

RECOGNIZING THE LANDMARK SUPREME COURT DECISION OF ROE V. WADE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 23, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 31st anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade*, a decision that recognized the fundamental right to privacy extends to a woman's decision whether or not to have an abortion with freedom from government intrusion. *Roe* transformed women's experiences in many ways: saved their lives, protected their health, fostered equality and paved the way for greater partnership with men in all aspects of our nation's life.

This anniversary is an occasion for celebration, but also one for grave concern. At a time when the majority of state legislatures, the White House, and both houses of Congress are under anti-choice control, not to mention, the U.S. Supreme Court hanging in the balance, America is at risk of losing *Roe v. Wade* and the core values of privacy and freedom embodied in it.

I believe Congress should continue the historic principles handed down in *Roe* by using our influence to plan for healthy families, prevent unintended pregnancies and protect a woman's right to choose.

Anti-choice politicians, however, are attacking the right to choose from every angle. In the past year alone, they have pushed through a significant increase in state restrictions on the right to choose, as well as the first ever criminalization of safe abortion procedures, better known as the so-called "partial birth" abortion. President Bush went even further by placing extreme anti-choice ideologues on the federal courts, took away access to contraception, stripped foreign family planning clinics of desperately needed U.S. funds, and shifted priorities away from family planning services to unproven abstinence only programs.

If these drastic measures weren't enough, I have only more bad news to share; it's very likely we'll find this year in Congress to be much of the same. Just yesterday, the House Judiciary Committee began markup of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. Proponents of this bill claim this legislation will protect unborn children from assault and murder, a mere smokescreen for the real intent of it's passage, another sneak attack on a woman's right to choose. Instead, Congress could enact serious and meaningful laws that prevent and punish violence and provide services to women and their families—which I would strongly support.

So, on this anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, I ask my colleagues to stand up for the pro-choice majority in this country, especially those in the 13th District of California, and act immediately and powerfully to safeguard our liberty or it will be lost. The time to act is now.

AGREEING WITH THE SENTIMENT OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE PAUL SIMON

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and pay tribute to the legacy of my dear friend and outstanding colleague, Senator Paul Simon. A man of great character, deep integrity, and relentless fortitude, Paul Simon graced the stage of Illinois politics for 43 years leaving an indelible mark on the face of American government and the hearts of the people of Illinois.

Beginning as a small-town newspaper editor in Troy, Illinois, Paul Simon quickly left his mark on the minds of Illinoisans with his corruption-busting headlines and head turning liberalism. In 1954, Paul Simon embarked on his legendary political journey. First as a member of the Illinois State Legislature to lieutenant governor to Member of Congress to eventual Presidential aspirant, Paul Simon became a steadfast figure in the tomes of political history.

Quietly and honestly he garnered the respect and appreciation of millions of voters and his many colleagues across the political spectrum. He efficiently championed literacy, hunger, immigration, budget reforms, missing children's programs, and higher education. Senator Simon embraced change, pioneered for reform, and challenged a system that he sought to make better.

As a Member of the House and Senate, he advocated for a balanced budget, endeavored to overhaul the federal student loan program so all young people could have a chance at college, and was instrumental in leading efforts to curb television violence and protect America's exploited children.

Genuinely concerned for the future of America and our culture, Senator Simon served as a role model for public service and the conscience of the Senate. Paul Simon challenged America to reach out to people within our nation and make sure opportunity existed here for everyone.

With his retirement from the Senate in 1996, Senator Simon founded the Public Policy Institute of Southern Illinois University to impart his knowledge and political wisdom on future generations. He believed honesty and integrity were the cornerstones of character and the makings of a great politician were based on these virtues. It is by these virtues he is remembered and honored as one of America's greatest political icons.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Simon was a man of great dignity, honor, and passion. Respected and loved by all, he is remembered fondly across all parties in all circles of government and in the hearts of millions. Senator Simon will be greatly missed and it is our duty and our honor to remember his 43 years of public service to Illinois and the integrity he brought to this nation. He will never be forgotten.

PRAISING GEORGIA BERNER

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 23, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to praise a leader in the business community in my congressional district. Recently the Pittsburgh Business Times named Berner International Corporation, a leading manufacturer of air curtains and air doors, "Manufacturer of the Year" in the small manufacturing facility division.

Berner has grown from 35 to 52 employees over the past three years and has purchased new equipment which will fuel its success. Its expansion to a new 61,000 square foot facility will assist in increasing capacity.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in praising Berner's president, Georgia Berner, and its employees for taking this Western Pennsylvania manufacturer to new levels of achievement. I am proud to represent an area which has produced business excellence and I look forward to further growth of Berner International in the future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE CHEERLEADERS

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 23, 2004

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add another group of national champions to the Louisiana legacy. The cheerleaders of the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) are champs. They returned last Monday from Orlando, Florida bearing a huge trophy as the Universal Cheerleaders Association's College National Cheerleading champions in the small coed division.

This competition marked the first time ULM cheerleaders had vied for a national title, but they have been working hard since the beginning of the year. Their victory is a testament to the hard work and dedication that all the students and faculty at ULM possess, and President James Cofer should be applauded for his vision of achievement for the university. The squad beat such esteemed universities as Villanova, Pennsylvania State, Hofstra, Northern Arizona and Rider in its division.

The members of the squad came from all over the country and worked this year to come together as a whole. We applaud the coaches, Jennifer Hyde and Trey Griffin, and the members of the squad, Treva Bankston, Carley Carter, Lori Chervenak, Nick Gaspard, Samantha Jones, Alex Kain, Crystal Kelley, Rebecca LeBlanc, Nathan LeCloux, Josh Lee, Hayley Leone, Crystal Lett, Tiffany Luse, R.B. Martin, Kelly Patterson, Billie Sue Roe, Robin Samuels, Ashley Springfield, and Jamie Ventrella on a job well done. The squad will present the trophy at the January 29 basketball game at Fant-Ewing Coliseum.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saying "Go, Tribe, Go," to the ULM cheerleading squad, national champions in the small coed division of the Universal Cheerleaders Association's College National Cheerleading competition.