

IN RECOGNITION OF JAVIER LOPEZ, M.D., F.A.C.S. UPON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE SAINT VINCENT CHARITY HOSPITAL'S SOCIETY OF SAINT LUKE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 5, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of my dear friend and mentor, Javier Lopez, M.D., upon his induction into St. Vincent Charity Hospital's Society of Saint Luke, an honor that reflects his immeasurable contribution to the health and well-being of countless individuals and families, from Cleveland, Ohio to Colombia, South America. His compassion and expertise continues to have the greatest impact on the poor of our community, whose lives are uplifted, inspired and made whole again by the healing compassion that defines the life and work of Dr. Javier Lopez.

A highly skilled surgeon and general family practitioner in the Cleveland area for more than 40 years, Dr. Lopez's brilliant medical expertise is equaled by his patience, caring, compassion, and dedication to every patient, regardless of their ability to pay. More than forty years ago, Dr. Lopez journeyed from his beautiful homeland of Medellin, Colombia, to Cleveland, Ohio, to complete his residency at St. Alexis Hospital. The people of North and South Broadway, including myself and my family, were immediately taken by his kind, gentle and humble nature. Dr. Lopez's talent as a gifted doctor could have landed him a successful medical practice in any wealthy suburb, yet he chose to stay in the inner city, on Broadway Avenue, wholly dedicated to treating those who embraced him as a young man so many years ago.

I have been fortunate to have known Dr. Lopez since I was a young man, and even more fortunate to have cultivated a close friendship with him. The positive impact that he has had on my life and the lives of so many others is truly indescribable in mere words. His excellence as a physician is surpassed by none, yet it is his deep sense of humanity that sets him apart from most others. Dr. Lopez continues to be a guiding beacon of hope along Broadway Avenue, uplifting the spirits, hearts and lives of countless individuals, including my own.

Dr. Lopez lives his life dedicated to his faith, his family, and the communities of North and South Broadway and St. Vincent's. His vocation in medicine reflects his unwavering faith and is captured in the biblical reference: "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me." Dr. Lopez offers the same compassion, concern and medical expertise to the forgotten homeless man as he does to the successful attorney. Despite his great achievements in the field of medicine, Dr. Lopez's sense of humanity has always been blind to social or economic status.

Although Dr. Lopez has wholly embraced his Cleveland community, he never forgets the struggles of the people of his Colombian birthplace. An international ambassador of healing, Dr. Lopez continues to lead regular medical missions to Colombia and Honduras, where he donates his time, expertise, medicine and medical supplies to war-torn and impoverished

communities, forging healing, peace and hope for a better day. In Cleveland, Ohio, Dr. Lopez's lifelong commitment to healing is reflected every day within his modest medical office on Broadway Avenue.

His office still remains across the street from where St. Alexis Hospital once stood, and in 2003, Dr. Lopez became an integral member of the medical staff of St. Vincent Charity Hospital. He immediately garnered the respect, admiration and adoration of St. Vincent Hospital staff members and patients—everyone from the front desk receptionists to the nurses and surgical specialists.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Dr. Javier Lopez, upon his induction into the Society of Saint Luke. Dr. Lopez' medical insight, intellect, grace, wisdom, leadership and friendship—and above all else, his compassion, kindness and heart, continues to raise the lives of so many of us onto a platform of hope, survival, peace and healing.

Dr. Lopez strengthens our entire community by caring for us, and by caring, especially—"for the least of us." I am grateful and honored to call Dr. Lopez my friend, and I thank him for enriching my life by his close and consistent presence in it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 5, 2007*

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present on November 1, 2007, I would have voted as follows: rollcall vote 1032, on motion to recommit with instructions—H.R. 2262, the Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act—I would have voted "aye"; rollcall vote 1033, on passage—H.R. 2262, the Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act—I would have voted "nay."

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAFE AND HEALTHY EMERGENCY HOUSING ACT OF 2007

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 5, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Safe and Healthy Emergency Housing Act, which underscores the Federal Government's obligation to provide safe emergency housing units to disaster victims during times of need.

