

New Mexico Archbishop Michael Sheehan and I wrote to New York Mayor Bloomberg in January about the community's hopes to use steel from the World Trade Center to rebuild a bell tower for the Church. The Barelaz Community Development Center spearheaded this effort to revitalize the neighborhood with this landmark as the center of the community.

New York City has agreed to donate two 20-foot steel beams from the World Trade Center for a Bell Tower at the Sacred Heart Church. The beams will be incorporated into the design of the tower and memorialize victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Many people deserve a lot of credit for making this a reality. John Garcia and Sosimo Padilla thought they could make this happen, and they sought assistance from me and others. And they did it.

We saw the face of evil on September 11th. And in the aftermath, we saw the depth of America's goodness and a return to simple faith. New Mexico will rebuild this bell tower and remember. We are a strong, loving people and a faithful people. This bell tower will remind us and call us to worship for many years to come.

After the attacks on September 11, President Bush said that terrorism cannot dent the steel of American resolve. I agree. These beams, this parish, this community, represent the strength of our American character and all the best our Nation has to offer. I'm honored to be a part of this.

Today, a delegation of New Mexicans are in New York to accept the beams in a ceremony. Traveling to New York are John Garcia; the Rev. James Moore of the Sacred Heart Church; Sosimo Padilla, head of the church's bell committee; Sam Tinker, a local business owner who volunteered to transport the steel, and a representative from my staff, Dawn Petchell, who assisted in this request.

I also want to thank Southwest Airlines who donated airfare for the New Mexico delegation to go to New York, and to Bob Turner's Ford Country who donated a large flag to drape over the steel beams as they travel to the State. The Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce is planning a celebration to welcome the steel beams to New Mexico.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is shameful that our seniors are still without a workable prescription drug benefit program. Because of the rapid increase in the price of prescription drugs, and the costs related to medical care, the price of medicine is now out of reach of millions of seniors. Tragically, many of our seniors are now faced with a choice between food and prescription drugs.

I go home, and every weekend people continue to reach out and tell me they have a problem with buying their prescriptions. I had a lady come to me and say I have to buy the prescription for my husband, and I choose not to buy for myself. We continue to hear that day in and day out. It is shameful that we have not taken a position on this.

As Democrats, we support a prescription drug benefit plan that covers all seniors that is voluntary and universal. No senior would be faced with a prospect of not being able to afford medicine regardless of income. We understand back in the 1960s when we established Medicare that if Lyndon B. Johnson had known that prescriptions were needed at that time, and now we know that they are needed for care, they would have been included in the Medicare process.

We also know that the insurance companies, even back then, the reason why we have Medicare is because the insurance companies, as soon as the elderly were getting sick, they were being dumped. As soon as they were not making a profit on the senior citizens, they were being let go. We know now that the proposal that the Republicans have, and that is to try to provide an additional insurance to our seniors who have a fixed income who cannot afford additional insurance, who the insurance companies do not want because if they get sick, they are going to be dumped again, very similar to what the HMOs are doing now in those situations where they are not making a profit.

We looked at Medicare, and we know that we tried to bring down the cost and we established HMOs so that we would bring down the cost, but we know now that the HMO has actually cost us more than Medicare services. We need to stop playing around and respond to this serious issue before us, and that is meeting the needs of our seniors and the prescription drugs that they need.

We also recognize that those same prescriptions, and this is a crime, those same prescriptions are sold outside this country for cheaper prices, and our seniors who can least pay for them are the ones that are having to carry the burden. This is where the profits are being made from the pharmaceutical companies. It should be a crime for this to be occurring.

Mr. Speaker, we need to pass a meaningful prescription drug plan that uses Medicare to make drugs affordable and provide universal voluntary benefits for all seniors. Congress can vote to bail out Enron, and they can also vote to help the most wealthy of this country by providing them tax cuts, but we do not take care of our elderly, and that is shameful. While the Republican proposals claim to help seniors, it does not cover all seniors, and it provides no real guarantees for coverage.

The much more narrowly constructed House Republican plan would not reach many middle class Americans. Less than 6 percent would be covered. The reality is when you get sick and are in need, those private companies are not going to be there for us. They are not going to be there for our seniors. We need to make sure that Medicare provides this service. We need to make sure that we treat our seniors in an appropriate manner when they reach their twilight years.

Also, the Republican plan forces seniors to shop and buy a private insurance plan, making it a hassle for older Americans who will have to contend with insurance plans which come and go. As I have indicated, even the insurance companies are going to be trying to get those more healthy seniors out there so they can make a profit. We know most of our seniors, when they get ill, are going to need not 1, not 2, but some cases up to 8 to 10 prescriptions. Insurance companies are not going to want to cover those. The administration knows that, and we need to recognize that and be able to do the right thing when it comes to our seniors and treat them in a manner of dignity as we should.

In addition, the Republican plan does not address the rising cost of prescription drugs. We have talked about those costs. The pharmaceutical companies, it angers me because we know they are selling that same prescription in Canada and Europe for much less than what it is sold for to our seniors here. We ask and plead that we pass a prescription drug plan that benefits all.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 20 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

Pastor Ken Wilde, Capital Christian Center, Meridian, Idaho, offered the following prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father:

Today we rise with humility and thankfulness before our Creator and ask for divine assistance from Heaven. We are of all people grateful for the bountiful blessings that You have bestowed upon our great land. As this body of legislators now begins its day of deliberations, we ask that You send to them a supernatural ability to discern heaven-sent solutions; that there would come such divine breakthroughs in areas of legislative logjams that we all would say with one voice, the Lord God Almighty, He has helped us.

