

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH BIRTHDAY OF DR. JAMES L. PHILLIPS

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 75th birthday of a man that had a profound impact on my life, Dr. James L. Phillips. A native of Sharon, Texas, Dr. Phillips was a skilled athlete and student and attended Washington & Jefferson College on scholarship earning a bachelor's degree in 1954. From there he went on to attend Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

In 1968, he became the first African American intern at the University Hospitals of Cleveland. He completed his residency in pediatrics at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. Dr. Phillips spent 2 years at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Camp Pendleton, California before joining the Ohio Permanente Medical Center in Parma, Ohio. He remained there for 16 years before going to serve as associate dean for student affairs and minority programs and associate professor of pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University. While there, he created and directed the Health Careers Enhancement Program for Minorities at Case School of Medicine from 1988 to 1993.

Currently, Dr. Phillips serves on the faculty of Baylor College of Medicine. In addition to his administrative and educational responsibilities, Dr. Phillips has served on a variety of boards including Chairman of the Harris County Hospital District's Medical Board from 1993 to 1999. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of William & Jefferson College, Bay Ridge Christian College, MidAmerica Christian University, Intercultural Cancer Council, and the Huffington Geriatric Center for Excellence and the Hispanic Serving Health Professions Schools. Dr. Phillips has received numerous honors and awards throughout his career.

Dr. Phillips is married to Barbara Phillips, and lives in Missouri City, Texas. He is the proud father of three sons and six step-children.

I first met Dr. Phillips in the late 80s when he was teaching at Case Western Reserve University. He was a stalwart in his support and encouragement of minority students and worked diligently to provide them with opportunities. I am proud to serve on the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, a position he encouraged me to seek. Dr. Phillips has and continues to be a role model, teacher, supporter and a dear friend. Therefore, on behalf of the Congress of the United States and the people of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, I am pleased to join with the family and friends of Dr. James L. Phillips in celebrating his 75th birthday. May you be blessed with many, many more.

IN MEMORIAL OF DR. NORMAN ADRIAN WIGGINS

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Dr. Norman Adrian

Wiggins, who died August 1, 2007. In his passing I lost a good friend, Campbell University lost her Chancellor, North Carolina lost one of its most outstanding citizens and a man who was instrumental in his community, country, and State.

A native of Burlington, North Carolina, Dr. Wiggins was a veteran of World War II, where he served in the United States Marine Corps. After returning from his service to our Nation, he began his educational pilgrimage and earned the Associate of Arts degree from Campbell Junior College, the Bachelor of Arts degree from Wake Forest College, the Bachelor of Laws degree from the Wake Forest College School of Law and the Master of Law and Doctor of the Science of Law from Columbia University School of Law.

On June 6, 1967, Dr. Wiggins became the 3rd president of Campbell College and immediately began piloting a new course for the institution. It would lead to the establishment of one of the most outstanding trust management programs in the Nation, an award-winning and nationally recognized Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), and the establishment of five professional schools—the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, the Lundy-Fetterman School of Business, the School of Education, the School of Pharmacy and the Divinity School. He also led in the College's move to university status in 1979. Under Dr. Wiggins' leadership, Campbell's educational programs were extended beyond the Buies Creek campus as the University was among the first private schools to offer extended education opportunities to military installations, including Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, New River Air Base and Camp Lejeune. Dr. Wiggins' most notable international venture was the creation of the partnership between Campbell University and Tunku Abdul Rahman College in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, a partnership that has lasted more than twenty-five years.

Dr. Wiggins was a devoted Christian; he served North Carolina Baptists at the State and national levels. He was one of only two Baptist college presidents to serve as president of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention. He also served as president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the National Fellowship of Men. In May 2003, following a thirty-six year tenure as president of Campbell University, Dr. Wiggins retired. In recognition of his exemplary service, the Board of Trustees named Dr. Wiggins Chancellor of the University. Dr. Wiggins is survived by his wife Millie Wiggins.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Wiggins had a commitment to excellence in everything he did, and he had a way of bringing out excellence in everyone around him. That commitment is evident in all aspects of Campbell University. Under Dr. Wiggins' leadership Campbell experienced unprecedented growth in facilities, dollars and quality. The number of students' lives he changed in a positive way is immeasurable. Campbell University, Harnett County and the entire State of North Carolina are better in countless ways because of the efforts of Dr. Wiggins.

