

A TRIBUTE TO GAIL SHAIVITZ

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2002

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Gail Shaivitz and her 22-year career in service to Baltimore County seniors. During her career at the Pikesville Senior Center, Gail was dedicated to the well-being of her members, whom she treated as extended family.

Gail is unique because she has spent 20 years with one senior center, the Pikesville Senior Center. She began her career in 1980 as a part-time regional program specialist. In October 1982, she was assigned to the Pikesville Senior Center as the center supervisor. In 1984, Gail was promoted to director. In fact, Gail has the distinction of working at one senior center, in the same position, for the longest period of time of anyone in the Baltimore County Department of Aging.

As director of the Pikesville Senior Center, she was instrumental in getting it accredited by the National Council on the Aging's National Institute of Senior Centers. It was largely through Gail's efforts that the Pikesville Senior Center became one of the first centers in the county to receive accreditation status. Since then, all 18 Baltimore County senior centers have been accredited.

Gail's 20-year career at the Pikesville Senior Center has been marked by significant expansion and creativity in programming. She has worked to connect the senior center to the greater Pikesville community through membership in the Pikesville Community Growth Corporation and the Pikesville Chamber of Commerce. In 1997, she received special recognition from Baltimore County Executive Dutch Ruppersberger and the Baltimore County Department of Aging Director Charles Fisher.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting Gail Shaivitz, a committed public servant who has done much to improve the lives of seniors in Baltimore County.

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR DEAN BERGERON

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2002

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Professor Dean Bergeron upon his retirement for his lifetime commitment to educating and inspiring students at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Robert F. Kennedy often said that "It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope; and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

Professor Dean Bergeron, who is lovingly referred to by students as "Dean", learned the lessons of acceptance, tolerance and the joy

of life from his parents Joseph and Chloe. Their upbringing inspired Dean to enter the teaching profession, so he studied History at St. Michael's College. Upon the completion of his baccalaureate degree, his passion motivated him to further his education in history at both Villanova and Brown University. In 1965, Dean Bergeron concluded his studies and accepted a teaching position in the History Department at Lowell State College, a decision that resulted in a lifetime career that positively changed thousands of students' lives.

Dean Bergeron displayed diverse acts of courage on a daily basis by challenging students to recognize the depths of their potential. He implemented cutting edge classroom techniques to keep students engaged. He created the Model Leagues, an involvement learning program for students to participate in simulated United Nations and Arab League conferences. He and Professor Joyce Denning used their own money to start a grant program for students. He even implemented new classes into the curriculum, such as, Middle East Studies, the Environment and the Kennedys.

His impact upon the lives of students has truly been remarkable. The Model Leagues program is one of the best in the nation, winning local, national and international awards. It has provided students with the opportunity to learn and to travel. The grant opportunities has provided students an opportunity to create meaningful projects at home and abroad. There are few words to express the way students feel about him. Many refer to him as a mentor, advisor and best friend.

Dean Bergeron used the classroom to encourage students to stand up for an ideal, to help those less fortunate and to dispel myths about other cultures. Dean was truly an outstanding professor who cared about his students. His legacy has created countless ripples of hopes that impacted the hearts and minds of his students and has left the University of Massachusetts Lowell, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the United States of America and the World community a far better place.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP POLITICAL SPEECH PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I offer my strong support H.R. 2357, the Houses of Worship Political Speech Protection Act. This bill, a much-needed change in current law, would once again offer First Amendment freedoms to our nation's churches without the fear of a heavy-handed or politicized IRS or federal government.

Since 1954, our nation's religious institutions have been silenced. Prior to that time, religious leaders spoke freely about issues. Civil rights had a great moral and religious component to it. Abolition had a great moral and religious component to it. And so issues today continue to have their moral and religious components. Yet churches are told, many times under an inconsistent system that is only selectively enforced, to silence themselves or face losing tax-exempt status. This

is the greatest disservice to some of our greatest institutions.

Sadly, there has even been an attempt to intimidate churches from speaking out on issues. One liberal organization devoted to their own version of the First Amendment actually mailed over a quarter million letters in 2000 to houses of worship warning them about speaking out on political issues. The chilling effect of this clear attempt to muzzle our nation's pastors, priests, ministers, rabbis and other clergy, must not stand.

