

Indeed, we honor cherish and learn from those generations before us and we must always live, work, and strive on behalf of those generations yet unborn.

I agree with Senator BYRD. It is the quality of the vote, and I would also add another. With Senator BYRD, it is the quality of the man.

With his steadfast service to the people of West Virginia, and his dogged defense of the U.S. Constitution, Senator BYRD's quality shines through like the brightest of beacons on the darkest of nights.

They say that records are made to be broken, but I believe this record will never be broken, just as nothing will ever break Senator BYRD's spirit and his love for his State.

Senator BYRD continues to be my mentor and most importantly my friend, and I would like to offer my heart felt congratulations to Senator BYRD for this remarkable achievement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHRIS JOUFLAS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today and pay tribute to Chris Joufflas of Grand Junction, Colorado, for his dedication to his community, state, and nation. Chris has spent his life as a sheep rancher in the mountains and valleys of Colorado and Utah, and has done much to better his Colorado community.

Chris' father immigrated to the United States in 1907, and was one of the first Greek immigrants to arrive on the Western Slope. He started the family ranching business in 1910, and it soon grew to thousands of acres for ranching and grazing in Colorado and Utah. Soon after marrying his wife Connie in 1953, Chris took over the family ranching business and successfully guided it until 1992. The family still owns a 2000-acre ranch near Wolcott, Colorado, where Chris' oldest daughter and family live, and Chris stays actively involved with the ranching community.

For anyone who has skied the beautiful slopes in Vail, Colorado, they probably have Chris, and the Greek liqueur Ouzo, to thank in part. In the 1960s, and then again in the 1970s, Chris sold parts of his sheep herding land to Vail Associates in deals brokered by Chris's favorite bargaining tool, Ouzo. These legendary deals allowed for some of Vail's most well known runs to be created, and a ski run has since been named after the Greek liqueur.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of satisfaction that I rise and pay tribute to Chris Joufflas before this body of Congress and this nation today. It is clear that he has spent his life dedicated to the Colorado ranching community and the State of Colorado. It is my pleasure to honor Chris here today, and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CESAR CHAVEZ

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Cesar Chavez, a man who bravely fought against labor injustices and paved the way for the many rights enjoyed by this nation's workers.

Mr. Chavez grew up on the fruit and vegetable fields and learned first hand the plight of labor workers and the terrible conditions they endured.

Chavez rose from those fields and became the head of the United Farm Workers of America. When the UFW began their strikes in the 1960's in protest of the treatment of farm workers, Chavez led the successful cause with support from unions, church groups and students.

After the strikes were over, Chavez maintained the fight to ensure greater minority rights by fighting for greater educational and political opportunities.

One can not deny the great impact Chavez had on the millions of labor workers in this country. His bravery and determination proved that blue-collar workers are an invaluable part of the American economy.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE RELIEF ACT OF 2004

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, the root causes of the crisis in our Nation's medical malpractice insurance system are numerous and complex. Unfortunately, while Congress debates the various approaches to reform, doctors, hospitals, and other healthcare providers face the harsh reality of skyrocketing premiums today.

Ensuring that Americans continue to have access to doctors of all specialties while Congress finds a comprehensive solution to this crisis is crucial. A temporary, but immediate malpractice premium tax credit would provide much-needed relief to healthcare providers who want to continue offering care, but are struggling to pay their malpractice premiums.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join today with 30 of my colleagues in introducing the Medical Malpractice Relief Act of 2004, which would allow doctors, hospitals and nursing homes to claim a tax credit for a percentage of the malpractice premiums they are paying and will pay during tax years 2004 and 2005.

Doctors who specialize in an area with increased risk of complications would be eligible for a tax credit equivalent to 20 percent of their total malpractice premium. The credit could be taken for premiums up to twice the average for a similarly situated doctor, i.e. same specialty and geographic area.

High-risk doctors include those in all surgical specialties and subspecialties, emergency medicine, obstetrics or anesthesiology; or who do interventional work that is reflected in their malpractice premiums.

Doctors who practice in lower risk specialties, such as general medicine, allergy, dermatology and pathology would be eligible for a tax credit equivalent to 10 percent of their total malpractice premium. The credit could be taken for premiums up to twice the average for a similarly situated doctor, i.e. same specialty and geographic area.

For-profit hospitals and nursing homes would be eligible for a tax credit equivalent to 15 percent of their total malpractice premium. The credit could be taken for premiums up to twice the average for a similarly situated hospital.

