

JOSEPH CURSEEN, JR. AND THOMAS MORRIS, JR., PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION CENTER

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of HR 3287, a bill that would rename the U.S. Postal Service's Brentwood Processing and Distribution Center in Washington, D.C., as the Joseph Curseen, Jr. and Thomas Morris, Jr. Processing and Distribution Center.

Joseph Curseen, Jr., and Thomas Morris, Jr., were two of four U.S. Postal Service employees who contracted inhalation anthrax while working at the Brentwood Processing and Distribution Center in Northeast Washington last fall. It is believed that they were exposed while sorting contaminated letters sent to congressional offices. The anthrax attacks temporarily suspended some mail delivery, closed numerous Congressional offices and mail processing facilities, while health officials tested and decontaminated equipment, offices and facilities.

It has been almost a year since the anthrax mailings and we are not any closer to finding the person who sent anthrax contaminated letters through the mail. Last year, I met with postal workers from my district. They are proud to work for the postal service but are concerned for their safety. They assured me that neither rain, snow, nor anthrax laced letters would keep them from delivering the mail. However, with that renewed pledge and resolve, they wanted my assurance that the government cared about them. I have the highest admiration for the postal workers who have continued to go to work in this time of uncertainty. Congress must pledge to continue funding for anthrax research. For years the military has been preparing for a chemical weapon attack, specifically from the biological agent anthrax. Some military personnel have been vaccinated for anthrax. Perhaps we should consider vaccinating postal employees along with EPA scientists, lab technicians and others who conceivably could be the first points of contact.

Washington's principal mail-processing center has been closed since Oct. 21. However, I am pleased that preliminary samples from the test fumigation of the quarantined Brentwood postal facility indicate no traces of anthrax spores.

Although their coworkers were successfully treated for anthrax, Morris and Curseen were misdiagnosed and died on Oct. 21 and 22, respectively. The sacrifice they innocently gave to this country will live on in the renaming of the Brentwood processing center.

HONORING STORAGETEK,
COMPANY OF THE YEAR

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor StorageTek, a Colorado technology

firm recently named as the "Company of the Year" by ColoradoBiz Magazine.

StorageTek is headquartered in Louisville, Colorado, with more than 7,800 employees in fifty countries worldwide. Founded in 1969, this company specializes in a broad range of digital storage and data security equipment. Their customers include industry leaders and government agencies such as the Department of Defense, Central Intelligence Agency, and the Congress.

ColoradoBiz Magazine bestowed its award for StorageTek's success in business, marketing innovation, operational efficiency, and community responsibility. For instance, the company astonishingly improved customer order processing time by twenty-five percent, while reducing facility space by fifty percent and inventory on hand by \$100 million. StorageTek's business model improved efficiency and customer service.

Moreover, StorageTek's leadership within the community also warranted this recognition. Since its founding in 1991, the StorageTek Foundation has donated more than nine million dollars to charitable causes with emphasis on education, health, human services, and art. The Foundation also encourages and rewards employee volunteers through the Volunteers in Partnership with the Community (VIP.COM), which rewards organizations designated by employees with a monetary gift when employees volunteer for 100 hours or more.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate StorageTek for receiving "Company of the Year" award, and commend them for being a role model in business and in the community.

REVISED REMARKS FROM CONGRESSMAN CHET EDWARDS,
JULY 26, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

SPEAKING ON THE RULE FOR H.R. 4965

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose late-term abortions, but I believe, like many Americans, that when the health of the mother is at risk, that is a decision that should be made by a woman and her doctor and not by politicians in Washington, D.C.

I am sad to say that this rule is shameful and this bill is a false promise. I do find it interesting that those supporting this rule and this bill keep quoting the American Medical Association. I do not know if they just did not want to hear it or if they refuse to accept it. The organization they are quoting opposes this legislation.

Why do I say this rule is shameful? First, it ensures that when this bill passes today, were it then to become law, it would never have the impact of law or save one baby because the Supreme Court has made it absolutely clear, not just once but five times that the law must have a health exemption when the mother's health is at risk.

So maybe Ralph Reed was right when he said this issue is a political silver bullet. Unfortunately, from a policy standpoint, this bill will not save one baby.

The proponents of this bill and this rule are forcing a false promise upon the American

people, a promise that will not help one child. This rule is shameful because it denies Members of this House a vote of conscience. I respect your conscience. I respect your right to express your conscience. You have no right on an issue of this magnitude, of such deep conscience for so many Members, no one in this House has that right to deny us the right to a vote, to a vote for an amendment that the Supreme Court would then interpret as making this bill constitutional.