This legislation has been well thought out and thoroughly reviewed by committees so that new campaign loopholes are not created, and no new avenues of soft money are allowed—both things I would oppose. We are merely asking to go back to the laws that existed for the first one hundred fifty years of our nation, which simply allowed freedom of expression for religious organizations.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support and vote for H.R. 2357.

COLLECTIONS FROM OTHER FEDERAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 5530, a bill that would strengthen VA's rights under law to collect reimbursement from certain third parties to cover the costs the Department incurs in providing health care to veterans covered by another private or public health plan. A number of these plans either refuse to reimburse, or are prohibited from doing so by current law. My bill, H.R. 5530, would fix this problem by eliminating these barriers to reimbursement for VA care.

Those who pay attention to such matters are aware that the VA health care system is seriously under-funded to meet the demands being placed on it by our nation's veterans. As Chairman of the authorizing Committee for the Department of Veterans Affairs, I have worked hard to ensure that VA health care has the resources it requires to provide high quality health care services in a timely fashion. However, today VA health care is in crisis, as increasing enrollment and rising health care costs have resulted in hundreds of thousands of veterans being forced to wait months, even more than a year, to see a VA doctor. A VA report recently said that over 300,000 veterans are now waiting over six months to be seen in VA primary care. This is not acceptable.

America's veterans did not ask us to wait while they finished high school, apprenticeships or college before being trained and sent into the European Theater of World War II as replacements for troops killed or taken prisoner of war at the Battle of the Bulge. They did not ask the U.S. Government to delay our call-up of WWII veterans in 1950 to go into the frozen confines of Korea to fight Chinese Communists along the 38th Parallel, or whether they could somehow postpone the horrible suffering caused by extreme cold weather at the Chosin Reservoir.

They were called, they answered, and they served. This is the way of America's citizen soldiers. Now, many of these veterans are

calling on their government to fulfill their promises and provide them health care through VA—many in their final years. They should not be told to wait because we lack the resources.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5530 would correct a number of deficiencies in VA's ability to recover the costs of care provided to veterans covered by other health plans. Since 1986, VA has had statutory authority to collect from traditional insurers such as Blue Cross-Blue Shield, Aetna, Mutual of Omaha and many others. These funds are used by VA to supplement appropriated funds to maintain high quality health care. VA also collects from so called "Medi-gap policies" that are an important adjunct to the Medicare program.

But VA is unable to collect from the massive managed care sector, accounting now for over two-thirds of all health plans in the United States, including the managed care plans within Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan. Nor can VA collect from the Medicare program with nearly 40 million eligibles. My legislation would require these federal programs to pay VA for care it provides to covered beneficiaries. This would increase the amount of money VA could collect by hundreds of millions of dollars each year—providing funds that are desperately needed to reduce these intolerable waiting lists and promote better use of all available health care resources.

I urge my colleagues to support and co-sponsor this bill that will be an important supplement to a cash-strapped VA health care system charged with caring for many of our nation's heroes.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MATTHEW PRINCE

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2002

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, on August 26, this Nation lost a great and patriotic American. Dr. Matthew Prince, a very close friend of mine, passed away suddenly due to a heart attack.

Matt was one of the finest men I have ever known. He was both a lawyer and a minister, having graduated from the University of Tennessee with both undergraduate and law degrees, and the Dallas Theological Seminary.

He founded New Life, Inc., an evangelistic ministry and Bible study and served for several years as Pastor for Calvary Evangelical Church. He was host of the Answerline program on WRJZ Radio Station for more than 15 years and later the Treasures of Grace Program. He had also served as Legal Counsel for the Young Life Christian organization and as a lawyer in private practice.

In addition to all this, Dr. Prince was a Sunday School teacher for many years at Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church and West Park Baptist Church.

His brother, Dr. Tom Prince, said "Matt was one of the great men of God in his time. . . ."

Most important of all, Matt was a good family man who loved his wife, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren very much. He was very proud of them, and they have every right to be proud of the life he led.

Matt Prince was a man in the arena. He fought very hard for the things he believed in, and he was never afraid to take a stand for God or Country. This Nation is a better place today, and thousands of lives were touched in a positive way, because of Matt Prince.

I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD the following article about the life of Matt Prince which ran in the Knoxville News-Sentinel on September 18, 2002.