As many American hospitals and nursing homes are nonprofit institutions that do not pay taxes, this legislation would establish a 2-year grant program in the Health Resources Services Administration at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Nonprofit hospitals would be eligible for grants up to 15 percent of their malpractice premiums. The maximum allowable grant would be for premiums up to twice the average malpractice premium among similarly situated hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, medical providers across the country are facing a crisis, and they need our help now. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues in the People's House to act now to provide physicians, hospitals, and nursing homes the relief they need, so that they can turn their full attention to their genuine calling—caring for our Nation's health. I hope the House will take up this carefully targeted piece of legislation soon and provide our Nation's health care providers the relief they need.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD F. FURIA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard F. Furia, the 2004 Man of the Year of the Ivy Ridge Lodge 251, Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, of the Order of Sons of Italy in America, for his dedication to the people of the greater Philadelphia area and for his work in the Italian-American community.

A resident of Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, Rick Furia has practiced as an attorney in Southeastern Pennsylvania since 1971. He succeeded his father, the late U.S. Magistrate Edward W. Furia, Sr., into the profession and has served as a leader in many professional, fraternal and community organizations. Currently, he serves on the Philadelphia Bar Association's Board of Governors, Executive Board of Volunteers for the Indigent Program (VIP) and is Co-Chair of their Solo and Small Firm Committee. Rick is also a member of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation's Hamilton Circle, the charitable wing of the Association. He is an active member of the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and American Trial Lawyers Associations and the American Bar Association. He is also a member of several other local organizations and institutions, including the Executive Board of the Lawyers Club of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Defense Institute, Russell Conwell Society of Temple University School of Law, the Amici Society—Center for Italian Studies of the University of Pennsylvania and the Opera Company of Philadelphia's Bravi Circle Advisory Board.

As a proud member of the Italian-American community, Mr. Furia has served on many committees and organizations to which he has so tirelessly volunteered time and support. He has not only played an active part in the rejuvenation of Ivy Ridge Lodge 251, but he has held national and state offices within the Order of Sons of Italy in America, including President of the Pennsylvania Commission for Social Justice (CSJ), the anti-defamation arm of the OSIA. The CSJ was founded to fight the stereotyping of Italian-Americans by the entertainment, advertising, and news industries. Rick is past Chancellor of the Justinian Society of Italian-American Lawyers and has served as a board member since 1984; and as board member of the Justinian Foundation since 1996. Additionally, with the Order of Sons of Italy in America, Rick served as National Orator, Chairman of the By-Law Committee, National Secretary for the Commission for Social Justice, and Ivy Ridge Orator for more than a decade. He is also a member of the National-Italian American Foundation, Counsel of 1000.

Richard Furia is an active member of the community in supporting the arts, education and culture. He is an active member of The Pennsylvania Society, Barnes Society of the Barnes Foundation, Free Library of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Union League. He was honored with the Millay Club Alumni Achiever Award from the Southeast Catholic/Bishop Neumann/Saint John Neumann High School Alumni Association in 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Richard F. Furia for all his years of exemplary service to the Order of Sons of Italy in America, his community and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "TOM"
WISEMAN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life of William Thomas "Tom" Wiseman of Ignacio, Colorado; an extraordinary American who recently passed away at the age of seventy-three. Tom was an active member of the Ignacio community as the owner of Wiseman Hardware and Lumber Company, and was involved in numerous community organizations.

Tom graduated from Durango High School in 1948, and subsequently from Denver University in 1952. Upon returning to Ignacio, he joined his father at Wiseman Hardware and Lumber Company. In 1968, Tom purchased the hardware business from his father, which he operated until his retirement in 1992.

Tom generously gave his time and energy to his community, serving on the Ignacio Town Board, the Ignacio School Improvement Committee, and the Presbyterian Church Session. In addition, he was active with the La Plata County Republican Party, worked with the Ignacio Community Historical Society, and was a member of the Durango Masonic Lodge. Above all Tom loved spending time with his devoted family, including his wife Paula, whom he leaves behind.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and pay tribute to the life and memory of William Thomas Wiseman. He dedicated his life to his family and toward the betterment of his Ignacio community. My thoughts are with his loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement.

