

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
BARBARA JACOBS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Barbara Jacobs, whose joyous life was framed by family, community, culture and giving to others. Her passing marks a great loss for her family and friends, and also for the people of Cleveland, whom she served with the highest level of commitment, compassion and concern.

Mrs. Jacobs shared her enthusiasm for community service with her late husband, David Jacobs, former owner of the Cleveland Indians. The welfare of her family and her community defined her life. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs raised three children: Marie, David Jr. and John. They instilled within them the significance of giving to others and helping those in need.

Mrs. Jacobs continued to carry the torch of philanthropy that she shared with her husband. Her unwavering support focused on uplifting the lives of others. Her generous donations will ensure that students have musical opportunities at the Indiana University School of Music; her spirit of giving will allow poor families and individuals to receive free medical treatment at MetroHealth Medical Center; and her focus on healing will continue to provide support and funding for the Ohio Cancer Research Center.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Barbara Jacobs. Her boundless spirit of giving and joy for living will continue to have a profound impact upon the lives of countless families and individuals, from Cleveland, Ohio to the University of Indiana. I extend my deepest condolences to her children, Marie, David Jr. and John; to her five grandchildren and great-granddaughter; to her dear friend and companion, Albert Werner; and to her many extended family members and friends. Mrs. Jacobs' kindness, energy and compassion will live on within every life she touched and she will never be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, due to a weather related travel delay, I was unable to record my vote for rollcall suspension votes 609 through 611. Had I been present I would have voted "yes."

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE
THAT DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES
IN IRAQ BE TERMINATED IMMEDIATELY

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I have great respect for the gentleman from Pennsylvania

who speaks with authority about the military matters of the United States.

JACK MURTHA won the American Spirit Honor Medal, received the Bronze Star with Combat "V", two Purple Hearts, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and the Navy Distinguished Service Medal.

The issues he raised yesterday are profound issues for each and every American. We honor the fallen soldiers by making an honest assessment of our national security needs. We honor our great democracy by having the national conversation about the war in Iraq—but we dishonor democracy by mischaracterizing what JACK MURTHA said—and putting forward a resolution that does not reflect what he asks . . . and stifles real debate on this important issue.

Nobody here really believes the United States should—tomorrow—withdraw all troops from Iraq. But many of us—indeed many Americans—are unhappy with the direction of the war and believe we could have done it better from the beginning.

This is a serious resolution for us to consider; it should not be a political ploy for the leadership to mischaracterize. This is a serious debate that the Congress is not inclined to have—as evidenced by the late scheduling of a mischaracterized bill.

We should be holding hearings about this . . . and we should not be debating any of this on a Friday night when people don't watch the news, we should do it next week and give it 50 hours of debate. What is more important than a debate about our national defense and the security of our troops?

It is instructive to remember that we sent our troops to battle in Iraq ill prepared for what they would encounter. We did not send them with the tools—or in the numbers—they needed to win the war. We sent them with helicopters and rifles that didn't function properly . . . we sent them without the body armor they needed . . . we sent them in humvees without the armor they needed. They were not greeted as liberators—more faulty intelligence—they were greeted with improvised explosive devices . . . and IED attacks have only grown more sophisticated and more frequent on our troops.

Here's where we are right now: when you make a wrong turn and discover that, do you stay on that road because you don't want to admit you are wrong? Or do you find an exit, get off and find your way? By staying in Iraq after our invasion based on faulty intelligence—we are doing irreparable damage to our international friends: Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Kuwait . . . and the list goes on.

We need to do it right . . . or leave as JACK MURTHA suggests . . . 1. redeploy U.S. troops consistent with the safety of the U.S. forces; 2. create a quick reaction force in the region; 3. create an over-the-horizon presence of Marines in the region; and 4. to diplomatically pursue security and stability in Iraq.

I will vote "no" for the fabricated resolution before the House tonight . . . but I urge the House to follow the advice—the actual advice—of JACK MURTHA.

