

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAPLE GROVE COLUMBINE CLUB

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an organization with a long history in Colorado. The Maple Grove Columbine Club in Montrose, Colorado has served as a social network for its members as they have come together to support each other, their community, and their country for nearly a century now. It is with great pride that I honor them today and share their heritage with my colleagues.

Since its inception as a women's social organization in 1911, the Columbine Club's activities have reflected the values that are at the heart of every American community. Established in an era when the horse was still the way to get around, the club traditionally has not held meetings during the summer months so the women could concentrate on preparing their children for school and canning their gardens' harvest for winter. Socially, the club held annual husband's banquets and Christmas parties to help bring people together, as well as regular meetings in members' homes. Their activities created lasting friendships as some members have contributed to the club for over 50 years.

The Columbine Club's activities reach beyond just social gatherings, as members met to discuss and undertake blood plasma donation during World War II and gathering goods to distribute to those in need. The club is indeed full of commitment and perspective with some members in their 80s still participating and supporting their community. It is good to see that the club is as full of vitality today as when it was first founded 91 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor this organization before this body of Congress and our nation. The strong values and social causes championed by the ladies of the Maple Grove Columbine Club reflect their commitment to their community, their state, and their country. I am glad to bring this group's history and accomplishments to the attention of this body.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF OFFICIAL RECOGNITION FOR THE HEROES OF UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT 93

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I call to your attention a letter I received from David and Gretchen Nagy and Donald Evans, Jr., of Burke, Virginia. The letter, addressed to President George W. Bush, urges our government

to officially recognize the heroic men and women of United Airlines Flight 93 for their actions on the morning of September 11, 2001. These ordinary people aboard Flight 93 were thrown into an extraordinary and tragic situation. When their plane was hijacked by al-Qaeda terrorists, these brave souls made a choice to fight back against terror. The citizens on Flight 93 became soldiers, and in so doing denied the terrorists of their chosen target, perhaps saving our cherished Capitol from the same fate as the World Trade Center. Mr. Speaker, in support of this letter, I submit it for the RECORD. It reads as follows:

President GEORGE W. BUSH,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We write as ordinary citizens to ask that you lead our nation in bestowing some measure of official honor upon a tiny band of extraordinary citizens—the ones who stood up and charged the hijackers of UAL Flight 93 over Pennsylvania on 9/11.

There seems little doubt that these heroes spared America another devastating blow with their magnificent stand, possibly even a blow to the Capitol or the White House itself. Thanks to you and others, everyone now knows their rallying cry, "Let's roll!" Surely, everyone with a heart shivered when they heard it, and the story behind it.

And now, Mr. President, how many even remember their names?

According to press reports, they were Todd Beamer, Jeremy Glick, Mark Bingham and Lou Naccke—ordinary yet rare men with the guts to act when most would be paralyzed by fear. Perhaps investigators have identified others who joined their uprising. If so, they remain anonymous and unacknowledged. All the sadder.

In a sense, sir, weren't these men the first combat casualties in our new war against terrorism? The first to go hand-to-hand—and unarmed—against our attackers? They knew they were doomed. ("I'm not going to get out of this," Beamer told a cellphone operator.) They could have curled up and gone passively. But they also knew they could thwart evil and spare many on the ground if they went down fighting.

We respectfully suggest, Mr. President, that valor of this sort is in the grandest traditions of American heroism—something very special, on the order of that which gains our military heroes the Medal of Honor. Yet if anyone has proposed that this Nation extend these men some tangible form of gratitude, something solid their loved ones could touch and treasure, we haven't heard of it. So we are asking you, sir, to consider bestowing such an honor at a fitting, proper ceremony. Perhaps the Presidential Medal of Freedom would be appropriate, perhaps some other award for ultimate service and valor.

We still hope we are merely adding our letter to a growing stack.

God bless you, Mr. President.
DAVID AND GRETCHEN
NAGY,
DONALD C. EVANS, JR.

GIFTS FROM PRESCRIPTION DRUG MANUFACTURERS? GOOD FOR PATIENTS—OR CROSSING THE LINE?

