

this out. We don't need to, though. We have the government.

Don't get me started on HPV vaccine, and how girls mostly get the virus from boys, and boys from girls; but it's only recommended for girls.

Whatever you do, don't ask my opinion on the recent, widely publicized estrogen replacement study. It reported the outcome of giving a specific combination of mare's urine estrogen/progesterone pill to 64-year-old women who were way past menopause with no prior hormone replacement. Huge numbers of litigation conscious doctors withdrew every form of hormone replacement from virtually all of their female patients because of this one. Our government thought it was safe to take Prempro, and then, suddenly, not safe at all.

I think it would be a good idea for our government to narrow its focus back to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. To me that means keeping us safe and free and unbothered with expensive nonsense, paid for with our tax dollars.

Maybe our nutrition scientists could spend their time making sure there's no poop in the ground beef, and that the cows are dead before they're skinned. I know I'd sleep better.

AMERICAN AND KAZAKHSTAN'S STRATEGIC BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, on February 28th, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan delivered his annual state of the nation address entitled "New Kazakhstan in a New World" which outlined the strategy of Kazakhstan's development for the next decade. The goals set forth in President Nazarbayev's speech serves as a roadmap for the future and improve the quality of life for the people of Kazakhstan.

In only a decade, Kazakhstan has achieved impressive economic growth and developed a strong framework of democratic government. President Nazarbayev rightfully stated in his speech that "We are no longer a country of the Third World. This is the main result of our work for the past 10 years.

Kazakhstan is now expected to double the country's gross domestic product by 2008 as compared to the year 2000. Accordingly, the GDP per capita has grown considerably, reaching \$5,000 dollars in 2006 with the forecast of \$6,500 dollars in 2007.

Kazakhstan's stable economic development has allowed the government to devote more resources to social reforms. What is most impressive are the measures to improve social protection for motherhood and childhood, to increase pensions, and to raise government controlled wages. In other words, Kazakhstan is not just offering a better future for its people, but it is also securing its democracy on the rich soil of economic and social prosperity.

Kazakhstan is blessed with abundant natural resources. However, Kazakhstan is not going to rely upon those resources alone, realizing that only a diversified economy will give this nation true independence and stability. President Nazarbayev envisions Kazakhstan as a "regional locomotive" of economic devel-

opment and a successful player in the world economy by raising the effectiveness of extractive industries, ensuring the development of non-raw materials sectors, developing modern infrastructure, implementing swift administrative reform which takes into account international practices, and promoting the achievements and opportunities of a new Kazakhstan in Central Asia and the world. Central Asia needs and relies on Kazakhstan's leadership and strong presence that affirms democratic ideas and fosters economic values for the region.

Modernizing the political system in the region is among the most important goals, and its achievement will ensure political stability for the future. I will continue to monitor Kazakhstan's improvements in the coming months, and I applaud their ability to move forward with progressive reforms that will be of a great benefit to the U.S.-Kazakhstan bilateral relationship and to the people of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan's policy of promoting tolerance and inter-religious harmony among ethnic and religious groups also has been recognized internationally. Kazakhstan is making a considerable effort to deal with religious diversity in its country and in the region. In fact, all of the world's great religions are present and thriving in Kazakhstan thanks to a climate of tolerance and openness. For this reason, I welcome President Nazarbayev's willingness to "serve as an international intermediary for finding mutually acceptable political solutions for conflict situations [and] expanding and deepening the dialogue of civilizations."

The glowing sense of confidence that is portrayed in President Nazarbayev's speech is a direct reflection of the optimism of the Kazakh people. I applaud President Nazarbayev's vision and leadership in bringing Kazakhstan into a new level of its progressive development. His vision for a prosperous and democratic Kazakhstan will be a beacon to other nations in the region.

Madam Speaker, recently I had a very informative and productive meeting with H.E. Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan Ambassador to the United States. I share his optimism for the future of Kazakhstan and the growing strategic partnership between our two nations. Kazakhstan has proven itself as our firm ally and partner, and our bilateral relationship based on common values is strong as ever. The U.S.-Kazakhstan partnership in promoting nonproliferation, combating terrorism, securing peace and stability for Afghanistan and Iraq is exemplary. We are grateful for Kazakhstan's support and friendship.

I strongly believe we should assist Kazakhstan as it continues to pursue a program of economic and democratic reform for it is in our Nation's best interest to have an economically strong and democratically developed Kazakhstan in this region of vital importance.

WATER QUALITY INVESTMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of the Water Quality Investment Act and strongly urge its passage.

