

commended as a skillful pilot but is known more for his friendliness and strong faith.

Gracia is appropriately named, and I have heard stories from her loved ones over the past few years and found them to be true when I had a chance to meet her on this Monday. I was in complete awe of her boundless spirit and vivaciousness. It was her grace and peace, however, that truly amazed me. I could feel the presence of God within her. It is no wonder that Martin and Gracia have touched so many hearts or that so many people across the world have been involved in efforts to free them.

Martin and Gracia were captured last May while on vacation to celebrate their 18th wedding anniversary. They were taken hostage and held for ransom because they were Americans. But Martin and Gracia's ministry did not end with their capture by terrorists. During the past year, they never lost their faith or joy of life despite their frail condition and the terror they endured.

Fellow captives who were freed earlier spoke of their love and strength. Martin and Gracia comforted their fellow hostages, shared their food and supplies, and helped raise their spirits through singing, telling stories and even reciting recipes.

Gracia became a mother figure to her fellow hostages, and Martin always graciously offered to carry things for both terrorists and other hostages. Martin and Gracia praised God and thanked Him for each day. Martin even reached out to the terrorists and tried to show them the ways of Christ. He constantly prayed for them.

On June 7 before Martin's death, he and Gracia prayed together and thanked God for his faithfulness and lay down for a nap. Martin stated, "We might not leave this jungle alive but at least we can leave this world serving the Lord with gladness." He left the world serving the Lord with gladness and Gracia continues to do so.

I also want to honor Martin's parents, Paul and Oreta Burnham. For the past year they have taken care of Jeff, Mindy, and Zach. They have worked tirelessly to do all they can to bring Martin and Gracia home. I have been impressed with their humbleness, their strength and their faith. The Burnham family has shown us the power of faith and love. As Rhonda Holman, editorial writer for the Wichita Eagle said, "Confronted by humanity at its most evil, they exemplified humanity at its best, responding not with fear and despair, but with unflinching hope. As they adjust to bittersweet events of Friday, may the Burnhams realize how deeply they have touched and inspired us with their strength."

Over the past year, many of us who never met Martin and Gracia came to know and love them. We often felt helpless. Our prayers were heard by the Burnhams as Gracia told us in her first statement to the world following her captivity, she said, "We want to thank

each and every one of you for every time you remembered us in prayer. We needed every single prayer you prayed for us during our ordeal in the jungle."

The outcome was not what I had hoped for or worked for or prayed for but I believe our prayers did make a difference. Please continue to pray for the Burnham family and their family and friends.

In closing let me share a couple of stanzas from a poem written by a friend of the Burnhams, Ted Miller. It is called the "Final Score." The poem goes, "We thought of you both every day, wondered what it was like, guns shooting, grenades going off, an all day jungle hike. It may be over in the jungle, but it will not all be left behind. May God pour out more grace on you and give you peace of mind.

"Martin said if he had to go, a martyr would be the way. Enjoy it Martin, we will join you soon, just one last thing to say. If bin Laden's bunch is keeping score, you may have killed my hero, but let me tell you the final score, Heaven one, terrorists zero."

Mr. Speaker, the poem in its entirety is as follows:

FINAL SCORE

We all know Martin and Gracia, even if we have never met.

They were on our radios, church prayer requests, on our TV sets.

I remember that famous video, in my mind it's still planted,

All Gracia wanted was privacy, things I take for granted.

We all could probably confess, we never seem content,

That little short video changed my life, you can not know what it meant.

All this was no accident, this last year fits Gods plan,

While we were in our comfort zone, The Burnhams hid and ran.

But Gracia let me tell you, through all the hunger and pain,

We have grown closer to the Lord as one, no one died in vain.

Your families have held the ropes for you, they always did their best,

They pleaded for prayers, pleaded for help, never seem to rest.

We always knew how to pray for the kids, constant specific updates,

The things they missed about mom and dad, Gracia your funny cakes.

