

IN REMEMBRANCE OF J.J. JAKE
PICKLE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, my dear friend, Jake Pickle, has left us but he will be remembered for both his accomplishments as a great Congressman and his ability to make everyone laugh.

He was a special man—a man who prided himself in his sense of justice and a man who could tell a “hell of a good story.”

Jake Pickle and I joined the Ways and Means Committee together in the 94th Congress. It was after Rep. Helstoski was defeated in the next election, that I got the privilege of sitting next to Jake for the remainder of his career in the House of Representatives. What an experience it was.

He squeaked green plastic pickles at me (from deep in his pocket) and taught me how to de-shell two pecans with one hand and a single squeeze (and then eat them and throw the hulls under our desks with no one knowing). Over time, we became a team and sent juicy pecans to Members sitting down the row from us. Jake always thought that “everyone should have a little something in their tummies to do good work.”

Jake Pickle and I became close personal friends over the years (as did our wives, Beryl and Alma). We could not have come from more different backgrounds—the inner-city of New York and the rolling hills of Texas. Yet, he became one of the Members I respected most for his sheer determination, unending zeal, and ability to truly develop bipartisan relationships.

J.J. Pickle served in the Congress for 31 years representing the Texas 10th Congressional District—from December 1963–January 1995. All agree that Jake was a class act, a star, and someone to love because he loved back.

I am one of the special few who signed his red pump organ—a treasure of his that he took home with him to Austin upon retirement and kept in his house. Signing the organ meant that you meant something to him.

J.J. Pickle was very, very proud of his Congressional record. He would be the first to tell you that he did not seek to be famous, to be a Senator, to be Governor, or to be President. What Jake Pickle wanted to be was “The Darn Best Congressman” for his Congressional District and even a better one for his country. That he was, and more.

Jake became Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee’s Social Security Subcommittee in the early 1980s and led the charge for solving the system’s financial problems. (It is too bad he is not with us now to do it again—on a bipartisan basis and in a prudent way.) The picture of Pickle standing next to President Reagan signing the “Social Security Amendments of 1983” is a classic of the decade.

Jake moved on and became Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee’s Oversight Subcommittee for 10 years. One of his proudest accomplishments was reforming the tax code penalties so that they were fair to taxpayers. His face adorned the cover of a major tax publication titled, “Congress At Its Best.”

Pickle was relentless in many ways. Once he drafted a “Taxpayer Bill of Rights;” it was his personal goal to see it enacted into law—and it was.

Once he learned that some TV evangelists were stealing from the public, it was his personal goal that they visit the Committee and change—and they did.

Once he learned that tax-exempt organizations were being used as fronts for illegal activities; it was his goal that the Justice Department intervene—and they did.

Once he learned that workers’ pension plans were not funded properly; it was his goal to change the law to protect retirees—and he succeeded.

Even to the end, he was counseling us (Members and staff) about the issues Congress needed to “get a rope around and move it.”

So I will close with the following: I missed Jake when he retired from Congress in 1995. But now I miss him more. He was a good man and he will not be forgotten.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF J.J. JAKE
PICKLE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I did not just like Jake Pickle; I loved Jake Pickle. Congressman Pickle was one of the finest public servants to have ever served in this House, and he was a true Texas treasure. He was a kind, decent, caring human being who spent his entire life making life better for others. Whether it was helping a veteran receive health care, bringing research dollars, and he brought many of them, to his beloved University of Texas or saving the Social Security system in 1983, Jake was always dedicated to helping others.

Jake Pickle’s faith was shown time and time again as he lived the commandment to love thy neighbor. Jake Pickle lived every day with another biblical verse, “This is the day the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Jake lived every day joyfully. He lit up a room when he walked into it because of his joyful, positive approach to life. His positive approach has enlightened the lives of all of us blessed to have known him.

Jake Pickle exemplified courage when he voted as a freshman Congressman from Texas to pass the Civil Rights Act which brought to reality the promise of equal opportunity to millions of African-Americans. He did it because it was the right thing to do, even though it could have ended his political career.

I want to tell one story about my friend Jake Pickle. In June of 1994, he and I were part of a U.S. congressional delegation on the 50th anniversary of D-Day. After the ceremony on June 4 of 1994, our bus was about to leave to go back to a hotel an hour to 2 hours away. I noticed Jake getting off the bus by himself. I stopped, walked up to him and said, “Jake, what are you doing? And he said, Why don’t you come with me, Chet?”

