

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING BONNI GAYLE TISCHLER

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2002

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the end of an era in law enforcement when Bonni Gayle Tischler, the highest ranking woman to ever serve this country in federal law enforcement, leaves the United States Customs Service to pursue other opportunities in private industry. Industry's gain is truly our loss.

Ms. Tischler, the Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations at Customs and the first woman to ever hold that position, began her career at the National Republican Congressional Committee. But politics did not quench her thirst for adventure so, in 1971, she became one of the first women to become a United States Sky Marshall. In 1977, Ms. Tischler became one of the very first women to become a federal agent with the Customs Service, working undercover in the Miami based "Operation Greenback," an innovative anti-money laundering program established by the United States Department of Treasury. Playing roles ranging from a crooked executive to the madam of a brothel, Ms. Tischler, by her example, proved that law enforcement and the public were the beneficiaries of strong, smart women cops.

During the Administration of President Ronald Reagan, Ms. Tischler became the first woman in the federal government to head a law enforcement field office when she took over as Special Agent in Charge in Tampa Florida. While in Tampa she oversaw the investigation into the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, the largest money laundering investigation of its kind. Her work not only gained her attention in Washington, but also resulted in a contract put out on her life.

Named, in 1997 to oversee 4,500 agents and investigative personnel at 152 field offices throughout the world, she became the first woman to become the Assistant Commissioner for Investigations at Customs. During her tenure she had responsibility for the largest money-laundering probe in U.S. history, "Operation Casablanca," and "Operation Cheshire Cat", also the largest-ever international child pornography and exploitation case among many others.

In June of 2000, Ms. Tischler was tapped to head Customs Office of Field Operations, by far the largest segment of the Customs Service, with over 13,000 employees, a \$1 billion dollar budget, 300 Ports of Entry and all Customs Management Centers and Field Laboratories.

The National Center for Women and Policing has honored her with its prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for her work as a mentor to thousands of other women who have followed her footsteps into law enforcement careers.

Perhaps, however, her biggest challenge was personal. Bonni Tischler is a breast cancer survivor.

Today, the sight of a woman in a police uniform is not at all uncommon. This is partly due to the fact that Bonni Tischler was never an armchair feminist. While other adventuresome young women of her generation pursued careers as lawyers or businesswomen, Bonni Tischler was on the firing range, mastering the use of a gun. She marched on a different road to a different drummer and we are all better off because of it. For thousands of women today, and a countless number in the future, Bonni Tischler not only broke the glass ceiling, she shattered it, and in doing so she changed the face of federal law enforcement forever.

COMMENDING EFFORTS OF JOHN KEATING, JOE SAPERE, AND JERRY SUGGS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of three men, John Keating, Joe Sapere and Jerry Suggs. These three gentlemen are now embarked upon a bicycle ride across America, having begun June 8 in Newport Beach, CA with anticipated completion in Jamestown, VA on the 21st of July, the anniversary of the "Americans with Disabilities Act" (ADA). What is most extraordinary about this journey Mr. Speaker is that each of these gentlemen is an amputee.

John Keating, age 40, is the son of a former U.S. Defense attache and is the father of three sons. Joe Sapere, age 61, is a retired Air Force Colonel and a recent amputee. Jerry Suggs, 68, is retired from our U.S. Navy.

The reason for this trip, Mr. Speaker, is to demonstrate that life does not end with amputation, but can include high-intensity activities such as bicycling and skydiving. These men are visiting rehab facilities along the way and giving encouragement to those who have felt constrained. One young lady they have met was a tennis player and had given up the sport when she lost a leg. They convinced her to take up the racquet again and start playing.

As a Physician and Congressman, I honor these gentlemen for their efforts and invite others to learn more about these activities on line at www.amputees-across-america.com.

CONGRATULATING TASHIANKA AVERY, MAHOGANY WILLIAMS, AND WILLIAM HARRIS

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2002

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt and enthusiastic

congratulations to the team of Tashianna Avery and Mahogany Williams for placing first in the junior division of the National African-American History Challenge. I also wish to recognize William Harris, the team alternate, for all of his efforts in helping the team of Avery and Williams win this competition.

The first-place team of Avery and Williams won the distinguished Hayling Cup at the 100 Black Men of America's National African-American History Challenge in Orlando, FL in June. Before receiving the distinguished Hayling Cup, Avery and Williams won first-place in the junior division of the fifth annual African-American History Challenge in Indianapolis, IN.

