

leave Iraq in a way that maximizes the chances for stability and minimizes the possibility for the eruption of a full scale civil war with even more bloodletting than there is today. We must leave Iraq in a way that does not allow al Qaeda—which did not have a base in Iraq before the war—to develop a stronghold there. We must not compound the blunders of the Bush administration by creating the conditions for even more bloodshed in Iraq and allowing it to become a launching pad for terrorist activities. That is why I have not supported proposals that set a date certain for the total withdrawal of all American forces from Iraq. I believe such well-intentioned legislation, like H.J. Res. 55, would have the unintended consequence of accelerating a budding civil war and strengthening the hands of those who would like to see Iraq plunged into even greater chaos and bloodshed.

While I do not support H.J. Res. 55 in its current form, I believe the Congress must have a serious and full debate on our strategy for bringing our troops home. Since the President declared “Mission Accomplished” in April 2003, we have seen more death and destruction in Iraq. The administration’s efforts to achieve a political solution have been grossly inadequate. This House was wrong to give the President a blank check to go to war in Iraq. It now must fulfill its obligation to bring our troops home in a responsible manner. Let us honor our troops by having a serious debate. That is why I am signing the discharge petition for H.J. Res. 55.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY KEEFE BROOKS

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to my dear friend Kelly Keefe Brooks, who passed away on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at the age of 43 after a courageous battle with breast cancer. Kelly was a devoted wife, loving mother of two girls, and a warm and caring friend.

Kelly fought a courageous battle against her cancer while remaining the same loving, jovial, and caring woman that her friends and loved ones will always admire. She has become a role model and inspiration to all who knew her and all who face the same struggle against cancer. I ask unanimous consent to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the eulogy delivered by Kelly’s good friend Suzanne Galvin Harvey on Saturday, April 29, 2006, which was partially written by Kelly Keefe Brooks herself.

Good Afternoon.

First let me begin by saying that Kelly did a very unusual thing before she died; she wrote her own eulogy. Anyone that knew her would not be surprised. Kelly knew what she wanted and was not afraid to tell you. I asked her if I could add to it and surprisingly, she agreed. Her words are all about saying goodbye to the people in her life. I’d like to start first by saying goodbye to her.

It has been my distinct honor and privilege to have called Kelly Keefe Brooks my friend for almost thirty years. We met as freshmen at Lowell High School when she asked me to share a locker with her. She introduced me to the seven friends we still have to this

day—Our Girls Club. I’ll be forever grateful for that gift she gave me.

Kelly was fortunate to have married Billy, who she called “the love of her life”. A few days ago she said, “Sue, let’s face it, who else could have stood me?” I repeated that to Billy recently and he said he “enjoyed every minute of the ride.” “Well maybe not every minute!”

Kelly gave Billy the same wonderful gift she gave me . . . an abundance of friends. She had a way about her that drew people to her in droves. She crammed many of us into her short life with 4th of July cookouts by the pool on Wilder Street; Superbowl parties; Cinco de Mayo celebrations on Clark Road; and founding Our Girls Club and presiding over it with an iron fist. From the folks at the Post Office to her golfing buddies at Longmeadow; from Our Girls Club to her sisters’ original Girls Club; and from Billy’s mom and family to her own family, there is no shortage of supporters for Billy and the girls with this entourage she built for them.

We all admired Kelly and Billy’s love for each other so much. God sent her a peach when he sent her Billy Brooks. His devotion was unending and he would have done anything for her, whether she had cancer or not. His only regret is that Kelly wanted to see Hawaii before she died. When he got the news that her health was declining, he was thinking of ways to get her there just to see it. “I was thinking maybe I could get her on a medical plane—but it would be too far if something happened,” he said. That’s the kind of guy Billy Brooks is.

Together they were blessed with two beautiful daughters—Emma and Molly. She may have seemed a little tough on you girls at times, but she loved you with all her heart. These past few months she spent so much thought on giving you both special memories and personalized mementos to last a lifetime. Her likes have become your likes—New York City, General Hospital, stalking celebrities outside the Daytime Emmy awards and looking for stars around the streets of New York. I know she will always be the real star in your eyes and has become a celebrity in her own rite, which was evident from the turnout at her wake last night. Your mom also liked pictures—not so much taking them as having people take them of her and plenty with both of you, those pictures are a chronicle of your life with her. Another wonderful gift she gave you, gave all of us.

Kim and Sharon. She couldn’t have asked for two better sisters who were always there for her and the girls. Auntie Sharon, always thinking of ways to help with the girls, or buying things for the house, or helping Kel decorate for the holidays or change of seasons. So glad you could be with her the morning she died. Auntie Kim, always there with at least seven or eight phone calls a day, checking in with her and being there for the girls as well. I cannot imagine the loss the two of you will feel. Not only sisters, you were true friends.