Many communities in my district, such as the city of Monmouth, have severe capacity issues with their wastewater treatment systems. Several of these communities are rural but are experiencing new growth and cannot afford to expand their wastewater systems or update their antiquated and deteriorating facilities. The overflow of sewer systems can cause untreated waste to run into streets, basements, rivers and lakes, posing obvious health, safety and environmental problems.

Additionally, 772 municipalities across the country, the majority having fewer than 10,000 people, have combined sewer systems. These systems partially separate sewage and stormwater runoff and are extremely vulnerable to sewer overflows during periods of peak rainfall. The EPA estimates that each year, overflows from combined sewer systems discharge about 850 billion gallons of wastewater and storm water containing untreated waste, toxic debris, and other pollutants into the environment.

It is imperative that we help localities improve their sewer infrastructure for the health and safety of their residents and to meet their obligations under the Clean Water Act.

The Water Quality Investment Act would authorize \$1.8 billion in federal grants over five years to municipalities for sewer overflow control and improved infrastructure. This new funding is a good first step toward addressing the EPA's estimated sewer overflow control costs of over \$150 billion.

This legislation is supported by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, which services the majority of Americans, and the Water Infrastructure Network, a broad-based coalition of environmental, conservation, municipal, public health, engineering, construction, and energy groups.

I again urge my colleagues to vote for this bipartisan legislation. Sewer system overflows are a public health risk with the biggest threat occurring in smaller communities that cannot finance the modernization of their systems. We are obligated to help these communities protect their citizens, which is why we must pass this bill.

HONORING J. JOSEPH CURRAN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to rise before you today to salute a man who has spent many years working toward bettering the quality of life in the State of Maryland. Sadly, after almost a half-century serving the citizens of the great State of Maryland, J. Joseph Curran has retired from public office.

1. Joseph Curran, Jr., served as Attorney General of Maryland from 1987 to 2007. Mr. Curran was born in West Palm Beach, Florida, on July 7, 1931. He attended Baltimore parochial schools, Loyola High School, the University of Baltimore, and the University of Baltimore School of Law. Mr. Curran served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean conflict, with duty in Japan and Korea.

Attorney General Curran began his career in public service in 1958 when he was elected to the House of Delegates as a law student. In

1962, he was elected to the State Senate. During this time, despite angry demonstrators picketing his home, he advocated open housing laws for Maryland. In 1967, Mr. Curran became chair of the Judicial Proceedings Committee and held that position for sixteen years.

In the General Assembly, Mr. Curran sponsored or fought for significant bills, including those creating the Court of Special Appeals and the District Court system. He consistently supported bills to improve the courts and the corrections system, toughen drunk-driving laws, guarantee equal rights, and require handgun permits. He also worked to modernize Maryland's divorce and alimony laws, reform adoption and guardianship, and protect victims of domestic violence.

In 1986, Mr. Curran was elected Attorney General after serving four years as Lieutenant Governor with Governor Harry R. Hughes. In 1990, 1994, 1998, and 2002, he won re-election. Under Mr. Curran, the Attorney General's Office has been a national leader in consumer protection, criminal investigations, Medicaid fraud prosecution, securities regulation, and antitrust enforcement.

During his tenure, Mr. Curran worked tirelessly on behalf of children and teens, parents, seniors, victims of domestic violence and sexual predators, and all Marylanders concerned about crime, gun violence, prescription drug abuse, and the potential impact of casino gambling.

As Attorney General, Mr. Curran launched a variety of initiatives to help Maryland's children. To protect them against sexual predators, he championed a 2004 law making it a crime to solicit a minor by computer or other means to engage in unlawful sexual conduct. He also proposed lifetime parole supervision for sex offenders and better notification to communities when sex offenders are released from prison. To reduce teen tobacco use, he led Maryland's participation in the landmark \$206 billion national settlement with the tobacco industry, which garnered \$4.4 billion for Maryland, and industry concessions on advertising and marketing cigarettes to teens. He filed suits to stop unlawful Internet cigarette sales and the use of hip-hop themes to target youth, and reached agreements with national cigarette retailers to prevent sales to youth. He led a multi-state initiative to encourage the motion picture industry to decrease smoking in youth-rated movies. To reduce juvenile crime, Mr. Curran issued a report on the link between children's exposure to media violence and youth aggression and delinquency, and distributed 600,000 media violence diaries to help parents monitor their children's consumption of media violence. Mr. Curran promoted juvenile crime prevention programs to help at-risk youth, including a mentoring program within his own office, and he conducted a statewide youth listening tour to make recommendations in his report, *In Their Own Words*, about how adults can improve their response to teens' problems.

