

INTRODUCTION OF JOHN SULLIVAN, NEW MEMBER FROM OKLAHOMA

(Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, this may sound very unusual, but as a dean of the Oklahoma delegation but the newest member of the Republican Party, it gives me great privilege on behalf of our entire Oklahoma delegation, including our two Senators who have come over and joined us, and other members of our delegation to present to you the newest Member, of not only the Oklahoma delegation, but of the 107th Congress, an outstanding young man who, when he announced that he was going to run, the political pundits gave him very little chance because he was outfunded and more popular names were in the race.

JOHN SULLIVAN is a fourth-generation Oklahoman, and he is also the oldest of four children; and speaking of family, I would like to introduce you to his wife, Judy, a tremendous asset. Also, I think he has his three children here, Meredith and Sydney up there and Tommy right here to my left. Let us give him a big hand.

JOHN has had a successful career in two industries, transportation and also energy. So I imagine he will be asking for some very apropos type committee assignments. He was inspired to run for Representative to try to do something more to build a future, yes, for Oklahomans, yes, for the future of our children and grandchildren.

Some of the proudest moments of his accomplishments in the State House where he served and was Republican whip was the creation of Oklahoma State University at Tulsa and the largest income tax cut in the history of Oklahoma, parent notification law. Those are just a few of the accomplishments he did in his short tenure there.

So I ask my colleagues to join me today in welcoming the newest Member and I think one of the hardest-working young men I have met and one I think you will all be very proud of, JOHN SULLIVAN, first district of Oklahoma.

EXPRESSING THANKS

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

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I am so honored to be here today. I would like to thank the Members for their warm welcome they have extended to me.

I wish to take a moment to acknowledge my family, my wife, Judy; my son, Tommy; and daughters, Meredith and Sydney; my mother, Mag Sullivan; and mother- and father-in-law, Mary Ann and Tom Beck; also, my mentor, Mayor of Tulsa, Bob LaFortune, who is here, former Mayor of Tulsa; and Art Rubin, who is up there as well; and all of the wonderful friends and family

who have accompanied me from Oklahoma to show their support today.

I have a great neighborhood, too, one of the old-fashioned neighborhoods. I have got a lot of my neighbors that have come, and it is great. Our kids run and play together and go in each other's houses, and they came as well.

I am also pleased to be joined by Oklahoma's two extraordinary Senators, JIM INHOFE, who as a Member of this body ably represented the first district of Oklahoma; and DON NICKLES, the assistant Republican leader of the Senate.

I would also like to take a moment to thank former Congressman Steve Largent, who recently departed Congress to run for Governor of Oklahoma. I wish him the best in his new endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly humbled to become a Member of this honorable body. This day has been a lifelong dream of mine, and I pledge today to continue to fight for the constituents of the first district of Oklahoma, for Oklahoma values. I look forward to the great friendships that will be formed in these hallowed halls and to working together in advancing the prosperity and promise of this great Nation.

I would like to say a special thanks to my father who got me started in politics, and I know he is looking down on me and he is happy that his son got elected to the Congress.

CELEBRATING HADASSAH'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, in 1912 Henrietta Szold founded what is now the largest women's and the largest Jewish membership organization in the United States, Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America.

This year marks its 90th anniversary, celebrating continuous efforts of more than 400,000 Hadassah members in Florida alone.

Some of the outstanding women of Hadassah in my own south Florida congressional district are Alecia Sachs, the regional president; Mildred Riesenbergs, the 90th anniversary Chair; Phyllis Goldman, the major gifts fundraising coordinator; Mindy Tucker Olofson, membership coordinator; and Pam Brown, Woman of the Year Chair.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the spirit of volunteerism and community service that thousands of Hadassah members perform each and every day. Congratulations to each Hadassah member in the Nation.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK AMERICANS

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the accomplishments and contributions of black Americans to this Nation.

February is Black History Month. Established in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, Black History Month raises awareness of the history of black Americans in our schools and across our Nation.

As a child, Mr. Woodson had to earn money for his family, and so he was not able to start school until very late in life. His motto of "it is never too late to learn" is something that all of us can use every day in our learning and growing, especially when it comes to the history of this Nation.

February is also a significant month for the birthdays of great African Americans, pioneers in many ways to our Nation. These include the birthdays of Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Langston Hughes, Eubie Blake, the NAACP, and the first Pan African Congress.

During Black History Month, we should take the time to continue learning about the contributions, the struggles and the perseverance of African Americans here in our Nation. Our country would not be as culturally diverse without their contributions.

HONORING LUKE ROTH

(Mr. GANSKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, Luke Roth, born December 9, 1953, died of cancer yesterday. A proud graduate of Princeton, a devoted husband to Katie, a loving father to Luke, Anne, and Clare.

Luke was my district director for 6 years and then was President Bush's State campaign director. Luke loved politics. He even met Katie on the campaign trail.

He was a big man, he wore a size 13 EEE shoe, and I never met a man with a bigger heart. Luke believed passionately in American democracy. He was a student of history. He would think there is no higher tribute than if I simply said Luke Roth, servus publicus, civis: public servant, citizen.

All who knew this loving bear of a man are mourning his passing. Our grief is tempered only by our belief that if there was ever anyone who merited heaven, it is Luke.

Luke has left big shoes for us to fill. May he rest in peace.