These three young people are an excellent example that through dedication, commitment, diligence, and hard work one can accomplish great things. This extra-ordinary team has shown the people of Indiana what it means to work hard to accomplish a goal.

Mr. Speaker, to Miss Avery, Miss Williams, and Mr. Harris, congratulations on your first-place win, and continue to aspire to achieve great things.

The people of Indianapolis are very proud of you.

TRIBUTE TO MS. DELAINIA HOFFACRE

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2002

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor Ms. Delainia Hoffacre, teacher of visual arts at Brea-Olinda High School, for her unflagging commitment to the creative development of her students and her outstanding record of service in advancing the cultural arts in the city of Brea.

A lifetime supporter of the arts, Ms. Hoffacre is an accomplished artist with an emphasis in drawing. Incorporating her passion for art in her professional career, Ms. Hoffacre began teaching high-school level visual arts after completing her Bachelor of Science degree in Art Education at Ohio State University. During her more than sixteen years with the Brea-Olinda Unified School District (BUSD), Ms. Hoffacre has been instrumental in the development and coordination of the district-wide elementary-level arts curriculum, Artology, and has initiated the first Advanced Placement (AP) in Studio Art program. Moreover, her classroom instruction is dynamic and effective, evident by the many awards her students have earned at local art competitions, particularly in my Artistic Discovery competition.

In addition to her outstanding professional accomplishments, Ms. Hoffacre has contributed much of her free-time to enhancing the arts within the community and her impact has been dramatic. Serving as an appointed member of the Brea Cultural Arts Commission

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

since its inception, Ms. Hoffacre helped initiate the Art in Public Places program, the Brea Fest, featuring “A Taste of the Arts,” and the Brea Children’s Theater, all of which continue to be popular community events. She is affiliated with the Brea Art Association and the Brea Gallery and is highly regarded among artists and community members alike for her impeccable eye for fine art.

In a time when the quality of America’s educational system has become the object of national criticism and debate, it gives me great pleasure to highlight the positive contributions of exceptional teachers like Ms. Hoffacre, who not only give of themselves in the classroom, but also set an example in the community for students to emulate. Far too often, the critical role that teachers play in the development of our nation’s youth is overlooked, and in some cases, even discounted. However, today it is my hope that all Americans will join me in commending Ms. Hoffacre and teachers across the nation for their unfailing dedication, persistence, and commitment to providing students with the tools necessary for their success.

Again, I would like to congratulate Ms. Hoffacre on these accomplishments and thank her for her contributions to her students and the community.

MEDICARE MODERNIZATION AND PRESCRIPTIONS DRUG ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this rule and in opposition to H.R. 4954, the Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act of 2002.

Tonight we are voting on legislation that represents the most drastic change in Medicare since the program was enacted in 1965. With this drastic change, one would assume there would be an open and honest rule that would allow Members to consider and vote on various legislative proposals. Unfortunately, for millions of seniors utilizing Medicare, this is not the case. Democrats have been denied the opportunity to present their plan to America’s seniors. What is left is a bad bill, with no amendments, leaving no chance to make it better. Once again, the Republican Leadership of the House of Representatives has presented Members with the option of voting for a benefit that doesn’t do enough, or voting for nothing at all.

The current bill includes provider reimbursements and has been endorsed by doctors and hospitals, but this bill does not provide adequate benefits to those seniors who really need it. Under the proposed bill, Medicare beneficiaries would be eligible to enroll in the drug program paying a premium estimated at \$35 per month and a deductible of \$250 a year. For drug expenditures between \$251–\$1000 the beneficiary would pay 20 percent and the government would pay 80 percent. For drug costs \$1001–\$2000, the program and enrollees would split the cost 50–50. Now comes the unbelievable part, for expenditures between \$2000 and \$3700, the enrollee would have to pay out of his own pocket. That’s

right—there is a \$1700 gap where the seniors are left with the burden. As a result, nearly half of all seniors will fall into the gap and be forced to pay the full cost of their medications.

