

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF JOHN DOMINICK BENEDETTO: HE SHARED HIS FAITH IN ETHICS AND FAIRNESS TOWARD HIS FELLOW MAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to my friend, John Dominick Benedetto, who died August 29, 2005, in Jupiter, Florida. His memory lives on in the loving embrace of his family and many friends.

John brought a breath of love and beauty to everything he touched, whether in music, the arts, in the preparation of foods, or in his creativity as an entrepreneur.

In World War II, he served his country in the U.S. Air Force. But his appreciation for this land was manifest most deeply in his heartfelt concern for all of its people. He truly believed that every man, woman and child was due—without distinction—the fairness and justice that are America's promise.

In his unassuming way, John personified for me the great Godly virtue taught to us in the Gospel of Matthew: As you have done it unto one of the least of these, you have done it unto me.

My love and condolences go out to Patricia, his faithful and loving wife of 28 years, their five daughters and two sons, their seven grandchildren, and of course, his brother, Tony.

For the information of my colleagues I submit the following obituary which was published in the South Florida Sun-Sentinel on August 30, 2005.

Benedetto, John Dominick, was born on March 18, 1923 in New York City, died August 29, 2005 in Jupiter, FL. He is survived by his loving wife of 28 years Patricia, his brother Tony, five daughters, two sons and seven grandchildren. As a young boy, John sang with the Metropolitan Opera Company, where his beautiful tenor voice resonated through the hills of Italy. His talent and creativity was a mainstay throughout his life, and manifested through his passion for music, life, art, and family. After returning from his tour with the U.S. Air Force during WWII, John became an entrepreneur whose passion for invention was nurtured through the development of many ideas and opportunities. As an innovative thinker, John thought about ways to make the world a better place to live and to foster positive social change. John loved to bring people together, whether it was for a small family gathering where he would create amazing meals with love, or simply sitting on his dock and fishing with a friend or relative. His travels and life's path brought him many experiences that were colorfully shared in anecdotes over a card game or an expertly mixed drink. John's charm and charisma attracted many friends, and allowed him to touch many people. John will be greatly missed. A private service will be arranged by the family for a future date. In lieu of flowers, the family thanks all who can please donate to the

TRIPPS organization: 263 Shamey Lane Kenesaw, GA 30144 <http://www.tripps.org/>.

CHILD MEDICATION SAFETY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, specifically pertaining to H.R. 1790, the Child Medication Safety Act, I firmly believe that parents should have the final say about the administering of medication to their child. I agree with the legislation's main intent to prohibit school personnel from requiring a child, as a condition of attending school or receiving services, to obtain a prescription for a controlled substance or a psychotropic drug.

JIMMY BRESLIN GETS IT RIGHT: THE IRAQ WAR IS A LOCAL ISSUE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce into the RECORD the commentary entitled "War must be a local issue", written by Jimmy Breslin in the November 9, 2005 issue of Newsday.

Jimmy Breslin's writing cuts to the heart of an issue and this article does just that. He focuses on how the President's lies are perpetuated at the local level, in this case by Mayor Michael Bloomberg; and how some in the Congress and we as citizens accept those lies because we are living "in a time of National Alzheimer's."

Mr. Breslin wrote of the funeral of a 26-year-old marine, Riayan A. Teheda at which Mayor Bloomberg spoke two years ago. According to Mr. Breslin, the Mayor pronounced of the marine killed in Iraq: "He died to keep the weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of . . ." After those words, Mr. Breslin said "you heard no more." Speaking of Mayor Bloomberg, Mr. Breslin wrote: "He was up there in the presence of a gallant New Yorker and he spread a lie and for me it was the start of his campaign and it ended with me not voting for him . . ."

The funeral of Riayan A. Teheda was at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church on Wadsworth Avenue in Washington Heights, which to Mr. Breslin was "more than somewhat local." He reports that he had been to the funerals of other kids in the Bronx, Ridgewood and in Brooklyn. Mr. Breslin concluded: "If a kid who gets killed is local, then—the war is local."

When President Bush "comforts" the families who have lost their sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, fathers and mothers by telling

them the deaths of their loved ones honors those have died before them, he cannot really provide comfort. The parents of a fallen soldier would never ask that another family suffer what they have suffered. The parents I have met don't believe their sons and daughters need the deaths of other sons and daughters to prove their children have died honorably. They believe their children died for their country. They have died for their country.

To quote Mr. Breslin again: "They die in the splendor of bravery, the prayer of valor. And fall in vain because the government causes them to die in vain."

