

H. CON. RES. 323, EXPRESSING
CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR
THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NA-
TIONAL HEALTH CARE DECIS-
SIONS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 323, expressing Congressional support for the goals and ideals of National Health Care Decisions Day. I would first like to thank my distinguished colleague PHIL GINGREY of Georgia for introducing this important piece of legislation. This legislation recognizes an important initiative to encourage patients to express their wishes regarding healthcare and for providers and facilities to respect those wishes, whatever they may be.

National Health Care Decisions Day is designed to raise public awareness for the need to plan ahead for health care decisions related to end-of-life care and medical decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for themselves and to encourage the specific use of advance directives to communicate these important decisions. The Federal Patient Self-Determination Act requires that all Medicare-participating healthcare facilities inquire about and provide information to patients on Advance Directives; it also requires these facilities to provide community education on Advance Directives (42 C.F.R. § 489.102). All healthcare facilities are required to: provide information about health care decision-making rights; ask all patients if they have an advance directive; educate their staff and community about advance directives; not discriminate against patients based on an advance directive status.

It is estimated that only a minority of Americans have executed advance directives, including those who are terminally ill or living with life-threatening or life-limiting illnesses. Advance directives offer individuals the opportunity to discuss with loved ones in advance of a health care crisis and decide what measures would be appropriate for them when it comes to end-of-life care. The preparation of an advance directive would advise family members, health care providers, and other persons as to how an individual would want to be treated with respect to health care. Forty-two percent of Americans have had a friend or relative suffer from a terminal illness or coma in the last 5 years and for a majority of these people and 23 percent of the general public, the issue of withholding life sustaining treatment came up. An overwhelming majority of the public supports laws that give patients the right to decide whether they want to be kept alive through medical treatment. By more than eight-to-one (84 percent–10 percent), the public approves of laws that let terminally ill patients make decisions about whether to be kept alive through medical treatment. One of the most striking changes between 1990 and 2005 is the growth in the number of people who say they have a living will—up 17 points, from 12 percent in 1990 to 29 percent now.

Patients and families are often not fully informed of the relevant risks and potential benefits of artificial nutrition and hydration (ANH).

In addition, financial incentives and regulatory concerns promote the use of ANH in a manner that may be inconsistent with medical evidence and with the preferences of patients and their families. Because ANH is associated with uncertain benefits and substantial risks, it is essential to ensure that decisions about its use are consistent with the patient's medical condition, prognosis, and goals for care. Therefore, decisions about ANH require careful consideration of its risks and potential benefits.

Establishing National Health Care Decisions Day will encourage health care facilities and professionals as well as chaplains, attorneys, and others to participate in a collective, nationwide effort to provide clear, concise, and consistent information to the public about health care decision-making, particularly advance directives. As a result of National Health Care Decisions Day, recognized on April 16, 2008, more Americans will have conversations about their health care decision, more Americans will execute advance directives to make their wishes known, and fewer families and health care providers will have to struggle with making difficult health care decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TEYRAN "TY"
PATTERSON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Teyran "Ty" Patterson, an American hero, who recently passed away on May 30, 2007, in the line of duty as Texas Game Warden for Johnston County.

Ty was born on November 18, 1978, to Joe and ViAnn Patterson in the City of Seguin in Texas. He was a devout Christian and lived the values of his faith through his work as a Texas Game Warden. Ty was a 1998 graduate of Seguin High School and earned a criminal justice degree in 2004 from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos.

After graduating from Southwest Texas State University, Ty began work as a Texas Game Warden. He was committed to law enforcement and to the community by providing public service. Ty was a young, ambitious, caring man—no one was a stranger to him. On May 30, 2007, Ty answered the call of duty, without regard to his personal safety or well-being, to assist his fellow officers and a family in their hour of need. It was during this call that he lost his life.

Ty is survived by his parents, Joe and ViAnn Patterson, his sister, Crystal Patterson, his brothers Joe Patterson, Jr. and Demetrius Hall, and his grandmothers Thelma Smith and Katie Smith. He will be greatly missed by his family and by those who had the great fortune to know Teyran "Ty" Patterson.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Mr. Teyran "Ty" Patterson, and I thank you for this time.

EARTH DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, as Americans mark Earth Day, they can also mark the new direction Congress has begun to reverse the failed energy policies of the past, committing instead to clean, and renewable energy for the future. It may have taken the president almost 8 years to acknowledge global warming, but this is a problem that Congress did not wait to address.

Congress passed the historic and bipartisan Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to begin to reduce American dependence on foreign oil, respond to the global warming crisis, grow our economy, and lower energy costs. The Act will save 5.3 billion metric tons in energy-related CO₂ emissions from 2008–2030 and reduce oil consumption by 2.4 million barrels a day—almost a 25 percent reduction over today's usage.

The Congress has taken the steps the current Administration has failed to take. It pleases me that on this Earth Day in 2008 we can acknowledge and celebrate the positive direction we are taking in addressing our energy use, climate change, and its impact on our economy.

TRIBUTE TO JOE SHELL

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague from California, Congressman JIM COSTA, to honor Joseph Claude Shell, a longtime Bakersfield political and community leader, who passed away on Monday, April 7, 2008, at the age of 89.

Joe was born in La Conner, Washington in 1918 and moved with his family to San Diego at the age of 2. Joe attended the University of Southern California and played 3 years of varsity football, which included two trips to the Rose Bowl, and being the captain of the undefeated 1939 team. While Joe was studying law at USC, he served his country during World War II as a civilian flight instructor (having learned to fly at the age of 14) for the U.S. Army Air Corps at Cal Aero and Lancaster from 1942–1943, and eventually joined the Navy in 1944 serving as a senior pilot in the air transport service.

