most secure environment available.

John's leadership has also won him praise among his peers. He was elected President of both the Missouri Sheriff's Association and the National Sheriff's Association.

John has been an active leader at home, in our state and for the nation. You would find him in the field working on major crimes, directing manhunts and making sure that investigators had the tools to be thorough and professional. It's been evident during his time in office, that John Pierpont has enjoyed being the Sheriff of Greene County. It is equally evident that John's leadership has provided the citizens of this county a higher level of safety, law enforcement competence and protection for the lives and property of the people he has served during his 20 years as sheriff.

I know that my colleagues from Missouri join me in thanking John Pierpont for his years of making our state a safer place to live and wishing him well as he leaves the Greene County Sheriff's office and opens a new chapter in his life.

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE EARL B.
GILLIAM

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to say a few words in the memory of one of the outstanding jurists of our nation who passed away on January 28, 2001, after a long illness. The Honorable Earl B. Gilliam served on the United States District Court for the Southern District of California, which includes the 50th Congressional District that I represent.

Judge Gilliam was born on August 17, 1931, in Clovis, New Mexico, and spent his early years in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. As a boy, he moved to San Diego, California with his family where he attended local primary and secondary schools before graduating from San Diego High School and later San Diego State University, with a business degree, in 1953.

Judge Gilliam's many years of distinguished service to the legal community began in 1957 when, having just graduated from Hastings College of Law, he was admitted to the California Bar and appointed Deputy District Attorney for the County of San Diego. In 1961, he

started his own general practice, and two years later Judge Gilliam was appointed to the Municipal Court, becoming the first African-American to sit on the San Diego bench. In 1971, Judge Gilliam became the Presiding Judge of the Municipal Court, and in 1975 he was elevated to the Superior Court by California Governor Jerry Brown. Five years later, President Jimmy Carter appointed him to serve on the United States District Court for the Southern District of California.

In his long and distinguished career, Judge Gilliam presided over numerous noteworthy trials of regional and national importance. Whether these cases dealt with drug trafficking, fraud, tax evasion, bribery or civil matters, Judge Gilliam's fair and professional approach to the law laid the foundation for his solid reputation both within and outside the legal community.

In 1969, Western State School of Law in San Diego (presently known as Thomas Jefferson School of Law) recruited Judge Gilliam as an adjunct professor. With a background in business administration, economics, civil and criminal law, and trial practice, Judge Gilliam proved to be an inspirational and devoted instructor for the Contracts, Torts, Criminal Law, Trusts, Community Property and Trial Practice courses.

In civic activities, Judge Gilliam actively promoted the value of education for youth, for women, and for his fellow lawyers. He generously gave time and effort to his community in countless ways. He served on the boards of numerous civic, professional and charitable organizations, including the YMCA, the Urban League, the Salvation Army, Western State University and the University of California at San Diego.

The community in turn, has repeatedly acknowledged his contributions. He was named Young Man of the Year by the San Diego Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1965 and Golden Man of the Year in 1981. In 1982 he was honored twice—he was the recipient of the prestigious Trial Judge of the Year award by the San Diego Trial Lawyer's Association and San Diego's African American Lawyer's Organization honored him by changing its name to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association. Judge Gilliam was named Legal Professional of the Year in 1994 by the City Club and Chamber of Commerce and in 1995 he earned the Sharp Hospital Foundation's Eagle Spirit Award and the NAACP's Civil Rights Pioneer Award.

Mr. Speaker, we have lost not only one of our nation's great legal minds but a true friend who contributed so much to so many. He will be truly missed.

IN SUPPORT OF MIFEPRISTONE

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a pro-choice member of Congress who supports the recent FDA approved use of mifepristone, and I strongly oppose any efforts that would undermine the availability of mifepristone, also known as RU-486, to women who are seeking a safe method to terminate a pregnancy.

I recognize that there is misinformation out there on the use and access of this drug. But, the truth is mifepristone pills must be prescribed by a doctor, and the treatment is done under strict supervision of a medical professional. The first dose is taken at the doctor's office, and the second dose is taken 48 hours later. There are some doctors that allow women to take the second dose at home, but others require a clinic visit. It is also important to note that a woman can only take mifepristone up to 49 or 63 days from the date of her last menstrual period. This restriction is well within the laws of aborting a fetus in the first trimester.

Mifepristone has been laboriously studied and tested by FDA for 8 years. Nearly 10,000 American women have used this drug safely and effectively in clinical trials. Furthermore, Europeans have been using this drug for over 12 years.

Women in this country should have a choice to make decisions about their own fate. Abortion is legal, and women should be entitled to all medically proven safe options available, including mifepristone. Furthermore, I believe that women should be able to choose a less invasive procedure such as mifepristone rather than a surgical abortion.

Attempts to restrict a woman's access to this drug are not done to protect her safety, but rather to influence her choice. By allowing mifepristone to be prescribed by her own doctor, a woman can preserve her anonymity and be comfortable with her choice.

I have advocated for the approval of RU-486 for several years, in my past and current position. I truly believe that all women should have the right to make their own choices, and I hope that they will not be denied any safe and proven methods to make those decisions.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
ELECTION STANDARDS ACT OF
2001

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join today with my colleague from South Carolina, Mr. GRAHAM, in introducing the Federal Election Standards Act of 2001.

Now that the dust has settled over the presidential election of 2000, I hope we will treat our recent experience as an opportunity to adopt long overdue reforms in the way we run our Federal elections. I hope we will enlist our best minds in the effort to develop better systems and procedures that will restore public confidence in the accuracy and integrity of the electoral process. And I hope we will provide State and local election officials with the wherewithal to take advantage of these improvements.

The Act seeks to advance these goals by establishing a bipartisan commission to study the accuracy, integrity, and efficiency of Federal election procedures and develop standards of best practice for the conduct of Federal elections. It further authorizes grants and technical assistance to States which wish to adopt measures consistent with the standards.

Title I of the Act establishes the National Advisory Commission of Federal Election