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues an editorial from the October 5, 2002, edition of the Omaha World Herald, entitled "Plug the Flow of 'Incentives'" Gifts from drug companies do influence when and how much medicine is prescribed. This Member recognizes that physician-pharmaceutical interaction can produce some positive results, such as improved knowledge of treatment for complicated illnesses. However, interaction can also result in negative outcomes, such as increasing prescriptions for promoted drugs, while fewer generics are prescribed at no demonstrated advantage.

As we consider adding a prescription drug benefit to the Medicare program and begin to examine ways to control prescription drug costs in the Medicaid program, it seems to me, that we need to ask the following questions:

Are consumers obtaining good value for the resources expended on new pharmaceuticals?

Are new prescription drugs on the market better, safer, and more effective than older drugs that have been on the market for quite some time?

Does the Government have a role in determining more than simply the safety of new and established drugs?

If so, does that role include evaluating clinical efficacy, convenience, and cost-effectiveness compared to current products?

PLUG THE FLOW OF "INCENTIVES"

Pharmaceutical manufacturers have long realized that doctors are key to the health of their bottom lines. Now, using words like "fraud," the federal government has indicated it will try to shut off the flood of goodies that drug makers pour over the decision-makers who are in a position to prescribe their products.

Financial incentives to doctors, pharmacists or similar health care professionals given to induce them to prescribe or recommend particular drugs or to switch patients from one drug to another are common in the industry. But the practice could break federal fraud and abuse laws, according to officials at the Department of Health and Human Services. The department is planning to set standards that would ban such "incentives" for a wide range of medical, insurance and pharmacy workers who make drug decisions.

The most notable underlying problem is the high cost of many of the brand-name drugs that are pushed hardest by the drug companies. These drugs, many of them with equally effective, cheaper alternatives, are profit centers for pharmaceutical companies. That means the companies are happy to shell out for weekend trips, expensive meals or

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

other “incentives” for prescribing or switching patients to the designated medication.

Doctors, pharmacy benefit managers and others who please the companies can be hired as do-little “consultants” to the manufacturers, sometimes for outrageously high pay.

The new standards aren’t, in themselves, laws. Companies that don’t follow them, however, face investigation under federal fraud and kickback statutes, a Health and Human Services official warned. A voluntary code of conduct adopted last spring by the industry apparently didn’t go far enough.

Prescription costs are rising steadily. No reasonable person would deny the industry a fair profit. But some of the practices revealed by Health and Human Services are shifty, deceptive and just plain unethical. We’re glad to see the feds trying to put a stop to what amounts to bribery of medical decision-makers.

TRIBUTE TO COLORADO AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER DON AMENT AND MR. BASIL STIEB

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. SCHAFER Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don Ament, the Colorado Agriculture Commissioner and Mr. Basil Stieb of Iff, Colorado. Recently, both men appeared on NBC Nightly News to educate Americans about the tremendous devastation left by the drought in our State.

During his tenure as the Colorado Ag Commissioner, Don Ament has worked tirelessly to promote the issues that matter to rural Colorado. He used his appearance on NBC Nightly News to skillfully articulate the problems and possible solutions Colorado and other States plagued by drought face. I thank him for his efforts to promote drought awareness.

Mr. Basil Stieb is a Colorado farmer who faces our State’s severe drought every day. He eloquently told his story to the American people on NBC, and provided a realistic picture of the sacrifices farming and ranching families across our nation are making due to the drought. I thank him for his dedication to agriculture and his desire to educate others.

Residents of Colorado’s Fourth Congressional District, Don Ament and Basil Stieb are truly great Americans. I ask the House to join me in thanking them for their hard work and commitment to solving the problems caused by the drought in Colorado.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. BURTIS NUTTING

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to pay tribute to Dr. Burtis “Doc” Nutting of Glenwood Springs, Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation. Dr. Nutting has recently turned 100 years old and, as he and his family celebrate this momentous occasion, I would like to recognize him for his fascinating career and the incredible contribu-

tions he has made to the community of Glenwood Springs.

Dr. Nutting was born in Delta, Colorado on September 15, 1902. He studied pre-med at Western State College in Gunnison and then graduated from the University of Colorado Medical School in 1929. Dr. Nutting moved to Glenwood Springs after he caught word that the local doctor in the city had passed away and the community needed a new physician.