INTRODUCING THE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, America faces a crisis in health care. Health care costs continue to rise, leaving many Americans unable to afford health insurance, while those with health care coverage, and their physicians, struggle under the control of managed-care "gatekeepers." Obviously, fundamental health care reform should be one of Congress' top priorities.

Unfortunately, most health care "reform" proposals either make marginal changes or exacerbate the problem. This is because they fail to address the root of the problem with health care, which is that government policies encourage excessive reliance on third-party payers. The excessive reliance on third-party payers removes all incentive from individual patients to concern themselves with health care costs. Laws and policies promoting Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) resulted from a desperate attempt to control spiraling costs. However, instead of promoting an efficient health care system, HMOs further took control over health care away from the individual patient and physician.

Furthermore, the predominance of third-party payers means there is effectively no market for individual health insurance policies, thus those whose employers cannot offer them health benefits must either pay exorbitant fees for health insurance or do without health insurance. Since most health care providers cater to those with health insurance, it is very difficult for the uninsured to find health care that meets their needs at an affordable price. The result is many of the uninsured turn to government-funded health care systems, or use their local emergency room as their primary care physician. The result of this is declining health for the uninsured and increased burden on taxpayer-financed health care system.

Returning control over health care to the individual is the key to true health care reform. The Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act puts control of health care back into the hands of the individual through tax credits, tax deductions, Health Care Savings Accounts (HSA), and Flexible Savings Accounts. By giving individuals tax incentives to purchase their own health care, the Comprehensive Health Care Act will help more Americans obtain quality health insurance and health care. Specifically, the Comprehensive Health Care Act:

A. Provides all Americans with a tax credit for 100 percent of health care expenses. The tax credit is fully refundable against both income and payroll taxes.

B. Allows individuals to roll over unused amounts in cafeteria plans and Flexible Savings Accounts (FSA).

C. Makes every American eligible for a Health Savings Account (HSA), removes the requirement that individuals must obtain a high-deductible insurance policy to open an HSA; allows individuals to use their HSA to make premiums payments for high-deductible policy; and allows senior citizens to use their HSA to purchase Medigap policies.

D. Repeals the 7.5 percent threshold for the deduction of medical expenses, thus making all medical expenses tax deductible.

By providing a wide range of options, this bill allows individual Americans to choose the method of financing health care that best suits their individual needs. Increasing frustration with the current health care system is leading more and more Americans to embrace this approach to health care reform. For example, a poll by the respected Zogby firm showed that over 80 percent of Americans support providing all Americans with access to a Health Savings Account. I hope all my colleagues will join this effort to put individuals back in control of health care by cosponsoring the Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, earlier today, I missed rollcall vote 795, a motion to recommit on H.R. 3159, the Ensuring Military Readiness Through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act of 2007.

I was detained while meeting with the Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Rep. JIM OBERSTAR of Minnesota, to discuss the situation in Minneapolis following the collapse of the I-35W Bridge over the Mississippi River.

Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall vote 795 because it was a procedural tactic to prevent consideration of the underlying bill.

As a veteran of the Minnesota National Guard myself, I strongly support the aims of H.R. 3159, which would ensure that returning servicemembers receive sufficient time to readjust from their deployments before being called up again.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1. IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 9/11 COMMISSION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker while I commend the work on H.R. 1, I rise today to express my disappointment that the provision to afford our Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) the collective bargaining rights and whistleblower protections they deserve is excluded from the Conference Report. Mr. Speaker, our TSOs are not second class citizens and should not be treated as such.

In 2001, when the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) was created, Congress vested power to set TSO compensation, leave, and other basic employment rights with the Secretary of Transportation. When TSA was moved to the Department of Homeland Security, this authority remained. While this

authority was helpful in getting TSA up and running, the TSOs now need to be treated like all other TSA employees—fairly and equitably. This provision would have restored the labor rights of approximately 43,000 TSOs and provide them with veterans’ preference, anti-discrimination protections, retirement, whistleblowing, and collective-bargaining rights.

Restoring basic employment rights is critical to recruiting and retaining TSOs. We do not need to look far to see what low morale can do to the health, recruitment, and retention of the Department of Homeland Security workforce. According to a GAO report released this month, TSOs account for approximately a third of the total workforce and their attrition rates are higher than normal for the federal government. It is unfortunate that we are failing to provide the most basic labor protections to our front line workers who perform an important job and work to keep us all safe; rights that are afforded to thousands of workers in the federal government.

I commit to my colleagues today that as Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security I will continue to work to ensure that our TSOs are afforded the rights and protections they deserve.