What Mr. Breslin identifies is national leadership that is, "a fake and a fraud and a shill and a sham" who has now, unwittingly perhaps, admitted he was wrong but blames the Democrats who voted to go to war because they made the mistake of believing what he told them.

American soldiers and Iraqis are still dying. The President has still not told anyone the real reason we are in Iraq. He has not told the truth about the intelligence he and a chosen few had when he took this country to war.

Jimmy Breslin is one of New York's most talented writers. His description of New York and of the Nation as having Alzheimer's is strong but descriptive in a way hard to put in to other words and have the same effect. The people in this country do not know there are two wars being fought by a tiny fraction of this population and that their sacrifice is being inflicted and endured out of the sight of the Media and the American public.

[From Newsday, Nov. 9, 2005]

WAR MUST BE A LOCAL ISSUE

(By Jimmy Breslin)

The church was empty at dusk. You stood in the stillness and looked at the place, right there on the side of the altar, where Michael Bloomberg spoke over the casket of a fallen aristocrat of the city, Riayan A. Teheda, Marine, dead in Iraq at age 26.

Bloomberg pronounced, "He died to keep the weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of . . ."

You heard no more. He was up there in the presence of a gallant New Yorker and he spread a lie and for me it was the start of his campaign and it ended with me not voting for him last night.

He says of Iraq, "It is not a local issue."

This was almost 2 years ago at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church on Wadsworth Avenue in Washington Heights, which is more than somewhat local.

By myself, I have been at the deep grief of another soldier's funeral in the Bronx, one in Ridgewood, another in Brooklyn.

If the kid who gets killed is local, then—the war is local.

This war continues without an official protest that would call out the will of the people of the City of New York and might count in a Nation that by now realizes it has been the victim of a president who is a fake and a fraud and a shill and a sham and now is going around with the blind staggers.

Only the other night, in a television appearance with the opponent, Ferrer, Bloomberg was asked about withdrawing troops from Iraq and—heavens!—you can't do

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

that. Why, that would mean that New York's fallen military would have died in vain. And why you could never say that about the three or four who would be killed on the day after that, and tomorrow and tomorrow.

They die in the splendor of bravery, the prayer of valor. And fall in vain because the government causes them to die in vain.

Around this great city yesterday, the day went into the heart of the night without excitement. There was an election for mayor and the streets should have been loud with the shrieks of people crying for your vote. Bloomberg last night finished spending at least \$70 million to get re-elected and the money suffocated the election. That is not democracy. Every one of those dollars should form the seeds of a revolt.

He is the mayor in a time of National Alzheimer's, and New York, too, is stricken. We have Bloomberg silent on a war. And once in this State we had as senators at the same time, Robert F. Kennedy and Jacob Javits. Look at the citizenry here accepting as United States senators, Clinton and Schumer, who both supported the war. The coin has cheapened and no outcry is heard.

How can Mike Bloomberg be the mayor of this city and not try to put his voice and weight into saving lives?

Bloomberg follows the smirking, deadly lies of a president who had people getting killed for what? For oil, for Dear Old Dad, for a racist disdain for a guy in an alley with a rag on his head. Bush saw the rag but never noticed the gun the guy carried.

Last night, Julio Cesar Tejada, the dead Marine's father, stood in the swarms of people going past his building at 602 W. 180th St. He is 53 and stocky, with short black hair and a pleasant face. On the sidewalk next to him was the small, permanent grotto to his son. A photo. Flowers. Candles. Prayers in Spanish and English.

"How has it been?" he said. He patted his chest. "My heart fell apart. I cannot work. I spend all the days going to the doctor."

"The wife?"

He shook his head. "It is very bad for her." He said he had to get the Con Edison bill paid. "They turn off the lights if you don't."

At the corner, a young woman, a college student, asked him about Bloomberg clinging to the war. Now I mentioned the speech at his son's funeral.

Julio shook his head. "I was too mixed up at the funeral."

He said then he was going to vote.

"For whom?"

He shook his head. "I don't know 'til I get there."

THE CHILD MEDICATION SAFETY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I opposed the Child Medication Safety Act in the 108th Congress and I rise today to oppose it once again on the same grounds.

It is a solution without a problem. The bill is based on the assumption that a substantial number of educators require students to take medication in order to attend school.

I opposed it previously after the House Committee on Education and the Workforce held a hearing on the bill. At that time, not one witness could produce statistical evidence that this was a nationwide problem and that stu-

dents were prevented from attending school over medication.