I am glad to be joined today in introducing this bill by the chairman of the Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response, HENRY CUELLAR from Texas, and Representative GENE TAYLOR, who knows firsthand the importance of providing adequate housing to disaster victims.

I would also like to thank Representatives CLARKE, JACKSON LEE, CHRISTENSEN, LOFGREN, and AL GREEN for signing on as original cosponsors.

Nearly 2½ years after Hurricane Katrina, we are still learning how we can improve our abil-

ity to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. The lessons we have learned cannot be ignored.

One of the most striking lessons we learned was that this country was ill-prepared to provide emergency housing to victims during a major catastrophe.

To house the number of individuals who lost their homes during Katrina and Rita, FEMA was forced to immediately purchase thousands of travel trailers. By the time the dust settled, FEMA had purchased over 100,000 of these units.

At the time, travel trailers appeared to be a logical choice because they can be produced much faster than other housing alternatives. However, as time passed, it became clear that travel trailers may not have been the best option.

By now, most of us are well aware that many of the travel trailers provided by FEMA were and remain contaminated with formaldehyde. Many of us, however, do not know why this happened.

Tests conducted in 2006 found that the formaldehyde levels in most of the trailers tested exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's recommended limit. It's also important to note that formaldehyde is classified as a carcinogen by the International Agency for Research of Cancer.

I have continually raised concerns over the health impacts of formaldehyde exposure with the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC.

My Committee staff has also interviewed medical officials from the CDC Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry about a February 2007 report that focused on formaldehyde levels present in FEMA trailers. However, the study did not analyze the potential health impacts on travel trailers' residents.

After expressing my deep concerns with the DHS chief medical officer over the lack of such a study, FEMA announced that they would be entering into an agreement with the CDC to test the trailers for formaldehyde and to study what associated health impacts may have been encountered.

I anxiously await the results of this important study.

Madam Speaker, as you may know, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, regulates formaldehyde emissions in manufactured housing. However, travel trailers are not considered to be "manufactured housing," and are, therefore, exempt from this regulation.

This legislation protects disaster victims by requiring that any emergency housing units provided by FEMA meet HUD regulations limiting formaldehyde emissions.

This legislation does not force the travel trailer industry to change the way they manufacture their product, it simply makes certain that FEMA will no longer provide formaldehyde-contaminated housing units to disaster victims.

While the health implications are still being studied, we do know that research has proven that the negative health effects can range anywhere from respiratory irritation to cancer. According to medical experts, the health impacts are most concerning for children whose lungs are still developing.

In closing Madam Speaker, let me say that our citizens' health should be a top priority

during times of disaster recovery. I believe this legislation will embrace that priority and make certain that this problem will not be encountered during future disasters.

LEGISLATION ALLOWING INTER-  
STATE SHIPMENT OF  
UNPASTEURIZED MILK

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 5, 2007*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation that allows the transportation and sale in interstate commerce of unpasteurized milk and milk products, as long as the milk both originates from and is shipped to States that allow the sale of unpasteurized milk and milk products. This legislation removes an unconstitutional restraint on farmers who wish to sell unpasteurized milk and milk products, and people who wish to consume unpasteurized milk and milk products.

My office has heard from numerous people who would like to purchase unpasteurized milk. Many of these people have done their own research and come to the conclusion that unpasteurized milk is healthier than pasteurized milk. These Americans have the right to consume these products without having the Federal Government second-guess their judgment about what products best promote health. If there are legitimate concerns about the safety of unpasteurized milk, those concerns should be addressed at the State and local level.

I urge my colleagues to join me in promoting consumers' rights, the original intent of the Constitution, and federalism by cosponsoring my legislation to allow the interstate sale of unpasteurized milk and milk products.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 5, 2007*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, on October 31, 2007, I missed the following rollcall votes because I was attending to personal family matters in my District: rollcall vote No. 1024, the McCrery substitute amendment to H.R. 3920, the Trade and Globalization Act, rollcall vote No. 1025, passage of H.R. 3920, the Trade and Globalization Act; and rollcall vote No. 1026, the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 3043, the Fiscal Year 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill.

