

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SGT. TONY
LOMBARD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Sergeant Tony Lombard of the Denver Police Department and thank him for his extraordinary contributions to his community and to his state. As a resident of Denver, Colorado, Tony has dedicated himself to protecting the Denver community by selflessly devoting his time and energy to his job, his family, and his community. His remarkable twenty-nine years on the force serve as a symbol of the commitment that Tony feels for the Denver Police department and the City of Denver. As we celebrate the accomplishments of this fine career, let it be known that I, along with the people of Colorado, applaud his efforts and are eternally grateful for all that he has done for his community.

Throughout his career, Tony served as a spokesman and legislative lobbyist for the Denver Police Department. He has also worked as an active member in the narcotics division and credits his wife, Cynthia for always understanding his absence when work required him to leave church, movies, parties, and family dinners. As a former police officer, I understand Mr. Lombard's frustration and tolerance. Moreover, his goodhearted interests have further served to set him apart in his community, and have earned him much respect throughout the Denver Police Department.

Throughout the course of his career, Tony served in the sex-crimes unit and also worked for several years with his father in the public information office. Together, they comprised the only father-son spokesman team in the department's history. Tony is retiring because he wants to pursue other avenues of work such as working with the Police Protective Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Tony Lombard is a man of unparalleled dedication and commitment to his job, his community and his family. It is his commitment to hard work, as well as his spirit of integrity and selflessness with which he has always conducted himself that I wish to bring before this body of Congress. Sgt. Tony Lombard has served his state and his country in an honorable manner, and it is my privilege to extend to him my sincere congratulations on his retirement and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

UKRAINE BI-ELECTIONS

HON. TOM LANTOS
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to call attention once again to the alarming conditions surrounding the Ukrainian parliamentary bi-elections, held on Sunday, July 14. On the evening of July 12, less than forty-eight (48) hours before the balloting was to begin, a local court found Alexander Zhyr, the candidate I referred to in my remarks last week,

guilty of campaign finance improprieties. Mr. Zhyr was disqualified from the race with no time to appeal the decision. As the domestic nonpartisan election watchdog group the Committee of Voters of Ukraine has commented, the last minute timing of the decision made it impossible for the elections to be considered democratic.

Mr. Speaker, I have already gone on the record as noting the important role Mr. Zhyr played in the Ukrainian Rada, heading the parliamentary committee that investigated the murders of Ukrainian journalists. Additionally, Mr. Zhyr was leading investigations into accusations that the Ukrainian government illegally exported arms to Iraq. I would like to express my deep concern that Mr. Zhyr's disqualification was politically motivated. Electoral manipulation of this sort severely undermines the democratic process. Again, I would stress that as a country that aspires to full membership in Western institutions, the Government of Ukraine must improve its democratic record. A good start would be to reverse the decision to disqualify Mr. Zhyr, and allow him to participate in an election that meets international standards of transparency and democratic procedures.

INTRODUCTION OF ESRD QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the ESRD Quality Improvement Act. To address the life and death importance of quality dialysis therapy for End Stage Renal Disease patients, this legislation would codify and build upon existing quality improvement efforts in a variety of ways including the addition of recognition for outstanding clinical outcomes and sanctions for chronically substandard care.

The 340,000 ESRD patients are the only Medicare enrollees eligible for coverage due to a specific medical diagnosis. ESRD patients have lost full kidney function and must undergo a kidney transplant or weekly dialysis treatments to survive. This chronically ill group of beneficiaries presents Congress with a special responsibility with regard to assuring quality and safe care.

As the dominant purchaser of dialysis services, the Medicare Program must demand improvement of deficient practices. Unfortunately, there is evidence that substandard care is being delivered at some Medicare funded sites. In 2000, the Inspector General noted numerous instances of poor care and an oversight system that is fragmented and lacks sufficient accountability. The GAO reported that in 1999, only 1 in 9 dialysis facilities underwent an unannounced inspection and that in 1998, almost 1 in 2 dialysis facilities had not been inspected within three years. A February 2002 Arizona Republic article further highlights the need for enhancements to the dialysis quality infrastructure. The article illustrates some patients are receiving weekly dialysis in atrocious conditions—unacceptable practices reported include poor or absent staff training, incorrect operation of dialysis machines, unclean facilities, neglected quality

controls, and mission documentation. The full article is attached.

