

I request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 249, "yea" on rollcall No. 250, "yea" on rollcall No. 251, and "yea" on rollcall No. 252.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL URBAN AIR TOXIC RESEARCH CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). Without objection, and pursuant to section 112 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7412) the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following member on the part of the House to the board of directors of the National Urban Air Toxic Research Center to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Dr. Arthur C. Vailas, Houston, Texas. There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 17, I was absent for three rollcall votes. If I had been here, I would have voted yes on rollcall vote 230, yes on rollcall vote 231 and yes on rollcall vote 232.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. HILL 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 Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas 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 Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO 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 Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL 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 gentle-

woman 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.)

TRIBUTE TO JIM TURNER

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to salute one of the most beloved and valuable citizens in central Florida, Mr. Jim Turner, who is marking 30 years on the job this summer.

It is not just any job. Jim Turner is the morning show host on AM 580 WDBO in Orlando, one of central Florida's most important radio stations. When severe weather hits, when natural disasters strike, when terrorism comes home, the people of my district tune into Jim Turner.

Cinderella's castle at Walt Disney World was still considered a new home when Jim moved to Orlando back in 1972. WDBO offered him the big money the work at their radio station, \$200 a week.

One of the funniest stories about Jim's tenure behind the microphone was told to me by his friends on WDBO's morning show, "Officer Jim" Bishop and Kirk Healy.

Years ago, Jim Turner wanted to be the first person to wish former Orlando Mayor Bill Frederick a happy birthday. So at 6:30 in the morning, he dialed the mayor's house and got into an argument with Mayor Frederick's wife, who refused to wake up the mayor. As rumor has it, City Hall received numerous calls that morning wondering why the mayor's wife was so obstinate with Jim. Well, the joke was on the mayor. Jim had actually called his own home and had set up the whole bit with his wife, who impersonated Orlando's first lady.

Nearly 30 years and 8,000 radio shows later, Jim is still doing what he does best, giving Orlando area listeners breaking news in a humorous and objective manner. His alarm clock still goes off at 2:30 in the morning. He still rolls into work by 4 a.m. Mr. Speaker, I would like to see how efficient Congress would work if we were required to start our business every day at 4 a.m., but I digress.

Having been a guest of his on his program so many times, the greatest thing about Jim is the fact that his on-air personality is identical to the guy he is off the air. There is not an ounce of pretentiousness, only professionalism.

When asked to reflect on his 30 years in the business, Jim recently said, "You meet people and you realize they depend on you to find out what's going on. There's an obligation to make sure the facts are right, to present often-complicated things in an understandable fashion."

All of my colleagues should be so fortunate to have a man of Jim Turner's skill and character waking up the people of their districts with such a blend of information and humor.

I wish Jim Turner a happy 30th anniversary at WDBO. I know I speak for all of central Florida when I say how much we look forward to the next 30 years.

TRIBUTE TO VOLUNTEER CRIME FIGHTERS WITH CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mrs. THURMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, tonight I would like to do a tribute to our volunteer crime fighters within the Citrus County Sheriff's Office under the leadership of Sheriff Jeffrey Dawsy.

The Citrus County Sheriff's Office has one of the largest and most successful volunteer programs in the Nation. There are over 1,100 volunteers working in just about every area of the Sheriff's Office. The county has volunteers driving in mobile crime watch units helping to keep the streets safe. The program includes volunteer bailiffs working the courts, volunteer dispatchers in the communications center, volunteer receptionists at community offices, as well as volunteers who fingerprint, assist in clerical duties and review pawnshop information.

Stanley Wishin of Inverness has been working at the Floral City Elementary School through the GRAMPA program for the past five years. GRAMPA stands for Getting Retirees Actively Motivated to Policing Again. Prior to his volunteer work, Mr. Wishin served for 21 years as a police officer in New York City. He retired from duty and moved down to Florida with intentions of settling down, but he just could not stay away from community service. He quickly signed on at the Broward County Sheriff's Office for another 16 years of law enforcement service. Since his retirement, he has been actively involved with the Citrus County volunteer program, and he says he loves every minute of it.

The GRAMPA program is a chance to put older and more experienced people directly in touch with the youth. Some of our most effective police officers are being lost in their prime to retirement. Mr. Wishin probably said it best when he said, "You train them, you have them for 25 years, and all of the sudden, you lose them. In my eyes that's wrong because you never let a good man go." The GRAMPA program is an excellent way to get our most experienced officers back into public service.

Citizen volunteers work in every aspect of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office. James Karibo, for example, has been volunteering with the Sheriff's Office for the past 4 years, working in various aspects of policing. Mr. Karibo drives for the citizens patrol and volunteers as a public service aid. He, and

many others like him, take over some of the more mundane duties to free up deputies for other work. Mr. Karibo visits the elderly, works on crime investigations, helps with traffic patrols and minor accidents as well as other activities.

The Citrus County Sheriff's Office has a very active Citizens' Academy program which allows ordinary citizens to learn more about the inner workings of the sheriff's department and feeds into their volunteer program. According to Sheriff Dawsy, "The concept of the Citizens' Academy involves opening up the Sheriff's Office to the public and showing citizens exactly what we do and how we do it." As a result, graduates of the 10-week course are better equipped to assess safety issues and share with others their knowledge of law enforcement practices and policies.