If present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall Nos. 1024 and 1026 and "aye" on rollcall No. 1025.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH A. SOPKO, M.D. UPON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE SAINT VINCENT CHARITY HOSPITAL'S SAINT LUKE SOCIETY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 5, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Joseph A. Sopko, M.D., upon his induction into St. Vincent Charity Hospital's St. Luke Society, for his contributions to pulmonary health education, residency program leadership, and for his community involvement, including his leadership and activism regarding tobacco use prevention.

Dr. Sopko has been a member of the medical staff at St. Vincent Charity Hospital for nearly 20 years. He earned his medical degree at Tufts University and completed his residency and fellowship training at the University of Iowa Hospitals. Dr. Sopko has held several significant roles at St. Vincent Charity Hospital, including: Medical Director of Pulmonary Services; Director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit; and educator within the Hospital's medical residency program. Moreover, Dr. Sopko played a critical role in establishing one of the first hospital-wide blood conservation programs in the nation—the Regional Center for Blood Conservation. For his service to students in the residency program, he was awarded the 2007 Teacher of the Year Award, given by the St. Vincent Charity Hospital Internal Medicine Program.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Dr. Joseph A. Sopko, upon his induction into the Saint Luke Society. Dr. Sopko's medical expertise, caring demeanor and strong sense of volunteerism brings strength to St. Vincent's Hospital and superior health care for countless individuals throughout our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PHIL ENGLISH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 5, 2007*

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1032, the Motion to Recommit with Instructions on H.R. 2262, the Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2007. I was delayed due to a meeting with constituents.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
RALPH P. HARR

**HON. DAVID DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 5, 2007*

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ralph

Harr of Bristol, Tennessee who passed away November 2, 2007.

Mr. Harr was born April 4, 1926 to the late William and Addie Cowan Harr, and he was a lifelong resident of Sullivan County. Ralph graduated from Blountville High School and attended King College. He served our great Nation in the U.S. Army.

Ralph was an established businessman. He co-owned and operated Bristol Auto Auction for over 48 years.

Mr. Harr was a dedicated public servant. He served from 1952 until 2001 as the Clerk and Master of Sullivan County Chancery Court. Ralph served as County Commissioner for 30 years and was a member of the influential Budget Committee and the Sullivan Partnership Network. It was evident to anyone who knew him, he cared for Sullivan County in a fashion that is difficult to find.

As a devoted family man, he will be missed by his wife of 43 years, Marjorie Willis Han, son Jon Paul, daughter Jackie, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and so many friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me this evening in honoring Ralph Harr for his service to this great Nation, commitment to making life better for those around him, and love for his family and friends. We have lost a tireless leader in the First District, he will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO DEREK WETSCH

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 5, 2007*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to Derek Wetsch, who received the highest rank in boy scouting; attaining the rank of Eagle Scout at his court of honor ceremony on November 4, 2007. He is a member of Troop 88, sponsored by First United Methodist Church in Elkins, West Virginia.

Derek took on quite an undertaking for his Eagle Scout project. As diligent student and member of the Elkins High Fighting Tiger Marching Band, he saw the need for a new sound system at the football stadium and improvement of its grounds. Thanks to his fundraising efforts, Wimer Field at Elkins High School has a new state-of-the-art sound system, which he installed himself.

Derek attended Elkins High School where he graduated in the top 10 percent of his class. A leader in his class, Derek was student body president, president of the band council, and a member of the National Honor Society. He remains an active volunteer with Boy Scouts of America.

Derek is a freshman at West Virginia University where he is a member of the Pride of West Virginia, Mountaineer Marching Band. He is majoring in Exercise Physiology and plans to attend dental school after his undergraduate studies.

I am proud to recognize Derek Wetsch for achieving the high honor of the Eagle Scout. West Virginia is fortunate to have him as a leader and I look forward to hearing about his future accomplishments.