And finally her loving parents, Paul and Maryanne. Tomorrow was supposed to be a surprise 50th Anniversary party for you. Kelly has been feverishly planning that for the last few months. The video she created for you and the songs she chose—what a tremendous gift she has left for you. No parent should have to bury a child, and that is what bothered her the most when she was diagnosed—worrying about what that would do to her Mom and Dad. You should be so proud of the wonderful daughter you raised.

Kelly has been a role model for hundreds of us: family, friends, medical staff, and even to complete strangers right here in Lowell, who have been inflicted with this devastating disease. Never complaining, showing tremendous courage and spirit, fighting the uphill

battle against all odds, always with a smile on her face, and never losing faith in her doctors and caregivers or in her God. There was no time for tears with Kelly—she had much to do before she left us. Like demand a list of exactly what people were bringing over for meals. “Enough pasta!” she’d say “Can’t a girl get a couple of pork chops?” Thanks to Denise Perrin and Lesley Byrne for spearheading all those dinners and house cleanings.

Goodbye Kelly and in the motto of Our Girls Club, which is engraved into the gold heart shaped charms that hang from our bracelets, we will truly be “friends forever” and we will all miss you dearly.

That is the end of my portion of this—my tribute to her. I think she asked me to do this because she thought I was funny. I’m glad I could provide you with some comic relief but sorry Kel I didn’t have them rolling in the aisles because I didn’t feel much like entertaining and laughing today. I did, however, briefly consider wearing my nun costume up here. But I think I traumatized my mom enough with that once before. Thank you mom for helping me write this for Kelly—she would really have been happy that it came from both of us. And now for Kelly’s own words.

EULOGY

(By Kelly Keefe Brooks)

Good afternoon.

Surprise, surprise! You didn’t think I would leave and not get the last word in. Seriously, I wanted to take this time to thank some people and to let you know my thoughts; you know how the cancer really changed me. Who am I kidding? To know me is to love me!

Everyone always told me I had a great attitude and I did, but I had so much help from family, friends, co-workers and medical professionals. That is what made it possible.

I do have some requests from a few of you. Babs, Cathie, Lesley, Mary and Carolyn—you have all become the monkey in the middle for Sharon and Kim. I hope they are laughing. Emma and Molly, take care of Dad, he probably doesn’t remember what he had for lunch yesterday, so go easy and get along with each other. With all the women out there I am not concerned about how many mothers you girls are going to have. And you thought I was bad. Good luck girls! You thought I was annoying, ha!

Girls be successful in life and by that I mean be happy. Get careers not jobs, a big mistake most people make. Emma, I hope you live in NYC for at least a brief period of time. Molly, even though you are the youngest you will be the glue to keep the family together and I don’t mean just you, Emma, and Dad. I mean everyone. It’s a big job but I have no doubts.

What can I say about my girls club? They cooked, cleaned, sat with me on that king-sized bed and watched movies. Thank you!

Theresa and Dr. Anamour—thank you for giving me the extra time in life.

I don’t have words for my parents only I am sorry they had to bury me first.

Sharon and Kim—take care of the girls and each other. Remember they see what you do.

Billy as much as I hated the post office, it is where I met you and hunted you down like a dog. Thank god for Denise, Mary and the keg (good times) you gave me two beautiful girls and Papa two beautiful grandchildren. Now you are his favorite son-in-law. There also is not another man who can make me laugh like you do, or could stand being married to me. I didn’t get the nickname Paulette for nothing. I love you with all my heart.

Hope you all have a great time at the mercy meal, I can’t tell you how mad I am

I won't be there. Have a good time leaving church—lots of singing—I picked these songs.

Kelly didn't realize that the three songs she wanted at the end are unfortunately not allowed at a Catholic Mass. So instead of singing and clapping, leave here today with a song in your heart, a beat in your step, and a smile on your face for the special woman we knew and loved.

IN HONOR OF EARL WOODS

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary individual, role model, and parent. Yesterday, Earl Woods, father of golfer Tiger Woods, succumbed to cancer at the age of 74. He not only leaves behind a gifted son, but a legacy of integrity, pride, excellence, and passion.

Even before he raised a golf genius, Earl Woods lived an accomplished life. He gave up the opportunity to play professional baseball to attend Kansas State University, and became the first black scholarship player in the old Big 12 Conference. Later on he went into military service, served two tours in Vietnam, and spent time in Thailand where he met his second wife—Tiger's mother—Tida.

Earl Woods was a man who believed foremost in raising his son, Tiger, to be a good person, not a great golfer. Woods dedicated himself to instilling in his son a strong work ethic, mental toughness, and the drive to succeed—all factors that have allowed Tiger to become one of the most celebrated athletes of our time.

In the midst of cancer, heart disease, and diabetes, Earl Woods stood by his son, tournament after tournament, providing the guidance and friendship Tiger needed to win. Earl Woods said that his relationship with his son was one of friendship: they were equals. And he considered that to be the greatest achievement of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere condolences to the Woods family for their loss. Our prayers are with the Woods family today and we ask that God grant them peace during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO MUSLIMS IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend an important community in Oklahoma's Fourth Congressional District. It is often said that the media in general does not run enough positive news, and I am afraid that this is especially, and unfortunately, the case for American Muslims. Many have associated the terrible events of September 11, 2001, with the millions of law-abiding, good-hearted Muslims in the United States. I wish to set the record straight about those decent Americans who work to make their communities and our

Nation a better place to live, work, and worship.

