

HONORING FIRE CHIEF HOWARD D.
"JACK" FRASER, NORWICH,
VERMONT

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand here before you today to celebrate the birthday of a great Vermonter, public servant, and friend.

For more than 50 years Jack Fraser has made public service his way of life. Jack first joined the Norwich Fire Department in 1955. At the time, Jack was simultaneously enrolled at the University of Vermont and participating in the ROTC program. When he graduated in 1960, Jack was commissioned as an officer in the United States Army.

Always one to take on the toughest challenges, Jack became an Army Ranger and served two tours of duty in Vietnam. He continued in the military after he returned home, teaching as an ROTC instructor at the University of Vermont. He retired from the US Army Reserve in 1990 with the rank of Colonel, having served his country for 35 years.

Meanwhile, Jack had continued his public service in the Norwich, Vermont Fire Department, becoming Fire Chief in 1995. Under the leadership of Chief Fraser, the Department modernized and improved its fire apparatus, its training equipment, its rural fire protection, and its rescue operations. Jack developed particular expertise in the field of hazardous materials, developing Norwich's first hazardous materials response plan. Largely as a result of his work, the town of Norwich earned one of the highest public protection classification rates in Vermont.

Jack officially retired from his civic duties on December 31, 2006. Please join me today in thanking Jack Fraser for all he has done for his town, his country, and the state of Vermont.

**MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG
PRICE NEGOTIATION ACT OF 2007**

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4 and urge my colleagues to support the passage of this legislation that will, I believe, provide lower drug prices for millions of Medicare beneficiaries.

We all know that the costs of prescriptions are a huge burden on Americans throughout the country. That is why during past sessions of Congress I have cosponsored legislation to grant the HHS Secretary the authority to negotiate prescription drug prices. Never before, however, have we been this close to making the negotiating authority a reality. No one could be happier about this than the American people. In a recent poll 92 percent stated that they support the proposal to grant HHS negotiating authority.

Madam Speaker, there is good reason for this overwhelming support of negotiating authority. Pharmaceutical companies continue to rake in millions while consumers are forced to face the high prices of their product. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation and take an important step towards providing price relief for millions of Medicare beneficiaries.

**GENERAL MOTORS' AURA NAMED
"CAR OF THE YEAR"**

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I join with the staff of General Motors' Fairfax plant in Kansas City, Kansas, in celebrating the recent designation of GM's Aura model car as "North American Car of the Year" at the recent North American International Auto Show. The Aura is manufactured exclusively at the Fairfax plant, which is located in Kansas's Third Congressional District. The Aura's win was the first time GM had won car of the year since the Corvette won in 1998. And to win the award, it had to beat out the redesigned Toyota Camry, the nation's best-selling car model, which had just won the car of the year honors from Motor Trend, as well as the Honda Fit, the subcompact car recently introduced to the U.S. market. As Karl Brauer, editor-in-chief of Edmunds.com and one of 49 jurors voting for the award, was quoted as saying by CNN, "It's an undeniable statement about where Saturn has gotten," he said. "You could say it's long overdue, but they are now producing a competitive vehicle in a very competitive class."

Madam Speaker, in recognition of this outstanding achievement, I am placing in the Congressional Record recent Kansas City Star coverage of this well-deserved designation, and I know that you and the entire House of Representatives join with me in recognizing the designation of the Aura as "Car of the Year".

[From the Kansas City Star, Jan. 9, 2007]

GM AURA IS "CAR OF THE YEAR"

(By Randolph Heaster)

A group of automotive journalists named the Saturn Aura "North American Car of the Year" at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

The news that the Saturn Aura won a car of the year award was a boost for the General Motors Corp.'s Fairfax plant, the exclusive maker of the new model.

The Aura was named "North American Car of the Year" by a group of 49 automotive journalists from the U.S. and Canada at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

The car was launched last August at the Fairfax plant, which employs nearly 3,000.

"Our employees are known for their commitment to quality and teamwork," said Paul Marr, manager of the Fairfax plant. "This recognition is a win for Fairfax Assembly and our community as we strive to keep jobs in Kansas City."

Union officials at the Fairfax plant could not be reached Monday. However, Jeff Man-

ning, president of United Auto Workers Local 31, stated frequently during Aura's launch that the employees' goal was for it to receive car-of-the-year honors.

The Aura is the second locally made vehicle to receive such a recognition this decade. The F-150 pickup, made at Ford Motor Co.'s Claycomo plant, was named "Truck of the Year" by Motor Trend magazine for 2004.

The recognition is a shot in the arm for GM, which has been struggling since higher fuel prices slowed sales of pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles. Industry analysts have stated that GM and the other domestic automakers must better compete against Japanese auto companies in the midsize passenger-car market.

GM hopes that this week's auto show will create some buzz for the new Chevrolet Malibu, which will be unveiled for the first time. The Fairfax plant, which builds the current Malibu, will begin producing the redesigned 2008 Malibu in October.

The Fairfax plant produced 39,699 Auras in 2006. More than 5,800 were sold last month.

The auto show also gave GM's new Chevrolet Silverado the award for truck of the year.

**TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF JOSEPH
MACKEY**

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and reflect on the life of Mr. Joseph Mackey, a dedicated public servant who was committed to improving the world around him in large and small ways. Joe was born in Somerville, Massachusetts, and attended Somerville High School. He went on to graduate cum laude from Harvard University and later earned his J.D. from the University of Virginia. In 1979, Joe returned to his roots and was elected an alderman for the city of Somerville.

In 1984, Joe began representing his hometown in the State legislature and served with distinction through 1990. He championed victims' rights, environmental initiatives, and led the fight to implement Massachusetts' first gay rights legislation.

Although Joe left the legislature in 1990, he never stopped advocating for his community. Joe was the founding member of Dreams for Youth, a nonprofit organization that provides financial support for a number of worthwhile groups, including Somerville's youth programs, the Somerville Scholarship Foundation and the Girls' Pride Basketball Foundation.

During his lifetime, Joe received many well-deserved honors. He was named Legislator of the Year by the Massachusetts Bar Association and the Massachusetts Victim and Witness Assistance Board for his work on behalf of crime victims. The Victim Advocacy Network also honored Joe as an Outstanding Legislator.

Throughout Joe's life, he worked to improve his community. Whether it was through the legislative process or as a private citizen devoting time to a worthy cause, Joe exemplified the value of giving something back.