CELEBRATING CESAR CHAVEZ'S
BIRTHDAY: A CHAMPION FOR
WORKERS RIGHTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Cesar Chavez's birthday. I would like to ask the members of the House to join in paying respect to a man who brought awareness of labor injustices perpetrated upon migrant workers to national light. Cesar Chavez worked tirelessly to improve the lives of America's farm workers by securing their rights to recognize and bargain collectively for fair working conditions. Chavez grew up in the fruit and vegetable fields and knew what it meant to work them from dawn to dusk. He knew the injustices that faced labor workers on a daily basis, and knew there had to be a change.

From those fields, Chavez rose to the head of the United Farm Workers of America, UFW, instilling in the UFW the principals of non-violence practiced by Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. When the UFW began striking in the 1960s, to protest the treatment of farm workers, the strikers took a pledge of non-violence, determined not to detract from the message of improved labor conditions. Chavez led a successful 5-year strike-boycott. Through this boycott, Chavez was able to forge a national support coalition of unions, church groups, students, minorities, and consumers. By the end of the boycott everyone knew the chant that unified all groups, "Sí se puede!"—yes we can. It was a chant of encouragement, pride and dignity.

Throughout his lifetime Mr. Chavez continued to speak out and helped communities to mobilize by assisting them with voter registration drives and insisting that minority communities had just as much a right to have equitable access to educational opportunities.

My constituents of the 15th Congressional District join millions of Americans in celebrating and recognizing Chavez's legacy on today his 70th birthday. This celebration should not be limited to today, it should continue and we, as members of Congress should ensure that in today's world, the rights of workers are still protected.

CARL LAMM, DISTINGUISHED
NORTH CAROLINIAN

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, Carl Edward Lamm—a legendary pioneer in radio broadcasting will be honored on April 20 at the 2004 Distinguished Citizen Banquet of the Johnston

Community College Foundation. Lamm is president and general manager of Radio Station WMPM in Smithfield, North Carolina.

Lamm, now in his 56th consecutive year as a full-time broadcaster, is sometimes referred to as the "Voice of Eastern Carolina." His many awards have included induction into the North Carolina Broadcasters Hall of Fame and the awarding of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's top citizen award, by Governor James B. Hunt. He is one of the finest examples of North Carolina values in action.

Lamm, born in Spring Hope, North Carolina, dreamed early on of a career in radio. As a 17-year-old, he did his first broadcasting on Radio Station WEED in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, took time out to join the Navy for World War II service, and returned in 1946 to finish high school. He then enrolled in the National Academy of Broadcasting in Washington, DC to pursue his dream of becoming a broadcaster. Within a year, he was hired at Radio Station WCEC in Rocky Mount. He followed that with a position at WCKB in Dunn, North Carolina. In 1958, he became a co-owner of and full-time broadcaster for WMPM in Smithfield, a career that continues to this day.

It has been a labor of love for his adopted community. A national expert on country music, Lamm has one of the most extensive collections of historic country music in the United States. His station is considered a leader in the presentation of old time country music, bluegrass, and southern gospel music. During his long career, he also emceed a program for Radio Station WSM in Nashville, TN, interviewing Hank Snow, a member of the County Music Hall of Fame.

On his Smithfield station, Lamm's interests have ranged far and wide. He was the 1971 Sportscenter of the Year for the Raleigh Hot Stove League. For 25 years, he hosted a program about North Carolina lawmakers, "Legislative Report to the People." He covered the Smithfield tobacco market for 54 years and from 1993 to 2000 was the sales supervisor of the market. Lamm has interviewed more than 500 major league baseball players and country music entertainers. Those interviews include Ted Williams, Joe DiMaggio, Yogi Berra, Casey Stengel, Mickey Mantle, and Whitey Ford. Interviews with entertainers have included Hank Williams, Red Foley, Ernest Tubbs, Roy Acuff, and Kitty Wells.

Lamm, is a former president of the Smithfield Rotary Club. He initiated the annual "Rotary Radio Day" in 1971 that continues to this day. That event, it is estimated, has raised more than \$100,000 for the Smithfield Rotary Club's community projects. The club honored him with one of its first Paul Harris Fellowship Awards. In 2003, the club established the Carl and Margie Lamm Scholarship, which will be awarded annually to a graduating senior at Smithfield-Selma High School.

Lamm was the first to broadcast the death of legendary Johnson County movie star, Ava Gardner, and was the natural voice to emcee the opening of the Ava Gardner Museum when it opened its new quarters in October, 2000.

Lamm taught a Sunday School Class at Beulah Baptist Church in Four Oaks for 48 consecutive years and now occasionally teaches the Evander Simpson Sunday School Class at First Baptist Church in Smithfield where he and his family are members.