

RE . . . MARCO . . . BLE . . .

A TRIBUTE TO AN AMERICAN HERO

SGT Marco Robledo

The United States Army

1st platoon A.CO. 875th en bn

RE . . . MARCO . . . BLE . . .

Re . . . Marco . . . Ble . . .
 While, cheating death . . . one of America's
 very Best . . .
 One of America's very finest . . . who he has
 her our nation so blessed . . .
 A Hero who goes off to war . . .
 Upon, battlefields of honor . . . who but
 gives up his arm and leg for us, would
 bore . . .
 All so Freedom can endure, while standing
 alone at death's dark door . . .
 As he walked through The Valley of Death!
 Returning home, as there he lie right at the
 very edge . . .
 At the abyss, all the between life and death
 . . . with but only his fine courage
 left . . .
 And then!
 To rebuild, where non lies left . . . moment
 by moment, as he would etch . . .
 As most thought that he was left for dead,
 but not him . . . with his courage
 pledged . . .
 As Day in and out . . .
 While, all around him such pain and heart-
 ache was but his to tout . . .
 As against all odds, his fine heart would
 shout . . .
 It's not my time . . .
 Some way I'll find, my way back . . . with
 but my heart and soul, and mind . . .
 Just Amazing, in what his life is saying . . .
 Just Re . . . Marco . . . Ble . . . a soul
 which shines!
 Such a young heart . . .
 And yet, such a strong soul and mind . . .
 who has already lived two lifetimes of
 gold . . .
 As a Warrior and Hero first, then one of in-
 spiration . . . facing but the worst so
 bold . . .
 Put upon this earth . . .
 To but show mankind's great true fine
 worth . . .
 Our Lord's messenger to teach us, to reach
 us so deep down inside so first!
 In our times and in our lives . . .
 What is it that we have so strived?
 That's so Re . . . Marco . . . Ble . . . that so
 defines . . . as most have not lived such
 fine lives!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on July 30, 2008, I missed rollcall vote No. 542, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act and rollcall vote No. 543, H.R. 4040, the Conference Report for the Consumer Product Safety Commission Reform Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 542 and 543.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING GEN
 RICHARD A. CODY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize the long and distinguished career of GEN Richard A. Cody who is retiring after serving our nation's military with distinction for 36 years.

General Cody was born in Montpelier, Vermont. He is a graduate from the United States Military Academy. General Cody's military education also includes the Command and General Staff College and the United States Army War College. General Cody is a Master Aviator with over 5,000 hours of flight time and is an Air Assault graduate.

General Cody has received numerous decorations and badges for his outstanding efforts in the United States Army. These decorations and badges include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (with four Oak Leaf Clusters), the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Air Medal (with numeral device "3"), the Army Commendation Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Achievement Medal, the NATO medal, as well as various other service awards.

General Cody became the 31st Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army, on June 24, 2004. He and his wife are also very proud of their two sons, who both are serving as commissioned officers in the United States Army.

Madam Speaker, I know that Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to GEN Richard A. Cody for his exceptional commitment to his fellow soldiers, the United States Army, and the safety and security of America. As he prepares for the next stage in his life, I am certain that my colleagues will join in me in wishing General Cody, his wife, and their two sons all the best.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4040,
 CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY
 IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act (H.R. 4040) and to commend Chairman DINGELL and the conferees for their hard work on this important issue. In a recent letter to the conferees, I joined several other members in support of this bill and I am pleased that Congress is moving forward on this legislation that will help ensure the safety of America's children and consumers.

According to a leading consumer rights group, more than 45 million toys and children's products were recalled because of unsafe toxins and choking hazards in 2007. Data for 2008 shows that there have been 22 percent more recalls in the first half of this year as compared to the same period in 2007. Toy

safety, which has been called "last year's problem" by the toy industry, is still very much an urgent, current challenge. Congress must act to ensure that the products and toys our children are exposed to are free of toxins and hazards.

The Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act takes bold measures to enhance the safety of products available to our children. This legislation takes a strong stand against destructive oil industry interests by banning toxic phthalates in children's toys. Studies indicate that exposure to phthalates in childhood increases the risk of cancer as an adult. It mandates third-party testing and certification for certain children's toys and materials, which were previously voluntary. The bill also has new protections for whistleblowers that will help ensure consumer safety by making it easier for employees to alert the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) about possible hazards before products reach the public.

Part of the toy safety problem has been the lack of capacity of the CPSC. The CPSC has been underfunded and inadequately equipped to ensure the safety of the products available to children. Staff levels at CPSC are currently less than half of 1980 levels. The Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act bolsters CPSC capacity by increasing funding and staffing for the agency, a significant step toward ensuring safety for our children. Also, by banning industry-sponsored travel by CPSC Commissioners and staff and restoring the five-member commission, the legislation prevents potential conflicts of interest that may jeopardize toy safety.

It is unacceptable for parents to have to worry about toys harming their children. The Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act is timely and targeted bipartisan legislation that takes significant steps to ensure that America's children are kept safe from harmful toxins in their toys. I urge my colleagues to support the Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act and give this bill my full support.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION
 AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1108, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. This legislation would grant the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) long-needed authority to regulate the manufacture, sale, distribution and marketing of tobacco products.

As we all know, tobacco use contributes to the death of more than 400,000 Americans and costs the nation's health care system nearly \$100 billion each year. The most tragic part of this statistic is that virtually all of these deaths are preventable. It is alarming that preventable diseases such as emphysema, heart disease and cancer all can be attributed to the use of tobacco.

In addition to providing consumers with science-based information about tobacco products, granting FDA the authority to regulate tobacco will more importantly help protect

our children from using these products. Approximately 90 percent of all adult smokers began their habit while in their teens, or earlier, and two-thirds become regular, daily smokers before they reach the age of 19. According to the American Medical Association, each day, about 4,000 children try smoking a cigarette for the first time and another 1,000 become new, regular, daily smokers. This means that one-third of these children will die prematurely.

Despite their claims to the contrary, the tobacco companies continue to market their products aggressively toward children. This bill will give FDA the authority to impose marketing restrictions, labeling requirements, as well as to ban candy flavored tobacco products in order to prevent tobacco companies from addicting children to tobacco.

I am also pleased that the bill before us includes language that maintains the same role of the Appropriations Committee with regard to the fees in this bill that the Committee has with regard to other FDA user fees.

This bill has strong bipartisan support, and is endorsed by key groups including the American Cancer Society, the American Medical Association, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, and Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

OPTIONAL ELECTRONIC PAY STUBS FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6073, "To provide that Federal employees receiving their pay by electronic funds transfer shall be given the option of receiving their pay stubs electronically." First, I would like to thank my colleague, VIRGINIA FOXX of North Carolina, for introducing this important legislation. This bill will allow all Federal employees receiving their pay by electronic funds transfer to receive their pay stubs electronically. This will bring much needed reform to a system that has become less transparent due to the advent of electronic, online banking. I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this act.

H.R. 6073 is important because of the need to create a streamlined, direct pay system that is at the same time transparent with clear authentication, allowing the over 1 million Federal employees to be able to back up their electronic funds with electronic pay stubs. These pay stubs will provide a necessary, substantive back-up to ensure that the many employees using electronic funds transfer have the same access to a transparent financial record.

H.R. 6073, "To provide that Federal employees receiving their pay by electronic funds transfer shall be given the option of receiving their pay stubs electronically," is a fair, equitable step that will bring the Federal Government toward a clearer, more direct standard for all Federal employees using electronic funds transfer.

Upon enactment of the act, the Office of Personnel Management, OPM, would be re-

quired to provide Federal employees that receive their pay through electronic transfer with the option of also receiving their pay stubs electronically. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementation of this act will have no effect on the budget, and this act does not contain any intergovernmental or private sector mandates, and hence does not apply to local or State governments.