All these things that seem so small, your kids did not let go,

What a testimony they have been, as time passed so slow.

We thought of you both everyday, wondered what it was like,

Guns shooting, grenades going off, an all day jungle hike.

It may be over in the jungle, but it will not all be left behind,

May God pour out more grace on you and give you peace of mind.

Thanks for the opportunity to pray for you, what a blessing that it was,

God is still on the throne, we are excited to see what he does.

I thought of Gracia and Martin, shot, wounded on the ground,

As Martin slipped off to be with God, I think he heard this sound.

Thousands of angels welcoming him home, then there is the SON,

Welcome home Martin Burnham, well done my child well done!!!

Martin said if he had to go, a martyr would be the way.

Enjoy it Martin, we will join you soon, just one last thing to say.

If Bin Laden's bunch is keeping score, you may have killed my hero,

But let me tell you the final score, Heaven one, Terrorists zero—Ted Miller

NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to this Nation's observance of National Men's Health Week which takes place this year from June 10 to June 16.

In May of 1994 Congress sent to the President a joint resolution establishing the week leading up to Father's Day each year as National Men's Health Week. It was signed by President Clinton on May 31, 1994, and became Public Law 103-264. The resolution requested our chief executive to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate programs and activities.

As our sons and daughters across America scurry about this week to buy that special Father's Day gift and card, and as I wish my 90-year-old father and my 98-year-old uncle and my 88-year-old uncle and my 78-year-old uncle, I wish them all a happy Father's Day. I can think of no better way to honor our present and future generations of fathers than to learn more about the unique challenges men face and how we can help them preserve the precious gift of good health.

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All of our citizens have benefited greatly from the strides made by medical science, but despite these advances, a review of our health statistics show that the health status of American men, and especially many of our ethnic minorities, lags far behind the rest of our citizens. The average life expectancy at birth for all men in the United States is 74.1 years, more than 5 years less than for women. The gap widens to almost 7 years when comparing the life expectancy of black males, which is 68.3 years, to white males which is 74.8 years.

I am especially concerned about the number one illness that contributes to the reduced life expectancy for men, heart disease. Despite the wealth of world class hospitals in Chicago, a study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the year 2000 found that Illinois has the Nation's third highest rate of death from heart disease among African American men. According to the American Heart Association, all men have a greater risk of heart disease and heart attacks much earlier in life than women. Men must take this disease more seriously and understand that this killer can and should be prevented.

In addition to the disproportionately higher rates of heart disease and other

illnesses among African American men, census data has confirmed the tremendous growth of the Latino population in the United States. Hispanic men are also affected more than other groups by illnesses that can often be prevented or treated successfully if detected early. Hispanic Americans are almost twice as likely to have diabetes as non-Hispanic white Americans of similar age.

We can and must do more to educate all men about this disease. People with diabetes are also two to four times more likely to have heart disease and suffer from stroke. Advanced diabetes can cause blindness, kidney disease and severe nerve damage. The risk of getting diabetes, as well as many other illnesses, can be reduced by lifestyle changes such as maintaining a healthy weight, eating a healthy diet and exercising.

Another public health concern that can be reduced with proper health, education and screening is the rate of illness and death from HIV/AIDS. Approximately 35,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS in Illinois. More than three-quarters of those people are estimated to live in the Chicago area. Chicago ranks sixth in its number of living AIDS cases among the 100 largest U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas, and Illinois ranks seventh among all States in the United States. Communities of color are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS in Chicago and throughout Illinois. More than two-thirds of living AIDS cases and more than three-quarters of new cases occur among African Americans.

Directly related to this is data from the 1999 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse showing that Illinois ranks fifth in estimated numbers of people who recently used illicit drugs.