Additionally, the following individuals did a service to our nation in helping the Conference develop legislation to make America more secure: Michael Stroud, Denise Krepp, Véronique Pluviose-Fenton, Alison Rosso, Jacob Olcott, Chris Beck, Matt Washington, Jeff Greene, Erin Murphy, Michael Beland, Erin Daste, Tamla Scott, Tyrik McKeiver, Stephan Viña, Diane Bean, Brian Turbyfill, and Angela Rye.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge that a lot of staff work went into getting us here today, and I would like to especially thank: My staff director, Jessica Herrera-Flanigan; and my chief counsel, Rosaline Cohen, as well as her predecessor, Todd Gee.

I don’t mean to brag but I believe I have the best and most diverse professional staff on the Hill. A few of them are here with me on the floor. I also would like to acknowledge: the Committee’s very able clerk, Michael Twinchek; Ranking Member KING’s staff—most especially Rob O’Connor and Michael Power; the folks at Legislative Counsel that brought it all together—Hank Savage and Hadley Ross; Mike Sheehy and Jerry Hartz with the Speaker’s office; and Rob Cogorno and Mariah Sixkiller with the Leader.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF CORPORAL ANGELO VACCARO

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, today as I entered the grounds of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and approached the Warrior Transition Brigade Headquarters, I saw the name “Vaccaro Hall.” This morning the United States Army dedicated Vaccaro Hall in honor of my constituent, Corporal Angelo J. Vaccaro, from Deltona who lost his life performing heroic actions in Afghanistan. It was my honor to personally congratulate Corporal Vaccaro’s wife, mother and father on the well deserved

recognition of Corporal Angelo Vaccaro’s heroic actions.

The late Corporal Vaccaro, his wife and parents have been part of the Seventh Congressional District in Central Florida. His distinguished service to our country as a medic in the United States Army earned Corporal Vaccaro the honor of being the first member of the Armed Services to receive two Silver Star medals during the Global War on Terror.

Corporal Vaccaro was the loving husband of Dana and the youngest son of Nelson and Linda Vaccaro. He led by example and never boasted of his accomplishments and efforts on the battlefield.

Born in New York, Corporal Vaccaro moved to Deltona, FL where he lived until he joined the Army on March 14, 2004. According to family and friends, Corporal Vaccaro had found his place in life as a medic with the Army’s 10th Mountain Division.

Corporal Vaccaro’s honorable service to our nation included a deployment to Afghanistan. He conducted more than 140 patrols and heroically risked his life in order to save the lives of fallen comrades. On one such occasion, Vaccaro’s platoon came under heavy enemy fire and Vaccaro and four others suffered significant injuries. Ignoring his wounds and still battling Taliban forces, Corporal Vaccaro used his own body to shield fellow soldiers from the enemy while he dragged the wounded to safety and began emergency medical treatment. Corporal Vaccaro’s actions during this battle earned him his first Silver Star.

Corporal Vaccaro’s second Silver Star was a result of his final heroic actions that saved two of his injured comrades in need of immediate evacuation from the battlefield. While serving as the senior line medic at the Koregal Outpost in Afghanistan, Corporal Vaccaro learned that members of his platoon had come under attack by Taliban forces and that two of them required immediate medical attention. Despite being informed that an ambush was in place for any attempted rescue efforts, Corporal Vaccaro volunteered for the mission without hesitation. Soon after reaching the battle site and while assisting in the successful evacuation of all the wounded, Corporal Vaccaro was struck and killed by a rocket propelled grenade. The country lost a true American hero.

In addition to the Army naming the building that houses Walter Reed’s Warrior Transition Brigade Headquarters to Vaccaro Hall and the two Silver Star medals, Corporal Vaccaro earned two Purple Hearts and the Army’s Bronze Star for his actions during battle. In June the Army named Fort Drum’s new state-of-art medical training facility that was opened on the day that Vaccaro was killed in battle, the Bridgewater-Vaccaro Medical Training Simulator Center.

Madam Speaker, with the passing of Corporal Angelo Vaccaro, America has lost a hero, an outstanding citizen and a shining example of service to our nation. He will be remembered as a patriotic American, a loving husband, beloved son and a friend to numerous others. It was a pleasure to have attended the dedication of Vaccaro Hall at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and I am proud that those visiting Walter Reed will be reminded of Corporal Vaccaro’s heroic sacrifice on behalf of his fellow Americans.