

advantage of initiatives, like Together Rx, that are safe, effective, and proven to provide Medicare patients with medicines at lower cost.

But Mr. Speaker, if the House really wants to address the issue of high drug costs, it would pass a real prescription medicine benefit for our seniors. The Congress needs to enact a prescription medicine plan that is simple, comprehensive, and a part of Medicare. I am hopeful that in conference we are able to come together in a bipartisan manner and pass a real prescription medicine benefit. That is part of the solution to this problem.

The bill before us is a threat to the safety of America's drug supply and its consumers. I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 2427 and the motion to recommit.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER ARNOLD STRICKLAND, CORPORAL JAMES CRUMP AND DISPATCHER LESLIE MEALER

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2003*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 7, 2003 the City of Fayette, the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Alabama lost three public servants in a senseless act of violence. Officer Arnold Strickland, Corporal James Crump and Dispatcher Leslie Mealer. These men were performing their duties inside the Fayette Police Department when they were tragically struck down.

Arnold Gunther Strickland was a veteran law enforcement officer with twenty-three years of experience with other departments in West Alabama and nearly three years with the Fayette Police Department.

James Eddie Crump was a 1994 graduate of the Tuscaloosa Law Enforcement Academy and had served in law enforcement for nine years, including over six years with the police department in his hometown of Hamilton and nearly three years in Fayette.

Leslie Franklin Mealer, better known as "Ace," had a fifteen year association with law enforcement in Fayette County. He served as a Reserve Deputy for the Fayette County Sheriff's Department, Reserve Officer with the Town of Berry Police Department, Dispatcher for the Fayette County Sheriff's Department and Dispatcher for Fayette County E-911.

We live in a world today that puts our police officers in harms way each and every day. More and more, these brave men and women find their lives at risk. The uneasy feeling that washes over their families as they do their jobs is heightened when such a tragedy occurs.

I wish I could offer some words that would comfort the loved ones left behind. Three families have had their hearts broken. Officer Arnold Strickland, Corporal James Crump and Dispatcher Ace Mealer were assets to their community. They were sons, husbands, fathers and friends. They were citizens and Americans who gave back to their community and had so much more to offer, so much more to give to make the world a better place. They made the ultimate sacrifice and we honor them today.

I am grateful to Officer Strickland, Corporal Crump and Dispatcher Mealer for their cour-

age, dedication to duty and the protection they provided to the citizens of Fayette. As Fayette Mayor Ray Nelson has said, "These three men gave their ultimate sacrifice, but not in vain. They died doing what they loved best, and they gave their best." They will always be heroes.

PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET  
ACCESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. NICK SMITH**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 24, 2003*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is designed to lower the high prices for prescription drugs in this country by allowing Americans to import from twenty-five developed countries including Canada and most of Western Europe. Prescription drug costs are significantly lower in these countries than they are in the United States. Drug companies have been charging more to Americans, I think, because we have been willing to pay.

But it is not right to expect American consumers to subsidize prescription drug prices for other industrial countries. By holding American consumers in a captive market, prices for drugs here have been able to climb an average of 77 percent above prices found in other countries.

Because of the huge difference between what Americans pay for prescription drugs here and what they can pay just across the border, these drugs are already making their way to Michigan by the busload. This bill will simply expand access to increased savings for all Americans and require FDA to ensure the authenticity and safety of these products.

The Medicare Prescription Drug bill we passed last month did nothing to address the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs, and simply committed the government to picking up part of the tab. Unfortunately, this means that Americans can now get fleeced by these costs as both consumers and taxpayers. Opening up drug prices to an international market while limiting purchases to drugs approved by the FDA and produced in FDA approved facilities will help assure safety and help keep costs down.

MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION  
SECURITY ACT OF 2003

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2003*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, the Multiemployer Pension Security Act of 2003, which will strengthen and protect the defined pension benefits of thousands of workers.

Of the nearly 44 million working men and women who participate in defined benefit pension plans almost ten million people, approximately 25 percent of all those who have defined benefit pensions, participate in multiemployer plans. These plans are managed under a wholly different structure than single-employer plans. Although recent policy debate

has focused primarily on single-employer plans, in introducing this legislation today, I intend to broaden the pension debate to include the very important issues facing multiemployer plans.

Multiemployer pension reform legislation is necessary and overdue. The bold, structural reforms of the Multiemployer Pension Security Act will provide the millions of active and retired workers who participate in these plans with the long-term security of knowing their promised benefits will be funded and safeguarded.