I tried to offer an amendment to the Committee on Rules. It was similar to a bill I helped pass in 1987 in Texas that outlaws not one late-term abortion procedure, but outlaws all late-term abortion procedures except for a constitutionally required exception where a mother's health is at risk. For 15 years, the constitutionality of that Texas law has not been challenged. I would note that during the time that President Bush was then Governor of Texas, there was no effective effort or to my knowledge even serious legislative effort made to change that law. It was constitutional and it has worked.

Supreme Court Justice O'Connor has made it very clear, that if you do not have a health exemption in this bill, it will not ever have the impact of becoming law. Let me quote her from the court *Stenberg v. Carhart* case of June 28 of 2000:

"First, the Nebraska statute is inconsistent because it lacks an exception for those instances when the banned procedure is necessary to preserve the health of the mother."

In case that is not clear enough for the supporters of this rule and this unconstitutional bill, she then goes on to outline all that a legislative body has to do to make such a bill constitutional. Just add the words "where it is necessary, in appropriate medical judgment, for the preservation of the life or health of the mother." That would be the only circumstance for an exception.

The people who should be upset at this bill should be pro-life Americans all across this country who have been misled by this unconstitutional bill into thinking it is going to save one child. Had this rule allowed us to vote on a constitutionally acceptable amendment for a health exception, we actually could do some good. What a shame.

SPEAKING ON PASSAGE OF H.R. 4965

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, Coreen Costello was a pro-life Republican and mother of three when her pregnancy turned tragically fatal for her child. Her doctors preserved Mrs. Costello's fertility with a procedure being outlawed in this bill. She then became pregnant again and gave birth to her fourth child.

Listen to this loving mother's words. "Because of this procedure, I now have something my heart ached for, a new baby, a boy named Tucker. He is our family's joy, and I thank God for him."

Mr. Speaker, no Member of this House has the right to substitute his or her judgment for that of a physician and a mother faced with a rare but tragic situation where a pregnancy is failing, a child has no chance of living outside of the mother's womb, and the goal is to save a mother's fertility or health. No Member has that right, not one.

If there is one late-term abortion in America for frivolous reasons, that is one too many, regardless of the procedure used. I am strongly opposed to late-term abortions. But I believe when the health of the mother is at risk, that

is a choice that should be made by a woman and her doctor, and not by politicians in Washington, D.C.

That is not just my opinion, that is the opinion of the United States Supreme Court in the *Stenberg v. Carhart* opinion dated June 28, 2000. In that indication, the Supreme Court and its majority of justices made it very clear that the Nebraska partial-birth abortion law was unconstitutional, in these words.

"... Because it lacks an exception for those instances when the banned procedure is necessary to preserve the health of the mother."

That is as clear as the English language can be. Justice O'Connor, the swing vote on this issue, has made it clear. The truth is that with no health exception for a woman, there will be no law; no law, not one baby saved.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has two flaws in it that make it little more than politics at its worst, as Ralph Reed said, a political silver bullet. First, it is unconstitutional, therefore meaningless. It is a false promise. Second, if the authors of this bill truly believe that American women are monsters who would take a perfectly healthy baby seconds before a perfectly healthy child birth and puncture its brain and kill that innocent child, then why is it that they just want to outlaw one procedure? If you assume the woman is that kind of a monster, then under this bill even if it were law and were constitutional, which it is not, then the woman could choose to use other late-term abortion procedures. Once again, a meaningless law, a meaningless bill that will not save one baby's life.

I think the people who should really be offended by this bill are those genuine pro-life Americans who want to stop late-term abortions. I want to stop late-term abortions, and I hope others who do would ask the proponents of this bill two questions. Is politics so important that you would rather pass a clearly unconstitutional bill than a bill that could actually become law, a bill like I helped pass in Texas 15 years ago that is still the law of that State today? Second question: Why are you outlawing one procedure and leaving every other late-term abortion procedure perfectly legal?

This bill is politics at its worst. It is a false promise.

COMMEMORATION OF RETIREMENT OF MRS. MYRNA DECKERT

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 2002

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of one of the most inspirational and respected women in El Paso, Texas: Mrs. Myrna Deckert. Mrs. Deckert represents the highest caliber of citizen we have in the United States. Since the early 1960s, she has been a motivating force in the improvement of her workplace, the YWCA El Paso, and as a result, the El Paso community as a whole. We are lucky to have someone with her rare mix of business savvy and empathy in our midst and I am proud to honor her today in the United States Congress.