I'm pleased to note that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is currently making improvements in the quality of the ESRD Program such as the implementation of health outcomes standards and data system to assess quality of services. I regret it has taken so long to move forward with these efforts and I believe some deficiencies remain. This bill does not delay or interfere with the current quality initiatives, and in fact, builds upon them.

Currently, there only minimal ESRD quality assurance provisions in statute or regulation. The act would establish in statute a quality oversight role for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In addition, a quality coordination function with certain duties delineated for the regional ESRD Quality Networks. The Networks are contracted by CMS to administer the ESRD program and serve as a liaison between dialysis provider and the Department. The Network quality functions delineated in the bill include training and technical assistance for providers, data collection and analysis, establishing national performance standards, conducting peer reviews, monitoring patient satisfaction, and disseminating of best practices. In coordination with existing HHS and Network goals, ESRD Clinical Performance Measures are to be developed to serve as performance standards to which patient and facility clinical outcomes can be compared.

The bill also requires the HHS Secretary to implement an information system to link service providers, Networks, and the Department and maintain national database that generates clinical profiles on the performance of dialysis facilities and providers. To provide incentives for high quality care and promote the exchange of best practices, awards for high achievement will be issued to top performing dialysis providers and facilities. To eliminate harmful care, provider and facility sanctions for substandard services are created.

Conditions of participation in the Medicare program for providers and facilities would be expanded to incorporate the terms of the CQI and QA Programs established in the bill. Also, to further support the quality provision of the bill, a per-treatment fee of 0.50 cents shall be paid to the Networks by the HHS Secretary during the initial 30-month period for which dialysis facilities are currently exempted. Consistent with the current process, dialysis facilities would continue to pay the 0.50 per-treatment fee beginning in the 31st month.

It is my hope that Congress, CMS and the ESRD provider community will react positively to the introduction of this bill. We need to work together to assure all ESRD facilities funded by Medicare are doing no harm. Please join me in this effort by agreeing to cosponsor the ESRD Continuous Quality Improvement act.

TRIBUTE TO THE SISTERS AND TO
OSF ST. FRANCIS MEDICAL CEN-
TER

HON. RAY LAHOOD
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the Sisters and

to OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois, for celebrating 125 years of continuous service to the people of Central Illinois.

In 1876, six German sisters were invited to come to Peoria to provide nursing care to the sick and injured. The Sisters' dedication to their mission, and to Central Illinois, led them to establish their own order on July 16, 1877, calling themselves The Sisters of the Third Order of Saint Francis. Their first hospital, today's OSF St. Francis, was also established that year.

The Sisters' mission to serve with the greatest care and love led to a commitment to the poor that has never wavered. OSF St. Francis Medical Center has been in the forefront of medical innovation, technology and service for 125 years.

During the time that I was growing up on the East Bluff of Peoria, I lived just a few blocks from St. Francis Hospital. As a matter of fact, my two brothers and I were born at St. Francis. During the 25 years that we lived on the East Bluff, St. Francis provided the best health care our family could have hoped for. The Sisters really took a great deal of interest in their patients. We are so fortunate to have such a long-standing tradition of outstanding health care in our community.

Therefore, I extend my congratulations and sincere gratitude to the Sisters and OSF St. Francis Medical Center for their tremendous dedication and loyal service to the people of Central Illinois.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARRY MACCORMACK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Garry MacCormack to the Pueblo, Colorado community. After providing thirty years of quality telecommunication service to the community, Garry is retiring to spend more time with his family. Garry has played a vital role in the development of the Pueblo telecommunications community and I can think of no better way to celebrate Garry's retirement than to thank him for his service before this body of Congress, and this nation.

Rye Telephone Company was started by Garry's parents in the 1950s when they purchased the neighborhood telephone cooperative. Garry took over the reins of the business in 1974, and as telecommunication advancements evolved, so to has the Rye Telephone Company. The company has matured from offering a single phone with long distance to the community, to the current telecommunications amenities such as multiple lines, voicemail, and Internet service to three states. Garry has nurtured the company through some amazing times, like installing fiber optic lines, and will now pass the family legacy over to his daughter, Michelle.

Mr. Speaker, as Garry enjoys his retirement with his wife Dayle, I am confident the company will continue to grow and prosper under Michelle's direction. Garry's success story serves as a model example of hard work and perseverance for a member of the community and I am honored to represent him and his

family before you today. Thanks for all your years of service to Pueblo, Garry, and I wish you all the best in your well-deserved retirement.