So I followed Jake Pickle off that bus. We walked several hundred yards. We went to Point du Hoc, that monument to American GI

courage on D-Day when Colonel Earl Rudder led Rudder’s Army Rangers up that stiff cliff against murderous fire by the Germans above them. It turned out that Jake Pickle and Earl Rudder roomed together after the death of Jake’s first wife when then General Rudder was serving as land commissioner in Austin, Texas.

So that June day in 1994, Jake Pickle got off the bus, not knowing how he would get back to his hotel in France, to go pay his respects to his personal friend and fellow Texan and American, Earl Rudder, the hero along with America’s Rangers at Point du Hoc. That was the character of Jake Pickle. Our Nation will miss Jake Pickle, but the world is a better place today because of his life of dedicated public service.

Mr. Speaker, Winston Churchill once said that we make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give. By that high standard, Jake Pickle led a rich life, a life that enriched everyone of us blessed to have known him.

Goodbye, my friend, until we meet another day. Thank you for the memories. Thank you for your friendship. Thank you for making America and the world a better place.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF J.J. JAKE
PICKLE

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texas and our Nation has lost one of its most genuine and gracious public servants. Last Saturday morning, James Jarell Pickle, “Jake,” passed away on Saturday, with his wife by his side. For 31 years, Congressman Jake Pickle represented my hometown in this esteemed body as a Representative to the 10th Congressional District of Texas. And he did so with integrity, humility, honor, and a sense of humor that we should all attempt to mirror.

As a current holder of Congressman Pickle’s seat, I work hard every day to provide the same kind of service to my constituents that Jake Pickle did to those he served. He was not just good at what he did, he was the best.

His family talks about the proudest vote he ever cast was in 1964 when he voted for the Civil Rights Act. He was one of only six southern Representatives to vote for that important piece of legislation. In the 1980s, he worked hours on end to protect Social Security and keep it solvent. He worked even harder in the 1990s to turn Austin into the high-tech society that it is today.

It is because of Jake Pickle that Austin continues to see new high-tech businesses locate to Texas’s capital city. The University of Texas has also benefited greatly because of Jake Pickle. UT would not be churning out the latest in technology and new patents, as it now does every year, without the help that Congressman Pickle provided. It is also my honor to represent the research arm of the University of Texas which bears the name J.J. Pickle Research Campus.

But even as good and as smart a politician as he was, he is known today not for his ability to influence legislation or to help bring new

business to his district, but rather for being a good and decent man. It is for this reason his nickname was Gentleman Jake. This gentleman served in the Navy during World War II, and worked his way through college by delivering milk to Austin homeowners. During his first congressional campaign and every time after when he was out in public, he was shaking the hands of those he served. He enjoyed hearing about their lives and telling stories about his. He listened to their problems and sometimes used his own money to fix whatever problems they were having.

Representative Jake Pickle was a good man who will be terribly missed by all who knew him.

So tonight as I stand in the well of this esteemed body, a place so loved and respected by Jake, I am comforted in the thought that the Lord above is thankful to have this great servant back home in heaven where I am sure he is telling stories and shaking the hands of everyone that he meets.

COMMENDING THE CONTINUING
IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

SPEECH OF

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the historic state visit of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India. This visit comes at a time of ever-warming relations between the United States and India as these two great nations build partnerships in commerce, security, science, health, and technology. At a time of great global unease and change, our proud country has found a fast friend in India.

In this chamber tomorrow, the Prime Minister will deliver a momentous address to our Joint Session of Congress. His presence in this house will send an unequivocal message to the government and the people of India. That message is that the United States stands in full support of the Indian commitment to democracy, peace, and prosperity. This address will show Indian and American citizens the significance of the enduring relationship between our two great nations.

The United States and India have been partners in the birth of freedom, in 1776 and 1947, from which we grew to be the world's oldest and largest democracies. Let us now be partners in the war against terror as we fight for a more secure existence. Let us be partners in trade and economic growth that benefits all citizens. Let us be partners in scientific and technological advances that promote the collective well-being. Let us be partners in expanding access to first-class health care and quality education. Let us be partners in our strong values, our commitment to our families, and our belief in humanity.

Let the occasion of Prime Minister Singh's address also highlight the advances and contributions of Indian-Americans. The pioneers of this community first settled in California in the

mid-1800s and worked as farmers. This tiny minority was not granted the right to American citizenship until 1947 and faced severe visa restrictions until 1965. From such humble beginnings, Indian-Americans have grown dramatically to a national population of 1.9 million. They are now the fastest growing Asian-American group in our great Nation. My district in Ohio is home to 2,480 Indian-Americans, who make vital contributions to our economy, culture, and society.