Myrna's service to El Paso began with her position as Teenage Director at the YWCA El

Paso del Norte Region. Myrna quickly displayed her prowess for innovation and improvement as she expanded the Teenage Program from less than 30 members to over 1500 members and vastly improved the services offered. She then moved up to become the Associate Executive Director of the organization. It is through her efforts in this position that the YWCA captured national attention in *Parade Magazine*. Myrna created a place of respite and support for teenage girls with family problems called the Residential Intervention Center which was so effective that it caught eye of *Parade*, who ran the story as its feature article.

Just one year after assuming the Associate Executive Director post, Myrna was made Chief Executive Officer of the YWCA El Paso del Norte Region. In the ensuing years, it was easy to tell that Myrna was at the helm. With her as head of the organization's 33-member board, the YWCA's operating budget grew from \$100,000 to \$35 million. Their staff grew from about 20 to over 800, and, the YWCA went from one building to numerous facilities valued at over \$20 million.

As CEO, Myrna received numerous awards and recognitions for her efforts. Some highlights—as there are definitely too many to share all of them here—are: the Woman of the Year Award from the American Association of University Women, the Director of the Year Award from the United Way of El Paso County, the Humanitarian Award from the League of United Latin American Citizens, and the "One of the Twenty Outstanding Women of Year Award(s)" from the El Paso Times in 1997. Three years later, the El Paso Times honored her again with one of the two "Newsmaker of the Year" awards in 2000.

While reflecting over this amazing and substantive career, I would like to congratulate Myrna on her retirement and thank her so much for her years of hard work and commitment. Because of her efforts, I represent an area that provides opportunity and enjoyment to its citizens. Myrna, because of your efforts, I represent an area that people are proud to call home. Thank you. I yield back the balance of my time.

GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION MADE TO COMMUNITY PROJECT IN LEXINGTON, MISSOURI

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Margaret Gray of Lexington, Missouri, has donated \$250,000 to a project that will benefit the citizens of Lexington and the surrounding area. The gift will go toward construction of the "Lexington 4 Life" project, a new building that will house a senior citizens' center, a comprehensive health care facility, a day care center, and a pre-school for at-risk children.

Margaret Gray's support for the new "Lexington 4 Life" project is only her most recent commitment to the betterment of Lexington. Through the years, she has promoted aging issues and cultivated a more enhanced public sentiment with regard to the well-being of all persons in her community.

For 25 years, Margaret served the people of Lafayette County and the State of Missouri by working for the Missouri Division of Family Services, the last ten of which serving as the Lafayette County Director. In 1978, Margaret joined a small group of individuals who started the Lexington Senior Center. She served on the local Center Services Board for ten years, before becoming a member of the District III Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors in 1985. She served on the Area Agency on Aging Board for 17 years, including a tenure as President of the Board.

Margaret also served on the State Board of the Missouri Association of Social Workers from 1970 to 1980 and has been an active member of Business and Professional Women for over 40 years. Additionally, Margaret is working with her colleagues to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of the state's Medicaid system.

Mr. Speaker, Margaret Gray's generous gifts, her talents, and her time are making a lifetime endowment to the community of Lexington. I am certain that all members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Margaret Gray's commitment and dedication to the people of Lexington, Missouri.

THE ROBERT BYRD HONORS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FROM THE 6th DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 2002

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Robert Byrd Honors Scholarship recipients from the 6th district of Missouri. The following students have shown dedication and persistence in their academic studies, and it is my honor to announce them as this year's scholarship award winners:

Matt Arndt, Brianna Belke, Grant Buell, Zachariah Castle, Joseph Gill, Wesley Kauble, Rachel Lipanovich, Kenneth Maynes, Emily McClanahan, Robert Nedved, Adam Osborne, Colby Parks, Kathryn Seyboth, Austin Siddens, Erin Smith, Eric Sokol, Lauren Spencer, Matthew Tingler and Justin Wilson. Each student was awarded scholarships of up to \$1500 per year for their first four years of study at a four-year institution of higher education.

The Robert C. Byrd Scholarship Program is a federally funded scholarship for students who show outstanding academic achievement and promise. The department of elementary and secondary education, in cooperation with the United States Department of Education, provides superior scholars throughout the Nation with this esteemed award. In order to receive the scholarship, students must be a resident of Missouri and attend a public or private school within the State, be accepted for enrollment at a four-year institution of higher education, rank in the top 10% of their high school graduating class and score in the top 10% of the national percentile on the ACT test. It is my honor and privilege to have 19 of these scholars residing in the 6th district.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring these exceptional scholars for their dedication to and achievement in their academic studies.