GERMAN EMBASSY LETTER REGARDING ABDUCTED CHILDREN

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I will stray from the story of Ludwig Koons to respond to a letter from the German embassy that was published in the Washington Post.

I am delighted to hear the German government agrees that abducted children deserve swift and fair decisions

and it is committed to ensure that this happens. For most parents who have been separated from their children for years, this will certainly be an enormous relief.

I completely agree that abducted children deserve more than rhetoric, which is what most left-behind parents have had to contend with. Hopefully, the German authorities will keep their word and take some positive action to ensure that left-behind parents gain access to their children.

Nobody implies that courts in the United States are perfect, but this does not absolve the German authorities of their responsibilities to allow non-German parents to see their children. As the German embassy rightly pointed out, Germany is not the only country that has a poor record in returning abducted or illegally retained children to their country of origin.

Most left-behind parents are left without any enforceable access rights. This cannot be allowed to continue. We must bring Ludwig Koons and all of our children home.

WELFARE REFORM PRINCIPLES

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President of the United States outlined the principles for the reauthorization of welfare in America.

Many years ago, Ronald Reagan spoke of the purpose of welfare, saying, it is not simply to provide for the needy but more than that, to salvage these, our fellow citizens, to make them self-sustaining and as quickly as possible independent of welfare.

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I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to extol my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and the previous administration for enacting the welfare reform laws of 1996. They have been an unqualified success. Half of all welfare recipients got real jobs since that day and age.

Welfare reform has lifted 2.3 million children out of poverty; and, since 1996, we have actually reversed a decades-old explosion of out-of-wedlock births, recognizing that a marriage is the best environment for escaping poverty and building strong and healthy and well-balanced children.

Let us stay the course. Let us keep the purpose of welfare, so adequately described by President Reagan, and measure welfare success not by how many people arrive on welfare but by how many people leave it.

VETERANS COPAY FOR PRESCRIPTIONS

(Mr. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, we oftentimes speak glowingly in here of

our respect for our military personnel and of our appreciation for what our veterans have done for us, but oftentimes our words are inconsistent with our behavior.

Many in this Chamber do not realize that just a few weeks ago we increased the copayment for prescription drugs that veterans must pay for these needed medications from \$2 to \$7 a prescription. Many veterans receive over 10 prescriptions a month. Ten times \$7 is \$70 a month. Many get a 3-month supply at one time. That is a cost of \$210.

I have introduced H.R. 2820, which will return the copay from \$7 back to \$2 and will freeze it at that level for 5 years. This is the least we can do for those who have served our country so nobly.

MARRIAGE: A WOMAN'S SAFETY ISSUE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, preserving and strengthening marriage in America is not just a values issue, it is a safety issue, especially for women. According to Federal statistics, women are much more likely to be victims of domestic abuse if they are not married.

In fact, domestic partner or spouse abuse against women is almost three times as high among cohabiting couples as it is among all married, divorced, and separated couples combined. If we simply compare married couples to couples who just live together, violence against women is five times as high for those who are not married.

Clearly, women are safest when they are living in healthy, committed marriages. To most Americans, this sounds like common sense, but for the most at-risk women in America, I mean poor women, our welfare laws create a strong disincentive against marriage. Mr. Speaker, that needs to change.

I hope that when we reauthorize our welfare laws later this year that we will address this. America's families and America's women deserve no less.

CONGRESS SHOULD NOT ENDORSE DECEPTIVE SENIOR GROUPS

(Mr. KLECZKA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill in response to the deceptive tactics of a group that preys on our senior citizens. The Retired Enlisted Association's Senior Citizen League, or TREA, as it is called, has repeatedly targeted seniors with deceptive "Notch" mailings in an attempt to extort millions of dollars from these seniors.

This is a scam. TREA is telling seniors that they are working to correct a problem that does not exist in an at-

tempt to bilk the elderly out of their hard-earned money. From 1997 to 2000, this group raked in over \$46 million.

Because of these tactics, today I am introducing the Senior Protection Act, which would revoke TREA's Federal charter, a distinction given to groups with a patriotic, charitable, or educational mandate. Their deceptive tactics reflect none of these characteristics.

Congress can no longer turn a blind eye to TREA's fund-raising schemes which exploit our seniors. Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to join me and cosponsor this necessary legislation.

IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to affirm the importance of strong marriages in America. A strong marriage is the foundation for a strong family. Strong families, in turn, are fundamental to the pursuit of stronger communities and a stronger Nation.

There are numerous studies and statistics that document how critical it is for children to have a mother and a father dedicated to each other. If we genuinely desire to do what is right for our children, we must work to ensure that every child has the guidance that a strong marriage provides.

As convincing as the statistics are, I know these principles to be true based upon my own experience. My wife Anne and I have been married for 33 wonderful years. Our four children are living examples of what a strong marriage can provide. While we are far from perfect, I have seen firsthand the incredible results of a strong marriage.

We must continue to support measures that encourage and strengthen this sacred institution.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN STEINBECK

(Mr. FARR of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address the House regarding the centennial of the birth of one of our greatest American writers, John Steinbeck.

John Steinbeck brought honor to the United States as a distinguished writer and endured criticism and suspicion for his progressive ideas and the themes of his novels, short stories, and essays. His work reflects deeply the compassionate view of America and Americans.

John Steinbeck promoted a greater understanding of the lives of people who experienced difficult economic times, war, the fulfillment of scientific study, the value of hard labor, the difficulties and joys of the bonds within families and between friends.