Mr. Curran led efforts to empower people in taking control of difficult decisions they may face at the end of their lives. He began with a groundbreaking opinion early in his tenure that a competent, terminally-ill patient can refuse life-sustaining treatment, and continued with broad educational outreach and dissemination of advanced directives. In 2005, he expanded that outreach by making living wills available in Spanish. He has issued the Na-

tion's first comprehensive guide to the role and responsibilities of a health care proxy, as well as a report on policy issues related to Alzheimer's disease. He also successfully promoted legislation that created a state advisory council on end-of-life care, as well as legislation providing additional protections for Marylanders who become subjects in medical research.

To help Marylanders without insurance, Mr. Curran created a first-of-its-kind drug-pricing website, which allows consumers to compare retail prices charged by different pharmacies in Maryland for commonly used prescription drugs. He developed educational outreach materials to help seniors make good decisions about Medicare Part D, the complex federal prescription drug benefit.

In a landmark 1990 case, *Maryland v. Craig*, Attorney General Curran successfully urged the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold Maryland's law permitting victims of child abuse to testify via one-way television. Also before the Supreme Court, the Attorney General successfully litigated *Maryland v. Wilson* (1997). The Attorney General argued that police officers, who routinely conduct traffic stops that sometime turn deadly, may order the passenger out of the car to allow the officer to safely process the traffic stop. Mr. Curran was a long-time champion of efforts to reduce the epidemic of gun violence. He has worked for better laws and resources to help law enforcement keep guns out of the hands of criminals, including calling for restrictions on the ownership of handguns and establishing a firearms trafficking unit dedicated to the prosecution of persons who unlawfully purchase or attempt to purchase firearms.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me in thanking J. Joseph Curran for his many years of dedicated and distinguished career in service to the citizens of Maryland. He will be remembered for raising the bar and setting the precedent for future Attorney Generals in the State of Maryland.

CONGRATULATING REV. PATRICK J. SULLIVAN OF KING'S COLLEGE UPON BEING NAMED "MAN OF THE YEAR" BY THE WILKES-BARRE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Rev. Patrick J. Sullivan, C.S.C., of King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of being named as "Man of the Year" by the Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Father Sullivan has been lecturing at King's College since 2000 and is associated with the college's Sociology and Public Policy Research Institute.

Having earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy and American history at the University of Notre Dame in 1952, he received theological training at Holy Cross College in Washington, DC from 1952 until 1956. He received his master's degree in sociology from Ford-

ham University in 1959 and his doctorate degree in sociology from Catholic University in 1971.

Father Sullivan has served on the faculties of the University of Notre Dame and King's College. He has taught and written extensively on subjects including labor and management in American society, the role of the Catholic Church in labor and management issues and social justice for U.S. workers.

He served as director of urban affairs for the U.S. Bishop's Task Force on race and poverty. From 1976 to 1979, he worked to gain support from the Catholic Church, groups and individuals for impoverished textile workers in the southeastern states.

From 2002 to 2004, he served as national chaplain to the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Father Sullivan has accomplished significant research on issues ranging from welfare entitlement to the history of the Josephite Fathers, a religious community begun after the Civil War to assist impoverished African Americans.

He also studied ethnic fraternal organizations and how they helped the families of coal miners in the nineteenth century before the development of strong labor unions.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Father Sullivan on the occasion of this special honor. Throughout his teaching career, Father Sullivan has cultivated a sincere love for the contributions of working Americans and the need to establish and promote social justice. He has used his research, training and passion for teaching to encourage a similar appreciation in his students. Through his teaching, Father Sullivan has enriched the lives of his students and the entire community of northeastern Pennsylvania.

SANTIAGO E. CAMPOS UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pleasure to rise today in support of H.R. 544, legislation I introduced to honor Judge Santiago Campos by naming after him the Federal courthouse in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Judge Campos was the first Hispanic appointed to the Federal bench in New Mexico, and naming this building after him is a long overdue tribute.

Judge Campos passed away on January 20, 2001 at the age of 75 years old. He was a lifelong New Mexican and graduated first in his law school class at the University of New Mexico. He was appointed to the Federal bench in 1978, serving until his death in 2001, including as chief judge from 1987 through 1989.

But Judge Campos' career of public service only culminated with his service as a United States District Court Judge. He also served in the United States Navy as a seaman first class. He served as the assistant and first assistant attorney general of New Mexico. And before being named to the Federal bench, he served as a district court judge in the first judicial district in the State of New Mexico.

Judge Campos served with distinction on the bench and displayed both firmness and