After the war, Joe lived in Los Angeles and worked in the Kern County oil fields as an independent oil producer and drilled many of the wells around Bakersfield. In 1953, Joe won election to the California State Assembly, representing the 58th District, which covered the Wilshire district of Los Angeles. A major political figure in California politics, he served for a decade in the State legislature, 4 of those years as the Assembly Republican Leader, fighting for free enterprise, low taxes, and limited government. During his time in the Assembly, Joe authored the State Scholarship Act, which gave thousands of young people

educational opportunities at public and private universities. While in the Assembly, he met Mary K. Husking, who he married in 1970. In 1962, Joe ran for governor and though he did not win the Republican nomination, he remained active in State and local politics. Joe and Mary K. returned to the oil business and drilled wells in the Deer Creek area, near Porterville. In 1989, Governor George Deukmejian appointed Joe to the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board, where he served for several years before stepping down.

Joe's death is a great loss for the Bakersfield community, but he will always be remembered for his years of service in the U.S. Armed Forces and California State Assembly, always leading by principle rather than rhetoric, and for his integrity and interest in seeing government perform honestly and with accountability at all levels. Joe is survived by his wife, of 38 years, Mary K. who currently resides in Bakersfield, and his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren Barbara, Joe, Jr., David, Harold, Diane, Lynn, Geoffrey, Robert, Steven, Stacey, Brian, Dana, Ryan, Nicole, Emily, Jennifer, Matthew, Mark, Justin, Ellie, and Thomas.

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HON. JIM COSTA

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CONGRATULATING ART MONK AND DARRELL GREEN UPON THEIR INDUCTION INTO THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME AND COMMENDING THEM FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate two of the Nation's beloved icons of professional athletics. On the same day, Art Monk and Darrell Green were inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. To say that Washingtonians and regional residents are serious about their football would be a classic understatement. This region's strong tradition and love of football owes much to Art Monk and Darrell Green. Along with the Nation, we love and respect them not only for their world class excellence as athletes, but for the way they played the game. Both men are revered, not only as athletic greats, but because of their work out of the limelight.

Art Monk was a wide receiver drafted in the first round by the Washington football team, the Redskins, in 1980. Monk's quickness and strength despite his size made him a top notch wide receiver. He wasted no time distinguishing himself, even in his first season, setting a team rookie record with 58 receptions and becoming a unanimous all-rookie selection. For nine seasons throughout his 16-season career, 14 of which he spent with Washington, Art Monk had 50 or more receptions. Monk became the first receiver for our home team to produce three consecutive 1,000 yard seasons, going on to have five 1,000 yard seasons in his career. Monk set the then league record for catches in a season with 106 catches, the most consecutive games, with at least one reception with 164 games, and the most career receptions with 820. Along the way, he also became the first Washington team player to catch 70 or more passes in three consecutive seasons, finishing his career with 940 catches. Monk was twice named All-Pro and All-NFC, selected three times to play in the Pro Bowl. He was a major part of the Redskins' dominance in the 1980s, and boasts three Super Bowl victories.

Darrell Green, an All-Pro cornerback, was one of the greatest cornerbacks of all time.

Over his 20-season career with the Washington football team, Green set many standards. He was a first-round draft pick in 1983 and made an immediate impact, scoring the very first time he touched the football on a 61-yard punt return in a preseason game, starting in all 16 regular season games, and being honored as runner-up for the Associated Press NFL Rookie of the Year Award. Known for his great speed, Green achieved a high level of success as a cornerback, recording an interception in a record 19 straight seasons, a career-best of five interceptions in each of three seasons, and a club record 54 interceptions, which translated into 621 yards and six touchdowns. Green was also a formidable punt returner, averaging nearly 12 yards a return as he recorded 51 career returns for 611 yards, in addition to the team record longest fumble return of 78 yards. Darrell Green is a member of the NFL's All-Decade Team of the 1990s, boasts two of the team's Super Bowl victories, was named All-Pro four times and was voted to seven Pro Bowls.

Beyond their star-quality football careers, I have come to know both men as exemplary citizens through their excellent work in the community. Art Monk helped found The Good Samaritan Foundation on MLK Avenue, SE with his Redskins teammates Charles Mann, Tim Johnson and Earnest Byner to "Prepare Youth for Leadership in the Community and the Workplace." Their center for youth most in need of service is under construction in the city's lowest income ward. He has also lent his expertise and testimony to my own Commission on Black Men and Boys. Darrell Green started the Darrell Green Youth Life Foundation that helps youth to maximize their own potentials, focusing on four core principles: values, education, home, and community.

Art Monk and Darrell Green have led exemplary lives as men and as athletes. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating both of these role models for reaching the height of their professional careers by being inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

SUPPORT FOR FAIR PAY FOR WOMEN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support fair pay for women.

Women are an integral and vital part of the United States workforce. However, there exists a wage gap between men and women. Forty-one percent of women are the sole breadwinners in their families. April 22, 2008 is Equal Pay Day, which highlights the need for equal pay for American women. Equal Pay Day began in 1996 as a public awareness event by the Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE). The purpose of this day is to illustrate the gap between men's and women's wages. Equal Pay Day is observed on a Tuesday in April to represent how far into the year a woman must work, on average, to earn as much as a man earned the previous year.

It is preposterous that, in 2008, women earn less money than men for doing the same work. This wage gap is even greater for women of color. In this age of rising fuel costs,