Mr. Speaker, from my first visit to India in 1977 to having an Indian-American intern in my office every year since 1994, I have grown to appreciate and value the gifts of this nation to the world. I am thankful and proud to host Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the United States. I call on my colleagues to work tirelessly to strengthen our growing relationship and forge new ties with the great nation of India.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF
BRENDA PILLORS, PHD (JULY 20,
1952–JUNE 12, 2005)

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, God's whisper to come on home to Brenda [Brenda Pillors], our sister in service and life, on the frontlines in the battles and opportunities to improve life and health for all, came on June 12, 2005.

It is with honor that I present this special tribute in memory of our outstanding colleague and dear friend, Brenda Pillors, Chief of Staff to Congressman ED TOWNS. Today, July 20th marks what would have been a celebration of Brenda's earthly birthday. Colleagues, family and friends know personally that Brenda did so very, very much to improve the lives and the quality thereof for people everywhere and across all walks of life.

Brenda's impact on health legislation, policy and all other aspects thereof remains from that on minority health and health disparities, to health professions, to children's and women's health; from Medicare and Medicaid, to healthcare reform, to health commissions and agency advisory councils, to the National Health Service Corps; from NIH, to FDA, to SAMHSA, to CDC, to HRSA, to AHRQ, to OMH, to OCR, to IOM; for HIV/AIDS, to diabetes, to obesity, to sickle cell disease, to cancer, to heart disease; from clinical trials, to life trials; from bioengineering, to health technology, to alternative medicine; from behavioral health, to workforce diversity, to affirmative action.

Brenda Pillors was always there—from pharmacology, to immunology, to vaccines; from hospitals, to community health centers, to men's health; from environmental health, to health justice, to nutrition, to birth defects; from the uninsured and underinsured, to urban and rural health; from infant mortality, to head start, to mental health; from nurses, to doctors, to specialists, to community health workers, to researchers; to private and public sector officials; from you to me. Her impact goes on and on—you know Brenda's tremendous heart, impact and reach.

We will always remember you Brenda—your dedication, your commitment, your leadership, your expertise and your understanding, and indeed your smile, your laughter and your voice. Brenda Pillors—truly a leader in public service and servant in God's army of service and love.

My "Sister," we will miss you always—your legacy of achievements is written in the hearts of the lives of those you have helped and touched in oh so many, many ways. Your presence and legacy is embedded in the walls and along the halls of the U.S. Congress, and is written in legislation, Congressional hearing questions and transcripts, hearing reports, committee and conference reports, agency reports and justifications, and throughout the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Brenda was and truly lived the "purpose driven life." Thousands, upon thousands, upon thousands, upon thousands of lives have been improved and in fact many saved, and futures are much brighter because of Brenda's life and works. The majority of the people who have and will benefit from her works will never know her. Even the lives of generations to come will benefit from her work. We have always been proud of Brenda.

Dear Brenda, we thank you, and we salute you and we honor you—our "sister in service striving throughout her life to ensure justice and equality for all—Brenda Pillors, PhD."

Reflections of our love, appreciation and respect for Brenda Pillors, on this day which would have marked her 53rd birthday. From me to you, we thank God and your family for sharing you with us, the Nation and the world—Fredette (Fredette West).

THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ILLEGAL TURKISH INVASION
AND OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and bring attention to the illegal Turkish invasion and occupation of Cyprus. It was 31 years ago today that Turkey invaded Cyprus. During the invasion they expelled 200,000 Greek-Cypriots from their homes and neighborhoods, making them refugees overnight. Turkish troops killed 5,000 Greek-Cypriots, of which 1,500 are still missing. There have been 30,000 Turkish troops occupying the island nation of Cyprus ever since.

It is the proper role of the Members of the United States Congress to not only condemn the brutal Turkish invasion of 1974, but also to urge the next step in addressing the issues of the past. We must promote a plan for reunification that addresses the serious concerns of all Cypriots. We must encourage Turkish-Cypriot leaders and their Greek-Cypriot counterparts to negotiate in good faith. We must show the world that the reunification of Cyprus is a priority for the United States.

On the 31st anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, we grieve for those killed during the invasion, and we lament the lost opportunities for reunification over the years. We urge both parties to continue to work toward a reunited and peaceful Cyprus.