HONORING RICHARD NEWTON ON
HIS CAMPAIGN TO BE ELECTED
TO THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 1

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Newton, a resident of Chautauqua County for his quest to become the elected representative to the first legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Although Mr. Newton was not able to realize his dream he has been able to make an impact on other's lives in a different way.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Newton traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 1.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong candidates with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Newton is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

A PRINCIPLED REPUBLICAN'S CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR FAIRNESS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, when I was a Member of the Massachusetts Legislature in 1973, I introduced legislation to protect gay and lesbian people against discrimination. To the surprise of many—myself included—one of the strongest champions of that bill turned out to be a Republican State Senator from a socially conservative part of Massachusetts, Robert A. Hall. As he describes in the attached article, he had not thought much about this before, but when he listened with an open mind to the issues involved, he became a supporter. When he found that he was in fact the only one willing to be the floor manager for the bill on the floor of the Massachusetts Senate, he took that on, in the face of a great deal of political wisdom that said he was making a mistake. As he noted, he went on to a very successful further career.

Bob Hall's article in the Madison, Capital Times continues his work in defending fairness. His arguments on the marriage issue seem to me irrefutable, and they come with great credibility given his background and his current set of views. Since it is apparently the intention of the Republican leadership once again to bring a Constitutional amendment before the House that would prevent States from making their own decisions with regard to same-sex marriage, I think it is very relevant that Mr. Hall's persuasive argument be printed here.

[From the Capital Times, Dec. 1, 2005]

ANTI-GAY BILL WON'T HELP YOUR MARRIAGE

(By Robert A. Hall)

I'm opposed to a constitutional amendment prohibiting gay marriage, now being considered by the Wisconsin Legislature.

Oh, I know, I'm an unlikely champion of gay rights. I'm a Marine Vietnam vet who has deep regrets about that war—mostly I regret that we didn't kill twice as many of those totalitarian murderers. I hope we do better in Iraq.

I believe the "out-now crowd" are racists who think the Iraqis are too inferior to deserve democracy. Or they don't care, as long as America is defeated and George Bush embarrassed.

I worked hard to defeat John Kerry last November, and will do so again, if he runs.

And I'm a death penalty advocate who thinks we should run it like a barbershop—two chairs, no waiting.

As a member of the Massachusetts Senate, I regularly voted against increasing the state budget more than any other senator.

And don't get me started on guns. I'm not for mandatory concealed carry, but I do think fondly of how polite folks were in the days when gentlemen wore swords.

Living in Madison, I feel a certain kinship with the Israeli ambassador to Baghdad. While I think of myself as a centrist Republican with a libertarian bent, to the average Progressive Dane voter, I'm a fascist pig.

So how did I become a supporter of gay rights?

In 1973, Massachusetts State Rep. Barney Frank had filed bills prohibiting employment and housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

The bills came before a committee on which I served. There were a lot of jokes and nudging going on—this was the early '70s. Appearing to testify was a bright and charming woman, Elaine Nobel, who would later serve as a state representative herself. Elaine convinced me that supporting Barney's bills was the right thing to do. I told the chairman, Sen. Allen McKinnon, to record me in favor of them.

The bills received a favorable report—but no one in the committee's Democratic majority was willing to carry (be floor manager) for them. So, my back up, I volunteered.

The Republican floor leader had a minor stroke when he learned I was carrying gay rights bills. He had only seven Republicans out of 40 senators. I was 27, single and holding a seat I'd won by nine votes out of 60,000 cast. The common wisdom was that I was a one-term wonder who caught the incumbent senator vulnerable but couldn't be re-elected.

I suspect that I may have been the first legislator in the country to speak for gay rights on the floor of a state legislature. McKinnon spoke for the bills after me. On the roll call, only six senators voted in favor—McKinnon, four other Democrats and myself. And the bills were dead that year.

But I won the next election by 10,000 votes, carrying every city and town in my working-class Democratic district. More legislators decided that supporting anti-discrimination was a safe thing to do. Today, it's the law in Massachusetts—which strangely doesn't seem to have collapsed because of it or because of the gay marriage decision there last year.

Trust me, no true heterosexual wakes up and thinks, hey, I'm really angry with my partner. I think I'll try dating someone from my own gender from now on.

So who is destroying traditional marriage in America?

How about men—and increasingly women—abusing their spouses? How about the heterosexual trend toward infidelity, led by the example of our highest elected leaders? How about men fathering and then abandoning children to poverty and state support? How about a large number of straight people deciding serial marriage and divorce is a cool lifestyle?

Doing something about those trends would really protect marriage.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD WALTER

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Walter on his retirement from more than 36 years of dedicated service to the State of Missouri. Richard Walter distinguished himself in Missouri by his commitment to improving the lives of citizens in this great State.