If we are going to give seniors a benefit, it needs to be a meaningful one that actually provides coverage. Seniors need a benefit in which they can afford their drugs and do not have to worry about their medications being covered. In addition, there should be one bill that will address the problems with Medicare reimbursement and provider payments and another that will focus solely on the needs of seniors. The bill before us is a combined version of reform—done in order to secure votes and pass. The Republicans have catered to the needs of various industries in order to pass their bill—knowing that this is the only way this proposal could stay alive. This is an insurance plan that cannot work. This legislation would rely on private insurance companies and health plans to cover the costs of the drugs. In particular, the bill before us allows insurers to refuse to participate and allows them to control costs at the expense of patients’ welfare. No insurance program can work unless it attracts premiums from people who will not use the service. Those premiums are used to offset the cost associated with those beneficiaries whose drugs cost more than their premiums. This plan is doomed to failure because there is no way premiums can cover costs—especially when it is geared toward the senior population. The end result unfortunately is those seniors without insurance will still be unable to afford prescribed medicines and those seniors with insurance will continue to pay high premiums or co-pays for their insurance—ultimately changing little and helping very few.

If we in Congress are serious about strengthening Medicare for future generations, we need to invest in our seniors and Congress needs to be prepared to spend the funds necessary to provide a suitable prescription drug program. If the federal government can afford a \$273 billion farm bill and an \$800 billion bill making the estate tax permanent, I think we owe it to our seniors to find the money to provide a prescription drug benefit. The federal government has a responsibility to ensure that Americans who contribute to the Medicare program during their working years will have dependable, equitable, and affordable health coverage when they retire or become disabled regardless of their income or health status.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrat’s intended to do that. We intended to come to the floor and present a proposal that would lower drug prices, guarantee coverage and enable seniors to get their medicines at the pharmacy of their choice. Since we have been denied a fair chance to present our proposal I cannot support this rule or the proposed bill and I urge my colleagues to vote no on both.

A BOUNTILESS HARVEST

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2002

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, across Kansas, combines and harvest crews are wrapping up another wheat harvest. This year, the harvest story is not about the wheat being

cut, but about the wheat that should have been cut—wheat destroyed by drought and wheat plowed into the dry ground. Where there has been wheat to harvest, low yields are evidence of the ravages of drought. While farmers see harvests come and go every year, this one will certainly not soon be forgotten. Unfortunately, this year it’s the dry weather and failed crop that will be remembered.

Last year drought took a heavy toll on Kansas. This year will be far worse. In Kansas, almost a million acres of wheat have been abandoned—an area larger than the state of Rhode Island. In southwest Kansas, the driest area of the state, as much as 90 percent of the wheat planted was lost to drought. This translates into a loss of over \$277 million in farm income this year. After last year’s dismal crop, few thought things could get worse. But Kansas farmers now have \$277 million less than last year to pay their bills and to care for their families.

Behind the millions of dollars lost from the agricultural economy are real people. I am contacted daily by farmers and ranchers hurting from last year’s drought, whose difficulties have been compounded by this year’s losses. In Hugoton, farmers have seen less than an inch of rain in the last year, and cracks in the earth run several feet deep. Here, there is not even enough moisture to replant failed crops. In Rolla, where the federal grassland is being closed due to drought, ranchers are selling the cattle herds they have spent a lifetime building. All across western Kansas, ranchers are liquidating herds, as the little grass that was there has been grazed to the ground.

For the last 2 years, farmers in drought-affected areas have worked tirelessly, only to come away with less than what they started with. Crop insurance alone cannot relieve the cash flow crisis of these farm families. The need for assistance is greater, and more urgent, than it was a year ago. Farmers and ranchers need help to compensate for this natural disaster.

These are tough times in farm country, and we cannot close our eyes to the severity of this drought or the magnitude of its consequences. A dark cloud is hovering over the future of many producers in western Kansas; unfortunately, that cloud holds no rain. Without disaster assistance, this year, some farmers may simply dry up and blow away.

CONCERNING RISE IN ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the House on its unanimous support of H. Res. 393, Concerning the rise in Anti-Semitism in Europe.

Last month ground was broken in Boston at our Holocaust Memorial for a Liberators’ Memorial. Survivors had long urged that tribute be paid to the American and Allied soldiers who fought and died to defeat the Third Reich. It is a fitting memorial and it inspires us to defend life, liberty, and justice for all persons.

I am troubled, however, that it has become necessary to defend human dignity and religious liberty in Europe, in Western Europe, in