A poll conducted in 2004 uncovered some troubling numbers, Mr. Speaker. Those consulted were asked to give the first thought that came to their minds upon hearing the word, "Muslim." Two-thirds had a neutral reply: "religion" or "mosque," to give two examples. A little less than a third, 32 percent, had negative replies: "violence," "hatred," and, I am sorry to say, epithets unsuitable for polite company. Only two percent of respondents had comments considered positive.

Numbers the following year, 2005, were more promising. Negative comments had fallen six percent to total 26 percent. Positive comments had tripled from two percent to six percent. Still, the sum of positive comments is far too low for such a vibrant community. Further, these numbers mean that the negative comments outnumber positive comments by a little more than four-to-one.

Mr. Speaker, these numbers were as startling to me as they were to the many Muslims I know, respect, and represent. My home state of Oklahoma has a dynamic and growing Muslim community. Given public perceptions of the faith by Americans at large, much of their activity is directed at educating the public about themselves and their beliefs. Education about the Muslim community is clearly important as less than half of Americans claim to be "very knowledgeable" or "somewhat knowledgeable" of Islam.

I am pleased to report that in my home state of Oklahoma, Muslim groups are among the first to respond in times of crisis. Oklahoma's Muslims gave generously to the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing, to earthquake victims in Turkey, and to those who suffered from the tsunamis along the Pacific Rim. They came to help when Hurricane Katrina struck, adopting and helping resettle displaced families. Three days after September 11, 2001, these men and women hosted a blood drive for victims in Washington and New York.

Oklahoma's Muslims also do much within our state. They host a free medical clinic in my state and often pay bills and rent for the needy. They adopt highways and contribute to public libraries, reach out to students and to other faiths. They host T-ball teams and Scout troops. In short, they are valued members of our communities.

Like all Americans, Oklahoma Muslims want good schools for their children, talk over the dinner table about how to pay the bills, and want to balance their work with their home life. The values and common interests that they share with their fellow Oklahomans far outweigh any differences in matters of faith. I urge my colleagues, and my fellow Americans, to get to know their Muslim neighbors next door. They help make America the vibrant, tolerant country it is. After all, whatever one's faith, in this land of liberty we are all Americans.

HONORING JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, America lost one of its best and brightest intellects and

public servants in recent days with the death of John Kenneth Galbraith.

To say that Professor Galbraith understood economics is like saying Albert Einstein was good at arithmetic.

Ken Galbraith pioneered economic theories that transcended numbers, products, and nations, because he added people into the equation.

He recognized and helped the whole world understand that market forces alone could not be anonymous engines of economic activity. There was more at stake—people, and more to consider—policy, in a nation's economic growth and development.

If you stop and think about it, every parent has told a child at one time or another that there are consequences to their actions; John Kenneth Galbraith helped nations understand that there are consequences to economic actions.

Mr. Galbraith's impact on modern economic theory can be seen in the books he authored including *The Affluent Society* and *New Industrial State*. In all, his astonishing contributions as a world-renowned economist and professor span more than five decades.

But, there is so much more to his life and contributions to the American people.

John Kenneth Galbraith served his country as a Presidential advisor and ambassador to India.

He helped FDR implement the New Deal, serving in his administration. He also served President John F. Kennedy, among others.

Mr. Galbraith walked among giants, because he too was a giant—in intellect, heart, and commitment to his country.

If ever there was a single individual who embodied the positive change he wanted to see, it was John Kenneth Galbraith.

I was privileged to know him in my role as President of ADA, Americans for Democratic Action.

When liberal activists gathered in January 1947 at the Willard Hotel to form Americans for Democratic Action, Ken was there to inspire and to lead. He never stopped doing either.

From the beginning, Professor Galbraith was ADA's guiding light—both philosophically and as a pragmatic politician.

As its president, he led ADA during the Vietnam War to take a stand and become the first national organization to oppose the last fatally flawed war this country waged.

His participation in ADA continued as an ADA national board member, national convention speaker and author of the pithy Galbraithian letters, some of which were private and many of which attracted members to this organization which he held so dear.

I received a personal note from him just recently. John Kenneth Galbraith was that kind of person; he never stopped thinking, and feeling, and interacting, even as his own health was failing.

Just a few weeks ago, as he lay bedridden, he met with an ADA board member to discuss ways to further the goals and objectives of the organization.

John Kenneth Galbraith was nothing short of astonishing and his loss to us and to the world is enormous.

His legacy will be sustained by the countless people he inspired, through his sons—including Jamie, who serves on ADA's national board—and through the Galbraith Fellows,