EVANGELIST, CHRISTIAN RADIO HOST OF ANSWERLINE, DIES OF HEART ATTACK
(By Sherri Gardner Howell)

The Rev. Dr. Matthew "Matt" Prince, evangelist and longtime Christian radio host, died Monday, Aug. 26, of a heart attack. The Rev. Dr. Prince, 73, was a radio host for more than 15 years for Answerline on WRJZ radio and taught Sunday School classes at Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church and West Park Baptist Church.

After Answerline went off the air, the Rev. Dr. Prince began the Treasures of Grace radio program, which aired each weekday.

A graduate of the University of Tennessee, the Dallas Theological Seminary and UT Law School, the Rev. Dr. Prince founded New Life Inc., an evangelistic outreach ministry and Bible study. As part of his law practice, the Rev. Dr. Prince served as head of legal council for Young Life in Colorado Springs, Colo., and then practiced law in Knoxville.

In 1988, the Rev. Dr. Prince led a team that formed Calvary Evangelical Church in West Knoxville and served as its pastor for 5 years.

"Matt was one of the great men of God in this time, and he recreated 'Friendship Evangelism,' a way of introducing people to Christ through friendship and in people's homes," says his brother Dr. Tom Prince.

Their father, Thomas C. Prince, was instrumental in bringing Young Life to Knoxville in 1947.

The Rev. Dr. Prince is survived by his wife, Judy Prince, sons Matt S. Prince Jr. and David Prince of Simi Valley, Calif.; daughters Peggy Miller of Plano, Texas, Patty Mastro of Huntington Beach, Calif., Penny Griffin and Beverly Sharp; step-daughter Trudi Neubeck, and stepson Rick Boensch of St. Petersburg, Fla.; brother, Dr. Tom Prince; nephews Tommy, Gary and Steven Prince; and niece Gayle Scaggs. The Rev. Dr. Prince had 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Rose Mortuary Mann Heritage Chapel. The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at West Park Baptist Church with burial at 3 p.m. Thursday at Highland Memorial Cemetery.

EXPRESSING SORROW FOR THE PASSING OF REPRESENTATIVE PATSY MINK

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the works of a great mentor, friend, colleague, and champion in Congress, Representative PATSY MINK.

I am saddened by the sudden loss of such a great leader and heroine. She inspired many

of us through her tireless work, commitment, and dedication throughout her tenure in Congress. I send my condolences to Representative MINK's family, Mr. John Francis Mink, her husband, and Gwendolyn Rachel Mink, her daughter. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Congresswoman MINK was the first Asian American woman to serve in Congress. During her time in Congress she championed many issues including women's rights, education, the environment, equal opportunity for all citizens, and Title IX of the Education Act. She will always be remembered as an outspoken advocate for women and children. She was the kind of public servant we all want to emulate.

PATSY left a lasting legacy behind that has inspired us to continue her work. She touched the lives of many individuals, particularly women through her work on Title IX, which mandates gender equality in any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Title IX has been instrumental in prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and sports activities that receive Federal funding. Before Title IX, many schools saw no problem in maintaining strict limits on the admission of women or simply refusing to admit them. Since the passage of Title IX, this has changed dramatically. In 1994, women received 38 percent of medical degrees, 43 percent of law degrees, and 44 percent of all doctoral degrees. In 1972, women received only 9 percent of medical degrees, 7 percent of law degrees and 25 percent of doctoral degrees.

Female participation in sports, like receiving a college education, has had unexpected benefits for women through Title IX. Studies have shown that values learned from sports participation, such as teamwork, leadership, discipline and pride in accomplishment, are important attributes as women increase their participation in the workforce, as well as their entry into business management and ownership positions.

More and more women are entering and graduating from college and graduate school. More women are entering and excelling in sports activities. And, more women are entering the corporate world and holding management positions. Representative MINK's leadership in enacting Title IX will continue to make a difference for young women. This is why today in the Education and the Workforce Committee we passed a bill to name Title IX after PATSY MINK. Thanks to her courage and foresight the country is better as women have the opportunity to achieve their full position.

Her work enabled many young women to enter the field of sports, medicine, law, and business. Women today have been empowered to reach as far as they want because of the work Representative MINK championed in Congress.

Representative PATSY MINK's dedication and perseverance will be admired. She will be forever known as a strong, intelligent, and inspirational woman. She left a legacy behind that motivated and touched me deeply. Her work has allowed women to accomplish and reach for any dream they desire to achieve. Thank you, PATSY MINK.