Dr. Nutting had a vigorous work ethic throughout his career, working seven days a week and constantly on call throughout the evenings, determined to be available to all his patients. He also maintained personal friendships with his patients and he ran his office accordingly. He made certain that all patients in need received the best medical care available and nobody was turned away, regardless of their financial situation. On many occasions, Dr. Nutting accepted payments made with chickens, farm animals, and vegetables from patients who had no other means of compensation.

Among Dr. Nutting’s most noted accomplishments were his contributions in the fund-raising and construction of a larger, more modern hospital for the City of Glenwood Springs. The hospital was completed in 1955, providing the city with up-to-date facilities and more room to accommodate the city’s growing population. Due to the hands-on way in which he did his job and the endless, heartfelt concern for his patients, Dr. Nutting became somewhat of a celebrity over the years. His age and his years of dedication and service to the City of Glenwood Springs have made him into an icon of community involvement.

Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct honor to recognize Dr. Burtis Nutting before this body of Congress and this nation in commemoration of his 100th birthday. Dr. Nutting and his family can be proud of his achievements and the years of irreplaceable service he has given to the City of Glenwood Springs. I hope his years ahead will be as rewarding and endearing as the one hundred he has been blessed with thus far. Congratulations, Doc!

TRIBUTE TO LYNDAL WHITWORTH

HON. WES WATKINS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my district director, Lyndal Whitworth. On October 20, 2002, Lyndal will retire from Federal service. Lyndal has been a friend and partner in my efforts to help bring jobs and economic opportunities to the Third Congressional district, and he will be greatly missed by all who have known him and worked with him.

I first met Lyndal in the Spring of 1966 when I was the high school and college relations director for Oklahoma State University. I was in Lamont, Oklahoma, for a Future Farmers of America Banquet at Lamont High School, where Lyndal was a junior. Lyndal was a top student, and a fellow FFA officer, so I recruited him to attend OSU, my alma mater. Lyndal went on the OSU, where he earned a degree in agriculture and served in the student government.

In the Spring of 1978, during my freshman term in the House, I had an opening in my

Washington office for a legislative assistant for agriculture. Lyndal was working on the Agriculture Department communications staff at OSU, and I immediately thought of him for the position. Unfortunately, for me Lyndal declined the offer for family reasons—he had a pregnant wife and young son, so the timing was not right for him to move to Washington.

Later that year, however, I had another job opening—this one in my Ada, Oklahoma, district office. So, I contacted Lyndal again to ask him to join my district staff, and this time he accepted.

Lyndal Whitworth and I share a dedication to rural Oklahoma and a commitment to working as hard as it takes and for as long as needed to get the job done. Keeping up with me is no easy task, and Lyndal’s positive attitude and dedication to me and my mission made him a perfect fit as my district director. Lyndal frequently joined me in putting in 14, 16 to 18 hours a day, helping on my primary mission to improve the economic conditions of the Third District of Oklahoma, historically the most economically distressed area of the State.

Lyndal’s efforts in the district assisted my legislative efforts in Washington during my time in Congress. Just a few of the many projects for which Lyndal provided valuable assistance include Winding Stair National Recreation Area, McGee Creek Reservoir, Wes Watkins Reservoir; the USDA Agriculture Research Station in Lane, the OSU Center for International Trade Development, numerous highway and rural water projects, and countless local economic development and business recruitment projects. Our efforts have been very successful. The Third district has made great strides, and today is transforming from a depressed welfare area to an active economic growth area.

I have served in the House for a total of 20 years, from 1977 to 1991 and from 1997 to the present. Lyndal Whitworth has served on my staff for sixteen of those twenty years. He served his nation in the U.S. Army, worked for the United States Senate, and served as a civilian employee for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I ask that the House join me in thanking Lyndal Whitworth for his many years of faithful public service and for a job well done.

HONORING TRAVIS L. BROWN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues and the Congressional Fire Services Institute to honor a fallen hero Travis L. Brown, on June 6th, 2001, Mr. Brown made the ultimate sacrifice in service for the Dearborn Fire Department and surrounding communities.

Mr. Brown had a soft spot for helping people, which was evident in his career as a nurse and volunteer firefighter. During his memorial service more than two hundred firefighters, EMT personnel and members of police departments from Kansas and Missouri came in support of a fallen brother. Many kind words were shared at Mr. Brown’s memorial; one colleague best described him as “...just a great guy, a very caring man.”