Heightened awareness of what men can do to protect themselves and their loved ones from AIDS, heart disease, preventable accidents, diabetes and other health risks is what National Men's Health Week is all about. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would urge all men throughout America and, quite frankly, throughout the world to pay more attention to our health so that not only can we maintain better health but so that we can continue to observe and have far more happy Father's Days with more fathers who are healthy, alive and well.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KELLER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about an issue that we in Congress and most Americans are becoming painfully aware of, and that is, the differential between what we pay for prescription drugs in the United States and what people around the rest of the world pay for the exact

same drugs made in exactly the same plants, under the same FDA approval.

What I have here tonight is a chart which shows what I think are 15 of the most commonly prescribed drugs in the United States and a comparison which was done. These are not my numbers. These were done by the Life Extension Foundation, and they have been studying this issue for a number of years and probably have done a better job of assembling raw data about the differentials, and I would like to go through some of the numbers on these charts.

Let me talk about, for example, Glucophage. Glucophage is an amazing drug, and let me first of all say, I am not here tonight to beat up on the pharmaceutical industry. They have done some wonderful things. We are all living longer and better quality lives because of the research that they have done, but Glucophage is a very important drug for diabetes.

The average price for a 30-day supply of Glucophage in the United States is \$124.65. That exact same drug in Europe, again made under the same FDA approval, sells for \$22. That is six times as much for the same drug, and that is a very important drug for the millions of Americans who suffer from diabetes.

Let us take another drug that is very common, commonly prescribed particularly for older women, women who are beyond menopause. Let us take Premarin. It is actually a fairly simple drug to make. In the United States, a 30-day supply sells for \$55.42. That same drug in Europe sells for \$8.95, and we do go down the list and we see it repeats itself.

Let us take a very commonly prescribed drug, one that my 85-year-old father takes. It is Coumadin. It is a drug that is used as a blood thinner, and the interesting thing, when most people start on these, particularly seniors, they do not just take them for a week or a month. Most of them will be on those drugs for the rest of their lives. So we are talking about huge expenditures when people start down the path of having to take these drugs.

They are important drugs, but let us take Coumadin. The price in the United States for a 30-day supply, \$64.80 cents. That same drug in Switzerland sells for \$15.80 on average. What a difference.

We are going to have a big debate in the next several weeks about whether or not we should extend Medicare coverage and have a new prescription drug benefit, and I think clearly if we were reinventing Medicare today, as they did in 1965, we would include a Medicare benefit, but this is not so much shame on the pharmaceutical industry because they are doing what any company would do, and that is, they are maximizing profits. It is shame on the FDA for doing this to our seniors, and it is shame on us for letting it happen.

Let me show you another chart. One of the things that disturbs me is how much the price of prescription drugs has gone up. In the last year we have

numbers, the average Social Security recipient received a cost-of-living adjustment of 3½ percent. Prescription drugs went up 19 percent. We hear stories every day about these seniors who have to make difficult, painful choices that no American should have to make, and a big reason is because of the price.

What does this mean ultimately for the budget? I have a plan to make it easier for Americans to import through their pharmacist or by themselves these prescription drugs from other countries. My vision is that people would be able to go to their local pharmacy, and if they wanted the prescription filled today, they could literally pay the American price but the pharmacist would be able to say, listen, I can fill it today and the price for that Coumadin would be \$64.80, or I can have this prescription filled in Geneva, Switzerland, and the price will be \$16.80 and it will take three days and we will ship it FedEx and then the person will have it. I think many Americans would choose that option.

Let me talk about the numbers because this is a very big number. This is \$1,800,000,000,000. That is \$1.8 trillion. Even in Washington that is a huge number. What is \$1.8 trillion? That is what the Congressional Budget Office tells us that senior citizens, people 65 and older, will spend on prescription drugs over the next 10 years. I am convinced that if we open up markets, if we allow people to buy drugs from other countries we can save at least 35 percent. If we multiply that out, it is \$630 billion that we can save seniors. It is time to open up markets. It is time for Americans to pay their fair share of the cost of developing new drugs, but it is time to say that we will stop subsidizing the starving Swiss.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GREEN of Texas, addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ISRAEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) is recognized for 5 minutes.