We pray that You would extend Your hand of health, strength, endurance, and grace to each Representative and their family members. As these men and women help steward our Nation we ask, as Jesus Christ asked, Your kingdom come, Your will be done in their earthly endeavors today. Give us all now a vision and a hope and a faith to lead this Nation into the divine destiny that You have ordained that America

achieve. May we be pleasing in Your sight and may there come a voice of unity that erupts from this corporate body saying as Nehemiah of the Bible said: The God of Heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore, we His servants will arise and build. Thank You for Your continued favor, aid and grace in this challenging hour. In Jesus' name, Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McNULTY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOME TO PASTOR KENNETH WILDE

(Mr. SIMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to introduce to the House of Representatives the Pastor Kenneth Wilde. Pastor Wilde is the founder and executive director of the National Prayer Center headquartered in Washington, D.C. This important facility's primary function is to be a place of prayer for our Nation and its leaders. The center is open to Members of Congress and their staffs for times of prayer, devotion and spiritual encouragement.

Pastor Wilde is also the senior pastor at Capital Christian Center in Meridian, Idaho, where he and his wife Connie have served for over 18 years. The Capital Christian Center is one of the largest churches in the State of Idaho. In addition, he has served as the Chaplain of the Idaho State Senate.

Pastor Wilde is a graduate of Idaho's Northwest Nazarene College where he received a bachelor's degree in political science and history. He has a passion to see churches and believers of all denominations rally together in unified prayer for a revival in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Pastor Wilde for his thoughtful words this morning and let him know that I am honored to have a fellow Idahoan share his faith and wisdom with the House of Representatives during these trying times in our Nation's storied history.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). This is Private Calendar day.

The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

NANCY B. WILSON

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 392) for the relief of Nancy B. Wilson.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

SARABETH M. DAVIS, ROBERT S. BORDERS, VICTOR MARON, IRVING BERKE, AND ADELE E. CONRAD

The Clerk called the resolution (H. Res. 103) referring the bill (H.R. 1258) entitled "A bill for the relief of Sarabeth M. Davis, Robert S. Borders, Victor Maron, Irving Berke, and Adele E. Conrad," to the chief judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a report thereon.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. RES. 103

Resolved,

SECTION 1. REFERRAL.

Pursuant to section 1492 of title 28, United States Code, the bill (H.R. 1258), entitled "A bill for the relief of Sarabeth M. Davis, Robert S. Borders, Victor Maron, Irving Berke, and Adele E. Conrad", now pending in the House of Representatives, is referred to the chief judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

SEC. 2. PROCEEDINGS AND REPORT.

Upon receipt of the bill, the chief judge shall—

(1) proceed under section 2509 of title 28, United States Code; and

(2) report back to the House of Representatives, at the earliest practicable date, providing—

(A) findings of fact and conclusions of law that are sufficient to inform the Congress of the nature, extent, and character of the claim for the compensation referred to in the bill as a legal or equitable claim against the United States; and

(B) the amount, if any, legally or equitably due from the United States to the claimants.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BARBARA MAKUCH

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 486) for the relief of Barbara Makuch.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 486

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PAYMENT.

In consideration of the fact that Barbara Makuch—

(1) served 22 years as a foreign counterintelligence agent and dedicated her life to assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation in its efforts at the height of the Cold War to combat communism, the Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti (KGB), and the Soviet Union,

(2) was presented the Louis E. Peters Memorial Service Award, the highest civilian award presented by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, for her valorous service, and

(3) has not received employment assistance or health, social security, or pension benefits, despite assurances that she would receive such benefits upon her retirement, the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay, out of funds not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$1,000,000 to Barbara Makuch of East Amherst, New York, in compensation for the lifetime aggregate value of benefits earned but not received by Barbara Makuch.

SEC. 2. SATISFACTION OF CLAIM.

The sum paid under section 1 shall be in full satisfaction of any claims that Barbara Makuch may have against the United States arising out of her service for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON ATTORNEY FEES.

Not more than 10 percent of the sum paid under section 1 shall be paid to or received by any agent or attorney for services rendered in connection with the recovery of such sum. Any person who violates this section shall be fined under title 18, United States Code.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EUGENE MAKUCH

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 487) for the relief of Eugene Makuch.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 487

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PAYMENT.

In consideration of the fact that Eugene Makuch—

(1) served as a foreign counterintelligence agent and dedicated his life to assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation in its efforts at the height of the Cold War to combat communism, the Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti (KGB), and the Soviet Union, and

(2) has not received employment assistance or health, social security, or pension benefits, despite assurances that he would receive such benefits upon his retirement,

the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay, out of funds not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$1,000,000 to Eugene Makuch of East Amherst, New York, in compensation for the lifetime aggregate value of benefits earned but not received by Eugene Makuch.

SEC. 2. SATISFACTION OF CLAIM.

The sum paid under section 1 shall be in full satisfaction of any claims that Eugene Makuch may have against the United States arising out of his service for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON ATTORNEY FEES.

Not more than 10 percent of the sum paid under section 1 shall be paid to or received by any agent or attorney for services rendered in connection with the recovery of such sum. Any person who violates this section shall be fined under title 18, United States Code.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This concludes the call of the Private Calendar.