

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD HODES

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dr. Richard Hodes, a physician and former leader in the Florida legislature who used his multitude of personal and professional talents to improve Florida's health care system and make Florida a better place for all of us.

During Dick's 16 years of service in the Florida House of Representatives, he always sought opportunities to contribute as a champion of education and health reforms. As chairman of the House Health and Rehabilitation Services Committee, then Speaker pro tem and majority leader, Dick used his expertise as a physician and his prowess as a legislator, most notably, to help fashion Florida's Medicaid legislation and streamline the State's health, institutional, and welfare services in Florida.

Dick's work was not overlooked. In 1970 he was the recipient of the Florida Jaycees Good Government Award and the St. Petersburg Times nominated him four times as the Most Valuable Member of the House. Dick was even elected President of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Outside of the legislature, Dick's contributions to the medical community were countless. He operated his own private practice in Tampa for nearly 40 years and served as Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of South Florida's College of Medicine and former President of the Florida Medical Association, the Hillsborough County Medical Association and the Florida Society of Anesthesiologists. Local Hillsborough County residents benefitted from his insight every week for 20 years when they tuned into his program on WEDU television.

Dick was the model citizen: a tireless worker, a highly successful doctor and public servant dedicated to the people he served. He was soft spoken while holding firm, heartfelt views about the major issues he tackled. Dick is an inspiration for generations of leaders to come and he will be solely missed not just by his family and many, many friends, but by all of us.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2002 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG/BUNDESRAT EXCHANGE

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, since 1983, the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag and Bundesrat have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and interact on issues of mutual interest.

A staff delegation from the U.S. Congress will be selected to visit Germany during May 26 to June 8 of this year. During the 2 week exchange, the delegation will attend meetings

with Bundestag Members, Bundestag party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic, and media agencies. Participants also will be hosted by a Bundestag Member for a district visit.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States for 2 weeks in July. They will attend similar meetings here in Washington and visit the districts of Congressional Members. The U.S. delegation is expected to facilitate these meetings.

The Congress-Bundestag Exchange is highly regarded in Germany and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries. This exchange is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The U.S. delegation should consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag reciprocates by sending senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern to Germany and the United States such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, immigration, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues.

In addition, U.S. participants are expected to help plan and implement the program for the Bundestag staff members when they visit the United States. Participants are expected to assist in planning topical meetings in Washington, and are encouraged to host one or two Bundestag staffers in their Member's district in July, or to arrange for such a visit to another Member's district.

Participants are selected by a committee composed of personnel from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and past participants of the exchange.

Senators and Representatives who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a resume and cover letter in which they state their qualifications, the contributions they can make to a successful program and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated. Applications may be sent to Connie Veillette in Congressman REGULA's office, 2306 Rayburn House Building by noon on Friday, April 5.

HONORING LIFE OF DAVE THOMAS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, as a member who has actively sought to advance the adoption and foster care system, I would like to pay tribute to Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers. Throughout his life, Mr. Thomas displayed incredible dedication to not only his business endeavors, but also his advocacy for the cause of adoption.

In his efforts to encourage, improve, and increase public awareness of adoption and foster care programs, Mr. Thomas established both the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and the Dave Thomas Center for Adoption Law. His Foundation for Adoption worked jointly with national adoption organizations, individuals, and public and private agencies to raise awareness and provide support for children awaiting adoption, while his Center for Adoption Law helped to ease and facilitate the adoption process through education, advocacy, and research.

In addition to his foundations, Mr. Thomas was a constructive force in shaping corporate health policy to cover adoption expenses. Through his efforts, 75 percent of Fortune 1000 companies now offer adoption benefits to their employees. Mr. Thomas also served from 1990 until 2000 as the national spokesman for numerous White House adoption and foster care initiatives, and donated his speaking fees and profits from the sales of his books, "Dave's Way, Well Done!" and "Franchising for Dummies," to adoption causes.

As a testament to his devotion to the cause of adoption, Mr. Thomas received numerous awards, including the Angel in Adoption Award from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption and the 2001 Social Awareness Award from the U.S. Postal Service.