People have spoken of the "perfect storm" that has ravaged funding levels in single-employer pension plans. Stock market losses, a sluggish economy and record-low interest rates have combined to create serious underfunding problems. Those events have impacted multiemployer plans also, but the issues for multiemployer plans are much broader than just a dip in the Dow. There are fundamental weaknesses in the system and structure under which these plans operate. For example, one key difference between single-employer plans and multiemployer plans is that there is no minimum funding level required in multi's. While a weakening single-employer plan will trigger remedial action, the same threshold is not present for multiemployer plans. Losses can continue until there is simply no more money and no more time, and benefits cannot be paid. The Multiemployer Pension Security Act of 2003 will correct this deficiency in current law.

The lack of adequate, minimum funding standards is just one of the many weaknesses of the multiemployer pension plan system which this legislation will correct. Not only do multiemployer plans lack the regulatory "stop-loss" measures of single employer plans, participants do not currently have the assurance of insurance. When a multiemployer pension plan fails, or when a company participant in a multiemployer plans goes bankrupt, there is no Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to rely on because multiemployer plans do not fall under the same PBGC structure. This legislation will address that and give men and women of multiemployer plans the same governmental oversight provided to participants of single-employer plans.

I am introducing the Multiemployer Pension Security Act because we, as a nation, must address these issues now to prevent further deterioration of these plans and to assure that promised pensions are available to existing retirees and to current participants when they retire. We cannot focus only on single-employer plans; we are also responsible to the almost ten million men and women in multiemployer pension plans. I urge my colleagues to review this legislation and join with me to urge its passage.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID KELLY

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2003*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a House Resolution extending the condolences of the United States House of Representatives to the family of Dr. David Kelly.

Dr. Kelly died on July 18th in an apparent suicide. The day before, he appeared in front of the House of Commons' Foreign Affairs committee where he was questioned about the role in the controversy between the British Broadcasting Corporation and the government of the United Kingdom over a British intelligence dossier on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Dr. Kelly's professional integrity and dedication to finding the truth earned him great respect both at home in Great Britain as well as among his international colleagues. Between 1991 and 1998, Dr. Kelly played an essential role in the efforts of the United Nations Special Commission to dismantle Iraq's banned chemical, biological, and ballistic programs.

His professional integrity and dedication to finding the truth made the world safer for all of us.

[From *The Guardian*, July 24, 2003]

WHAT DAVID KELLY KNEW: THE KILLING OF SADDAM'S SONS WON'T DIVERT ATTENTION FOR LONG FROM THE SPECIOUS REASONS GIVEN FOR INVADING IRAQ

(By Richard Norton-Taylor)

Uday and Qusay are killed and the delighted British and American governments suggest that Iraq will be a safer place. Yes, Iraqis may well feel safer. And—with the dictator's brutal sons out of the way for ever—more confident about continuing the resistance against the American occupiers.

Shortly before their deaths were announced, Richard Gephardt, Democrat presidential hopeful, delivered a blistering attack on Bush's foreign policy which was driven, he said, by "machismo" and "arrogant unilateralism". Bush, he continued, had treated US allies "like so many flies on America's windshield". He added: "Foreign policy isn't a John Wayne movie."

The attack on the villa where Saddam's sons were hiding might be seen as driving home the point. Instead, the announcement that they had been killed by US troops in a shoot-out is welcomed by Tony Blair as "great news".

Jack Straw was more circumspect. He said the death of what he called "extremely unpleasant psychopaths" would bring relief for the Iraqi people. But he added: "I am not rejoicing. I mourn the death of anybody, but it has to be said that it is a very great relief for all Iraqis."

Both the prime minister and the foreign secretary seized the opportunity to remind us about the brutality of Saddam's regime. This was something many of us pointed out more than 15 years ago. But then, Straw says, there was a Conservative government and, anyway, Iraq was at war with Iran. It was as though they were mightily relieved that attention had been diverted away from the increasingly damaging controversy over what weapons of mass destruction, if any, Iraq possessed when Bush and Blair decided to invade the country, and from the death of David Kelly in particular.

And it was another welcome opportunity to remind us of the nature of the Saddam regime. Uday and Qusay, Blair told journalists yesterday, were responsible for the torture and killing of thousands of Iraqis. That is not, of course, what we were told we were going to war for and is not the legal justification the attorney general gave for it. Never mind; let's milk the deaths of Saddam's sons as much as possible and hope the dictator soon shares their fate.

But Dr Kelly's death will continue to haunt the government. The man described by Blair after his death as a "fine public servant" was dismissed, before it, by those in

Whitehall battling with the BBC as some kind of middle-ranking expert, pretty marginal in the general scheme of things.