On December 31, 2005, Richard will retire as District Engineer for MoDOT's District 7. The leadership he provided during his time with the department was crucial to the success of several projects currently moving forward in the 7th Congressional District. Just a few of the projects Richard spent his time advocating include the completion of MO 249, commonly known as the Range Line By-Pass, building four lanes of U.S. Highway 71 south from Joplin to the Missouri-Arkansas border, and completing four lanes of MO Highway 13 north of Springfield to Kansas City. These major projects are vitally important to the economic growth and quality of life in southwest Missouri. The citizens of southwest Missouri owe a great deal of gratitude to Richard for his efforts to advance these projects.

I congratulate Richard on his accomplishments during his tenure with the Missouri Department of Transportation and wish him the best in his retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PATRICIA A. KANE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a tremendous amount of sadness that I report to the House on the passing of a gentle woman whose strength of character served her community and the Democratic party in my hometown of South Buffalo, NY, with tremendous honor and distinction. More importantly, she was a woman of valor—a wife, mother, and grandmother of extraordinary stature, and someone who will be missed for generations to come.

Born Patricia Ann Doyle, Pat Kane was, simply put, a legendary figure in Democratic politics for decades. Pat and her husband, Donald F. Kane—another legendary figure and mentor to many of my contemporaries—were part of a large extended family that, along with leaders like former county and State Chairman Joe Crangle and families like the Crotlys, Dillons, Keanes, Mahoneys, Whalens and many others, ruled South Buffalo politics from the 1960's to well into the 1990's.

Former House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill is often quoted as saying that "politics ain't beanbag," and that statement goes double for the rough and tumble world of South Buffalo politics. Pat Kane was a strong leader, who was no shrinking violet; she was an integral player in many important races over the

years, and her absence will be felt for many years to come. Through her gentle example and moral leadership, she made so many of us so much better than we otherwise would have been. She had the guts to say what was on her mind and the integrity to get away with it.

On a more personal level, Pat Kane's graciousness and generosity extended beyond her family to a wide yet close circle of neighbors, classmates, friends and the friends of her six children, of which I was honored to be included. Having attended school with her son, Patrick Timothy, I will always hold the warmest of kind feelings and blessing of happy memories having been a guest in the Kane home many times. Once given, Pat Kane's hospitality and her genuine interest in you could never be forgotten. I am also proud to note that Pat Kane's eldest daughter, Bonnie Kane Lockwood, is a member of my district staff. Bonnie and I have worked together since my initial election to the Buffalo Common Council in 1987, and I am fortunate to have her working with me, because Bonnie possesses both the intellect and the political acumen one would expect from Don and Pat Kane's daughter, and my constituents and I are blessed to have her service on a daily basis.

Pat Kane loved her family, loved her community, and loved the Democratic party, and her influence is seen in the many young women who have become active in local politics over the past several years. I am a better person for having known Pat Kane, and our community is better for her tireless service to it.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, November 26, a cold and snowy morning in South Buffalo, Pat Kane left St. Teresa's Catholic Church on Seneca Street toward her final resting place.

Before doing so, her daughter Bonnie delivered a stirring eulogy that was extraordinary in both its content and its delivery. With the House's consent, I want to close my remarks with Bonnie's words from the Mass of Christian Burial celebrating the life of Patricia Ann Kane.

EULOGY OF PATRICIA A. DOYLE KANE

(By Veronica Bonnie Kane Lockwood)

On behalf of our Dad, Don Kane—and the entire Kane Klan—I want to thank Fr. Paul Seil for celebrating the new life of Patricia Ann Kane this morning and for being with us as that new life began. Our cousin, Fr. Paul has been with us so many times before—weddings, christenings—but his finest moment may have been in Room 8—ICD—8th Floor Mercy Hospital Monday, Nov. 21 at 3 p.m., when, surrounded by her loving family—Fr. Paul stepped to my Mother's side and helped her cross over and help us to accept the cross of missing her—knowing she is with us always.

We also know she is with God and—by now; my guess is God has received his first hand-delivered letter from Mrs. Kane. While I cannot imagine the exact contents of the letter—I am confident a couple of dollars were enclosed.

Thank you to all the Clergy here who celebrate my Mother's life—my Mother was a part of your lives too. And, of course, we thank the Sisters of Mercy for being such an important part of my Mother's life—"Pat Kane lived Mercy, taught Mercy and was Mercy"—and we thank the St. Thomas Aquinas Rosary and Altar Society for providing the honor guard this morning.

Thank you Fr. Mitka for welcoming her and all the Kane's back to St. Teresa's—St.