Through his entire span of advocacy for the cause of adoption, Mr. Thomas maintained his life and success ethics of honesty, hard work, self-reliance, and perseverance. May he always be remembered as a truly powerful example for every person who works toward a cause in which he or she believes.

HONORING HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER HAROLD COKER FOR HIS DEDICATION

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, as a Hamilton County Commissioner, a small businessman and community activist, Harold Coker has spend decades working to improve the school system, promote economic development and enhance the quality of life for all that live in Hamilton County.

Before being elected to the County Commission, Mr. Coker was a successful business owner and was elected President of the Antique Automobile Club of America. Because of his dedication to the industry, he was also elected president of the National Tire Dealers Association.

In 1982, when Mr. Coker was elected to the Hamilton County Commission, he went to work for efficient and more effective government and attacked abuse of power and corruption in local politics. He served as county commission chairman in 1985-86, 1995 and 1998-99 and throughout his service he has saved the taxpayers millions of dollars.

For over twenty years Commissioner Coker's goal has been to bring about progress and make Hamilton County a better place to live. Harold and his wife Lill became involved in making the streets of our community safe. They urged the use of seat belts and strongly advocated against driving under the influence

of alcohol or drugs. Harold was successful in obtaining a federal grant of \$500,000 to form the DUI task force.

In 1986 he was named by President Ronald Reagan to serve on the National Highway Transportation Safety Advisory Committee. While serving on the NHTSA board, Harold was instrumental in getting the child safety restraint bill and seat belt law passed in the state legislature. Tennessee was the first state in the nation to pass the Child Safety restraint bill and the bill became a model for the rest of the nation. He should take great satisfaction in knowing that many lives have been saved across the country because of this legislation.

In 1986, Commissioner Coker also began an effort to improve the image of Chattanooga by working to create a river port and a river walk to add to the city's growth, development and livability. He only hoped to live long enough to see this project fully realized. I am pleased to report that the project will be completed this year before he leaves office in August.

Another one of Commissioner Coker's primary concerns during his 20 years of public service has been economic development. He was instrumental in establishing industrial parks, enterprise zones, and citizen action groups that will benefit the area for generations to come.

Harold believed that a good education directly contributed to his success as a business owner and he was inspired to increase funding for schools as a County Commissioner. He voted for increases in teacher pay and as a result starting teacher's salaries have more than doubled during his tenure on the County Commission.

The Coker family was awarded the Great American Family Community Award in 1983; he received the Sertoma Service to Mankind Award in 1985; he was named Volunteer of the Year for the Heart Association in 1987; and he was the recipient of the Public Education Foundation Award in 2000.

Commissioner Coker will leave office at the end of his final term in August of 2002. I would like to personally thank him for his tireless efforts to make a difference in the lives of the people who live in the Tennessee Valley. We will miss his leadership, but his vision and principled stands will serve as a legacy and a lesson for all who are fortunate to be called a "public servant."

THE OLD SPANISH NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ACT

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, in the west, citizens from all walks of life have deep-rooted cultural and historic ties to the land. This legislation will amend the National Trails System Act and designate the Old Spanish Trail, which originates in Santa Fe, New Mexico and continues to Los Angeles, California, as a National Historic Trail.

The Old Spanish Trail dates back to 1829 when it had a variety of uses, from trade caravans to military expeditions. For twenty plus years, the Old Spanish Trail was used as a main route of travel between New Mexico and

California. Numerous Indian Pueblos were situated along the trail serving as trading forums for the travelers. Today, more than one hundred and fifty years after the first caravans on the Old Spanish Trail, the historic charter of the trail lives on and the trail remains relatively unchanged since the trail period.

The Old Spanish Trail is a symbol of cultural interaction between various ethnic groups and nations. Further, it is a symbol of the commercial exchange that made development and growth popular, not only in the west, but throughout the country.