In fact, he was a central figure in the government's continuing quest for evidence of banned weapons in Iraq. He had recently been to Iraq to advise the US-led Survey Group of scientists (including former UN inspectors damned so recently by Washington as incompetent), which Bush and Blair so desperately hopes will come up with credible evidence which could give them a post-hoc justification for war. It is a tragic irony that Kelly will not be able to continue the work. A fellow expert on biological and chemical weapons familiar with Iraq described Kelly yesterday as a "real loss—he knew the place so well, the individuals so well, he's not somebody you could easily replace".

Kelly was one of the toughest and most effective Unscop weapons inspectors in Iraq in the 1990s. He was convinced Saddam Hussein had possessed weapons of mass destruction. As a senior adviser to both the Ministry of Defence and Foreign Office on the threat posed by chemical and biological weapons he had to have access to up-to-date intelligence to do his job.

So when he told journalists he had misgivings about the government's now largely discredited September dossier it was extremely significant. If MPs on the Commons foreign affairs committee had bothered to listen to the substance of what he told them instead of scoring points in the battle between the government and the BBC—of which Kelly was a victim—they too would have heard important evidence.

Kelly told the committee there was only a 30 percent chance that Iraq had chemical or biological weapons. That Iraq could deploy them within 45 minutes of an order to do so—"ready" was the word Blair used in the dossier's foreword—was "highly unlikely", Kelly told the MPs. Between issuing orders and firing the weapons was a "long process", he said. He should know.

We are now told that what MI6's agent, an Iraqi brigadier-general, said when he was re-activated—conveniently, shortly before the September dossier was published—was that the Iraqis had a command, control and communications system (presumably bombed out of existence in the first days of the war, if not before) that would have enabled Saddam or his close military associates to contact commanders in the field within 45 minutes authorising the use of WMD. That does not mean deploying them, let alone having them "ready".

Kelly was a serious and senior source highly respected by his peers. These did not include the armed forces minister, Adam Ingram, who—after Kelly took the conscientious decision to admit to a senior MoD official that he had talked to the BBC reporter, Andrew Gilligan—told the world that "action has been taken against him accordingly". Challenging the BBC to rule out the scientist as the source, Ingram said: "Hopefully, that would allow Dr Kelly to carry on with his career in the MoD."

With such threats hanging over him, it is scarcely surprising if he was under stress before he gave evidence to the committee—even more so after he told the MPs he was not Gilligan's main source. That, too, was not what the MoD wanted him to say.

The world, let alone Iraq, would really have been a safer place had David Kelly been allowed to do his job. Some people in Downing Street and the MoD have a lot to answer for.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
MTSU'S HAROLD SMITH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of Harold C. Smith, the director of Student Unions and Programming at Middle Tennessee State University, my alma mater. After 35 years of service to the university and its students, Harold has decided to retire.

Harold first came to the MTSU campus in my hometown of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in 1963 as a student. From that point on, Harold was a fixture on campus and in the community. During his remarkable tenure at MTSU, Harold brought thousands of special events to the campus. Concerts featuring everyone from Elvis Presley to Garth Brooks have provided entertainment for scores of students and Middle Tennessee residents. Countless movies, seminars, festivals and everything else entertaining have also come to the campus as a result of Harold's dedication to his work.

Not only did Harold provide the entire region with entertaining events, but he also taught thousands of MTSU graduates how to succeed as a professional in the entertainment industry. Harold's style and approach to the business were key to his ability to bring top-notch entertainment to Middle Tennessee. And those same attributes endeared Harold to all who worked with and learned from him.

Harold's commitment and dedication to the university are unsurpassed. The MTSU community will sorely miss his influence and enthusiasm. I congratulate Harold for his untiring devotion to MTSU and its students. And I wish him the very best in his well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RICK MERRI

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the upcoming celebration of the 60th birthday of Mr. Rick Merri of Sacramento.

I have known Mr. Merri for many years. I have had the pleasure of being involved with the Merri family since the early 1980s. I have had the honor of conducting the marriage ceremony of his eldest son Rick Jr. I have had the privilege of coaching and playing soccer with each of Mr. Merri's three sons. I say with some measure of pride that I was a contributor in making each of these three young men into contributing members of our American society.

Mr. Merri has been a quiet and effective participant in various youth activities in and around Sacramento for at least two decades. He has consistently lent his insights and initiative to making our community better for those that come behind him.

He has not been alone in this effort. Paulette Merri has stood alongside him at every step of the way and provided valuable course corrections at every step. These two Americans, as a team, without regard to recognition