Given Sheriff Dawsy's commitment to the philosophy of community-oriented policing and proactive problem solving, he says he sees the Citizens' Academy as an effective way of bringing law enforcement and the public together in an informal, educational forum.

The benefits of such a partnership can only strengthen the entire community in terms of public safety and quality of life. Last year alone, volunteers clocked in over 90,000 hours working for the betterment of the community. Volunteers drove 561,000 miles, made more than 44,000 house checks and assisted more than 3,400 citizens at community offices.

Sheriff Dawsy and the Citrus County Sheriff's Office volunteers program have been an outstanding service to our community, and I would like to thank them all for their efforts. Their program is a model for others to follow, and I am honored to stand here and recognize them today. Congratulations to all of them on a job well done.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, early Friday morning, under cover of night, the Republican plan to create a Medicare prescription drug benefit was forced through the Committee on Energy and Commerce on strict party lines.

The prescription drug proposal made by the Republican leadership in Congress is so farfetched and so inadequate that it is an insult to the seniors it alleges to help. This legislation calls for private insurance companies to deliver drug coverage, and the coverage is minimal.

We sought to improve the bill, but our efforts were stymied by a coalition of the Republican leadership and their corporate sponsors, the brand name drug industry.

Democrats insist that any prescription drug plan for seniors should be ad-

ministered through Medicare, the program seniors know and trust. We have insisted the benefits be at least as generous as the coverage enjoyed by Members of Congress, and we sought to lower drug prices, ending drug industry patent abuses and enhancing competition in the prescription drug marketplace.

The need for a prescription drug benefit under Medicare is undisputed. Twelve million American seniors lack any form of drug coverage. This situation is made worse by the fact that American seniors and others without drug coverage pay the highest prices in the world for their prescriptions.

This is not the first time Republicans have attempted to capitalize on the need of America's seniors for a drug benefit but is the most blatant. Republican after Republican will come to the House floor in the next 3 days, saying seniors deserve a drug benefit as good as Members of Congress have. Unfortunately, though, according to the non-partisan Congressional Research Service, the Republican plan is 40 percent less than the coverage offered to Members of Congress.

During last week's markup, I offered an amendment that would replace the standard coverage in the Republican bill with the same coverage offered to Members of Congress.

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But the night before the amendment was offered, Republicans adjourned the committee markup early so that they could attend a \$30 million fundraising dinner underwritten by Glaxo-Wellcome, a British pharmaceutical company which gave \$250,000 that night to the Republican Party. When Republicans returned from that fundraiser in which the drug companies gave well over a million dollars in total, when they returned from that fundraiser the next day, it came as no surprise that Republican colleagues voted my amendment down, meaning that the House will be forced to vote this week on legislation that would provide seniors with a significantly less drug benefit than Members of the Congress. In other words, Republicans are going to give Members of Congress a much better drug benefit than seniors will enjoy.

The Republican bill is not designed to ensure that seniors and disabled Americans gain access to drug coverage. It is designed to ensure that seniors and disabled Americans lose access to what they want to do, which is privatize Medicare. Unless the goal is to phase out Medicare and phase in an insurance voucher system, it makes no sense to maintain a public program for medical and surgical benefits but for seniors to purchase private coverage for prescription drug benefits. If this bill is not about privatizing Medicare, if it is actually meant to provide seniors real drug coverage, why is there a hole in the plan's coverage? Why do the benefits decline as an enrollee's drug

costs go up? Insurance is supposed to protect individuals with high health care costs, not to desert them. So why this kind of Republican plan that serves the insurance interests and drug company interests but not seniors?

On May 8 the United Seniors Association, a group funded by the prescription drug industry, announced it would begin a \$3 million television ad campaign touting the GOP drug prescription drug plan. Guess who is paying for the media blitz? The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America are paying for the media blitz, a trade group representing major drug companies. In other words, the drug industry is using dollars they gouge from American consumers to advertise the Republican drug bill.

What should that say? Would they advertise a bill they thought would be hard on the drug companies and drive a hard bargain with America's drug companies? Drug companies do not like the Democrats' bill because we harness the collective purchasing power of 40 million Medicare beneficiaries to demand discounts, volume discounts, to demand fair prices. Our bill gives seniors good coverage, real coverage, reliable coverage just like Medicare, plus we are tough on the drug companies. Glaxo-Wellcome, the company that sponsored the major Republican fundraiser last week, charges Americans the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs. Listen to that again. Glaxo-Wellcome, British-owned prescription drug company, charges seniors the highest prices of any country in the world. The Republican plan is written by and for the drug companies. The Democrats' plan supports seniors.

INTRODUCTION OF CAPITOL POLICE RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT LEGISLATION

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, since last year's terrorist and anthrax attacks, Capitol Police officers have faced extraordinary challenges. For months after the attacks, most worked twelve-hour shifts, six days a week, to assure that Congress could continue its work. Such grueling shifts were required even with help from the District of Columbia National Guard, whose members stood watch with our Police for five months. The Guard has resumed its normal duties, and the twelve-hour shifts have eased, but Capitol Police still confront extraordinary challenges.

Unfortunately for Congress, its staff and visitors, Capitol Police also confront extraordinary opportunities—to seek employment elsewhere. As trained law-enforcement professionals, Capitol Police officers are always in demand by other law-enforcement agencies. However, in these times of heightened security, overall demand for trained personnel has never been higher. As a result, the Capitol Police are losing officers at an alarming rate. As of June 1, the Capitol Police had already lost 78 officers