I still believe passing this legislation is an irresponsible rush to legislative judgment without all the facts. We should not pass legislation over anecdotes and isolated incidents, and I have yet to see evidence that this legislation is necessary.

Today, we vote on H.R. 1790 without even holding a hearing to determine why this bill is needed and to look at any new evidence.

I will not argue that there may be cases when a teacher unfairly or unjustly asks that a student take medication for behavioral concerns.

But H.R. 1790 assumes teachers across the nation are requiring students to take medication. Please, let us be clear, teachers educate. They do not medicate; physicians must prescribe medication.

This legislation is based largely on false assumptions.

Let us consider the impact of this bill in the classroom. If a child is having trouble seeing the blackboard, the teacher must advise the parent to seek professional help.

The same is true if a child has behavioral problems or mental health issues. Teachers can make recommendations that may help the student learn.

Again, I have yet to see statistical evidence that teachers are preventing students from attending school because they refusing to take medication.

Mr. Speaker, until I see hard evidence that this issue is a problem for our students and schools, I cannot support this bill.

TORTURE SHATTERS AND DEFILES GOD'S IMAGE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that we enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a letter written under the auspices of Rabbis for Human Rights North America in February 2005 (corresponding to the Hebrew Year Adar 5765) to President Bush and Members of Congress entitled: Rabbinic Letter Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment of Detainees. I wish to enter into the RECORD as well the names of all the signatories to the letter.

This letter was written of behalf of Rabbis for Human Rights of North America and was written "out of a deep sense of concern about the erosion of American's longstanding commitment that torture is absolutely reprehensible."

"We understand that the most fundamental ethical principle, which results from our belief in God as Creator of the World and Parent of all humanity, is that every human being is seen as reflecting the Image of God. Torture shatters and defiles God's Image. The purpose of torture is to remove a person's pride, humiliate that person, or make his or her life so painful that the person does or says whatever the interrogator wants. Torture 'works' by attempting to deprive a human being of will, spirit and personal dignity. The humanity of the perpetrators, as well as the victims, is inevitably compromised by the use of torture."

"We are particularly appalled by the infliction of sexual humiliation on prisoners under United States custody. Jewish tradition upholds a high standard of personal modesty. Indeed the Bible's term for prohibited sexual behavior is to 'uncover the nakedness' of another. However, even non-sexual acts that overpower people and attempt to break their will and diminish their dignity are acts of humiliation that Jewish tradition abhors."

The Rabbinic Letter specifically calls on the U.S. Government to state in unequivocal terms that the use of any tactics of physical abuse, the deprivation of food, water, sleep, disorientation, religious degradation or purposive humiliations of a prisoner is prohibited. This must be the basis understanding for the treatment of any captive, whether or not he or she originates from a country or belongs to a group that is a signatory to the Geneva conventions."

Despite the statements of President Bush that "We don't torture," the American People know that we do. Not only have we seen the pictures of the handcuffed, naked prisoners at Abu Ghraib and male prisoners being sexually humiliated; not only have we been stained by the image of the Hooded Man attached to wires at Guantanamo; not only has the International Committee of the Red Cross reported that we subject detainees to torture; now we learn we have a system of secret prisons run by the F.B.I. in which we keep detainees that have been disappeared. We don't know who they are or what has been done to them.

An article by M. Gregg Bloche, a law professor at Georgetown University who is also a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution and Jonathan H. Marks, a barrister in London, as well as a bioethics fellow at Georgetown and Johns Hopkins, revealed that mostly unredacted F.B.I. email shows that interrogation techniques used on detainees at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo were from the SAVE program invented by the Red Army and used on Americans captured in Korea and in Vietnam. These interrogation techniques are used only to break the will and spirit of a prisoner so as to get false confessions from them. In these techniques, truth is beside the point.

I support the McCain amendment. That amendment embodies everything the Rabbinic Letter calls for and everything that people of faith everywhere call for. It calls for America to renew its character and banish the stain caused by the Bush embrace of torture.

FEBRUARY 2005.

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: On behalf of Rabbis for Human Rights North America, we write out of a deep sense of concern about the erosion of America's longstanding commitment that torture is absolutely reprehensible.

All of us have been shocked by the published pictures of the behavior of some American soldiers at Abu Ghraib. We applaud the fact that this administration is prosecuting some of the worst offenders there as well as several soldiers who were responsible for the deaths of Afghani prisoners under their protection in that other theater of war.

What is most disturbing, though, is that the documents that have been made public as these cases move forward demonstrate that the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment had been approved at the highest levels of the Administration, that commanders in the field have permitted much of this behavior, that directives from the Department of Defense appear