This bill will benefit the many thousands of Federal employees receiving their pay by electronic funds transfer by giving them the option to receive their pay stubs electronically. This option will provide greater authentication and transparency, without costing taxpayers, and without affecting private businesses, and State and local government.

This bipartisan bill will benefit the many Federal Government employees in Houston, Texas, and the Nation as a whole, while coming at no cost to the taxpayers of Texas' 18th. This simple reform should create an improved electronic pay system, benefiting countless Government employees.

IN HONOR OF ADRIAN MALDONADO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Adrian Maldonado on the occasion of his retirement as Director of the Office of Procurement and Diversity in Cuyahoga County. His vision, leadership and commitment to his work has had a profound impact on developing Cuyahoga County and on the Greater Cleveland community.

Adrian Maldonado began his career in public service twenty-seven years ago, when he was hired as a personnel interviewer at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Four years later, in 1985, he began working for the State of Ohio in the Department of Administrative Services as a minority business specialist. For fourteen years, he worked tirelessly with minority business entrepreneurs in my district, helping them secure contracts under Ohio's HB584 Minority Set-Aside program after almost eleven years, he is retiring from his position as the Director of Diversity and Procurement in Cuyahoga County.

Mr. Maldonado's leadership and vision as Director of the Office of Procurement and Diversity for Cuyahoga County changed the county immensely. He and his staff worked diligently to improve the county's purchasing operating system and its purchasing and operating procedures, leading the county to be recognized by Purchasing Magazine as one of country's top Big 20 Purchasers. Under his leadership, the Office of Procurement and Diversity created a small business enterprise program which assists small businesses in procuring county contracts. Since implementing this program, Cuyahoga County has consistently met or exceeded the 30% subcontracting goal for all county contracts.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Adrian Maldonado, and in recognition of his leadership, vision and dedication to his work and to the community.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN MICHAEL WORLEY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the career and accomplishments of Steven Michael Worley of Cabin Creek, West Virginia.

For the more than 33 years, Michael Worley has been a leader of several personal and professional development opportunities across many states, including the great state of West Virginia. A graduate of West Virginia Institute of Technology in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering, Michael began his career with the Relocations Branch of Engineering Division, where he worked on a variety of major reservoir and local protection projects in relocating public facilities from the construction work areas. Over the next 20 years, Michael's professional career consisted of working with Planning Division and serving as project manager for a variety of inland navigation, riverfront park, and nonstructural flood protection projects. Since 2001, Mike has served as the Chief of Planning Branch.

For all of his service, Michael has received numerous awards. He was selected as Ohio River Division Civilian of the Year in 1993 as well as Corps-wide Civilian of the Year in 1993. He was also honored with the J.W. Morris medallion. Michael received the National Performance Review, awarded to the Section 202 Non-structural Flood Proofing Team, from Vice President Al Gore. In 2004, he was named Special Emphasis Program Supervisor of the Year. These are just a few of the mentionable awards Michael has received for all his leadership and hard work.

He and his wife, Katie, have been married since 1975, and have raised two children, Erin Worley Haughey (married to Andy Haughey) and Ryan Worley. Katie is the Office Manager for Huntington Physical Therapy in Charleston. Erin Worley and her husband are owner/operators of four McDonald's franchises while Ryan Worley is owner of Epicenter Art Studio.

Michael represents the true calling of public service. It is an honor to work with such a distinguished citizen who has contributed so much to our great state. I'm proud to call Michael Worley a friend and a fellow West Virginian. I wish him all best in his retirement.

IN HONOR OF MS. MARGI PRUITT CEO OF THE DELMARVA PENIN- SULA CHAPTER OF THE AMER- ICAN RED CROSS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Ms. Margi Pruitt for her dedication and service to the American Red Cross. She will retire from her post as CEO of the Delmarva Peninsula Chapter of the American Red Cross in October after thirty five years of excellent work helping Americans in need.

Margi began working for the Delaware Chapter of the American Red Cross in 1973,