IN HONOR OF JOHN B. ANDERSON

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of an outstanding American citizen, my friend and former colleague, the Honorable John B. Anderson.

Throughout John Anderson's twenty years in this body he served the Sixteenth District of Illinois, the State of Illinois and our Nation with dedication, strength and distinction. While serving on the Rules Committee and as Chairman of the House Republican Conference, John was always true to his ideals and his constituencies.

John Anderson was a champion of education in his district. Dr. Thomas Shaheen, a superintendent of schools in Rockford, Illinois, commented "It was to John B. Anderson that I could turn for support of Rockford's school children, its teachers, and administrators, and to me as its superintendent." Anderson urged the Rockford Public Schools to apply for a Federal grant under the Elementary Schools Educational Act. It was with his approval that the Rockford Public Schools received an award of \$600,000 to implement a Teacher Development Center and Demonstration School. That project won a national award presented by National Education Association and The Thom McAn Association. The initiative begun in 1966 still exists and functions today.

After leaving political office, John Anderson is sought out as a lecturer and expert commentator on issues of electoral reform, United Nations reform, foreign affairs, American politics, and independent candidacies.

Throughout his tenure in Congress, John made significant contributions to discussions of foreign relations. His strong and passionate ideals made him a significant voice in the international community. Today, John Anderson comments often on the role of Congress in both domestic and international affairs. He is committed to improving our system and our country. I commend and support his efforts.

In the 1980 Presidential campaign, John ran as an independent candidate receiving six million votes. His campaign for the Presidency reflected his passion and vision for our nation.

A scholar, John has taught political science as a visiting professor at numerous universities, including the University of Illinois, Bryn Mawr College, Brandeis University and Stanford University. The way John communicates his experiences and love of our government and politics surely inspires and motivates his students.

John B. Anderson is a writer, a speaker, a veteran, an educator, and perhaps most importantly, a lover of America. I am delighted to participate in honoring a great American citizen and individual. Thank you John, for your dedication, your spirit and your integrity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, because of commitments in my home State of Wisconsin, I was unable to vote on rollcall Numbers 283 through 295. Had I been present, I would have voted: "AYE" on rollcall No. 283; "AYE" on rollcall No. 284; "AYE" on rollcall No. 285; "AYE" on rollcall No. 286; "AYE" on rollcall No. 287; "NO" on rollcall No. 288; "NO" on rollcall No. 289; "NO" on rollcall No. 290; "NO" on rollcall No. 291; "NO" on rollcall No. 292; "AYE" on rollcall No. 293; "AYE" on rollcall No. 294; "AYE" on rollcall No. 295; "AYE" on rollcall No. 296; "AYE" on rollcall No. 297 and "NO" on rollcall No. 298.

THE BOSTON GLOBE'S TELLING CRITIQUE OF ADMINISTRATION AFGHAN POLICY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, Americans overwhelmingly supported President Bush's response to the terrorism of September 11, and his attack on the Taliban for providing a haven to these murderers was an entirely legitimate one. The successes American military forces achieved were impressive, and have contributed to a situation in which we have both diminished the possibility of terrorist attacks, and paved the way for a significant improvement in the lives of the people of Afghanistan.

But that latter accomplishment is being put somewhat in jeopardy by a pattern of inappropriate action and undue inaction on the part of the administration. The recent killing of dozens of people at a wedding party is of course tragic. But it is more than that. No one believes that any American military were consciously indifferent to the lives of innocent people. But it does appear that the strategy being dictated from Washington at this point fails to take into account sufficiently the need to prevent this sort of killing of innocent people. No one wants American troops put unnecessarily at risk, but we must achieve a better balance of serving our legitimate military ends while being fully respectful of the lives of innocent Afghans. Our current policy fails to give appropriate weight to that latter concern.

In addition, the stubborn refusal of the administration to support extending international peacekeeping beyond Kabul is a grave error. We had every moral right in my judgment to go into Afghanistan to go after the murderers who have attacked not just Americans but many others over the past few years. But having successfully and legitimately destroyed the Taliban regime, we have an equal moral obligation now to help the people of Afghanistan live in peace and security. And our current policy fails to live up to that.

Mr. Speaker, an editorial in the Boston Globe for July 10 makes these points extremely well. Because nothing is more important to our national security and our moral purpose than acting appropriately in Afghanistan