The National Trails system was established by the National Trails System Act of 1968, to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and appreciation of the open air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Nation. Designating the Old Spanish Trail as a National Historic Trail would allow for just what the act has intended, preservation, access, enjoyment and appreciation of the historic resources of our Nation. The Old Spanish Trail has been significant in many respects to many different people and such rich history should not be left out of our National Trails System. Designating the Old Spanish Trail as a National Historic Trail will protect this historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment indefinitely.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE SENATOR
STEVEN A. BADDOUR'S SWEARING IN SPEECH

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, my good friend Steven A. Baddour was elected to the Third Essex Seat of the Massachusetts State Senate in a special election held on January 8, 2002. Steve is a former Assistant Attorney General for Massachusetts and also served as an Economic Development Specialist in my Massachusetts offices.

On January 23, 2002, Steve delivered his first speech as a State Senator. It was an eloquent and moving address. Without objection, I submit the text of his remarks:

Thank You.

Your Excellency, thank you very much. I look forward to working with you throughout the years to come.

Mr. President, thank you as well. On behalf of the people of the Third Essex District, I want to thank you for your commitment to democracy and representation. The fact that you scheduled this election, so soon after the resignation of the now Secretary of Public Safety, is proof that you place public service over politics. Thank you.

Speaking of the Secretary of Public Safety, I want to thank him for his unwavering commitment on behalf of the citizens he represented with such distinction and honor. It is truly an honor for me to succeed by friend and mentor, the Secretary of Public Safety. Please join me in thanking him for all that he has done for the citizens he has so ably represented.

Attorney General Tom Reilly—thank you so much for being here and for all that you have done for me. As the leader of the best professional public law office—you have said repeatedly—you expect nothing but the best of your employees—and as the newspapers are reporting day after day—it shows. You

are a mentor and a good friend and I am so proud to have worked for you. You gave me a chance and hired me, and more importantly, you gave me an opportunity to represent the entire Commonwealth and fight for working families—a valuable experience that will benefit me and the district that I now represent. To all of the Assistant Attorney General's who are here, thank you for friendship and your commitment to public service. You are the unsung heroes of state government.

To the local officials who are here today and to those who could not make it, I pledge to you my cooperation and vow to work with you to make our government better for the people we collectively represent.

I would not be here today if it were not for the support of so many people, actually just about everyone in this room. To those of you whom are here in this historic chamber today for the first time—come back. The energy and enthusiasm you displayed during this campaign is needed in government. Get involved and stay involved. This is your government and your input, now more than ever, is greatly needed.

I especially want to thank someone whom I love very much and if not for her support I would not be here. I always knew during the campaign and even before that if I had a bad day, I could just go home and get all the support I needed. My wife Ann may be quiet but she is strong and I couldn't ask for a better friend, wife and mother to my child. Ann, thank you.

My life changed forever in December. And no not because of the election. But because of the birth of my first daughter Isabella. I now know what the term "daddy's little girl" means. The first time she looked at me and smiled it was all over. I hope that someday, she smiles at me and says that she is proud of the work I did as a member of the Massachusetts State Senate.

I also want to thank the members of my family. I learned at a very early age the importance of community. My parents Shae and Phyllis were great role models and I want to thank them for their love and support over the years. They deserve a round of applause because if it were not for their nurturing and encouragement, I would not be here today. My step-mother Marie is also here and I want to thank her for the countless hours she spent on the telephone and for all that she has done for me over the years.

My brother Shae is also here today with his wife Michelle and their three children, Matthew, Nicole and Shaena. I want to thank them, especially my brother, for always being there when I needed him. He is a great brother, but more importantly a great husband and a super dad.

To my new colleagues, I look forward to working with each of you. I look forward to building a friendship. Over the next few days, I will be calling each of you to set a meeting where we can sit down and begin to build a friendship as well as a partnership. I look forward to working with you as a productive member of this great body.

To my supporters I pledge to work every day fighting for the issues that I campaigned on. Opening the political process, a commitment to education, especially Adult learning, and the list goes on. I am a true believer in the phrase coined by Tip O'Neil that all politics is local and I truly look forward to representing and working for the people of Methuen, North Andover, Haverhill, Salisbury, Merrimac, Amesbury and Newburyport.

As anyone can tell—the geography of this district is as diverse as its people. And the challenges that lay in the month's ahead could easily make one turn his or her head the other way from public service. But having already worked for the district, having