

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent to proceed to Calendar No. 340, H.R. 3221, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask now that there be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for a period of up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPRINGTIME AND EASTER

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, this week, as the Senate debates proposed changes to the budget resolution, our minds are focused keenly on the pros and cons of various amendments and on the consequences of the budget resolution for the authorization and appropriations process that lies ahead. We have much to do this year, and less time than usual in which to do it.

Personally, I am glad to be back amid the controlled chaos of the annual budget debate. As many people know, I fell last week. Fortunately, I only gave my back a good wrench, but my family and my doctors insisted on a lot of care and physical therapy, which was both therapeutic and frustrating. I do not like to be poked and prodded and cajoled any more than the next person, especially after I begin to feel better and am ready to get back to work. Nevertheless, the rest did let me spend a little time staring out the windows, watching the beauty of springtime steal across Washington. I hope that each of my colleagues will have a chance to enjoy the springtime show as the Senate breaks for the Easter recess.

This year, the vernal equinox falls in the middle of the Easter Holy Week, on Maundy Thursday. Therefore, the first day of spring is also the day that marks the Last Supper between Jesus and his disciples, the evening before the crucifixion Good Friday and the miracle of resurrection on Easter Sunday. It is fitting that the dawning of the spring and the resurrection of Christ occur in close conjunction. Both events celebrate renewal and rebirth, the awakening of new life. I, too, feel a sense of renewal this year, of restored health and energy that only enhances my usual affection for the springtime of year.

I welcome spring with the words of the English poet, William Blake (1757–1827) in his poem, “To Spring:”

O thou with dewy locks, who lookest down

Through the clear windows of the morning,
turn

Thine angel eyes upon our western isle,
Which in full chorus hails thy approach, O
Spring!

The hills tell one another, and the listening
Valleys hear; all our longing eyes are turn'd
Up to thy bright pavilions: issue forth
And let thy holy feet visit our clime!

Next week, as Christians step through the liturgical calendar of Easter, observing and commemorating great events of two millennia past, the occupants of the northern hemisphere also count down the days to Spring. In these first warm and fragrant days, we can most fully appreciate the beauty of the season, so easily compared to the cold and wet weather of the previous weeks. With each trumpeting daffodil, each nodding crocus, each arching branch of yellow forsythia, and each dainty petal of blooming pear and cherry tree, we find the undeniable evidence of the approaching season. In the ever-lengthening evening light, we spy the house wren flitting about as she seeks a sheltered spot to build her nest. We hear, clear and strong, the first evening chorus of frogs, a song that will be lost in the background noise later in the season. But this week, we hear it “a capella,” unaccompanied by the evening singing of crickets and the hum of air conditioners on hot summer evenings.

Each sign of spring, each glory of the Easter-tide, is a gift from the Creator, a promise made to each of us that there is life after death, and beauty after the dark days of winter. I urge my colleagues in the Senate and those listening at home to step outside and revel in the glory and the beauty of spring.

Mr. President, I close with a poem by the great American poet, Robert Frost (1874–1963), called “A Prayer in Spring.” I thank my colleagues for their many kind wishes for my renewed health.

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasures in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by
night;

And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.
And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfill.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HARRY CARLOSS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and respected Kentuckian, Dr. Harry Carloss. Dr. Carloss has worked diligently for over 32 years to treat thousands of his patients who face one of life's most terrible illnesses, cancer.

Originally from Lexington, KY, Dr. Carloss went to the University of Lou-

isville Medical School and later worked at the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation in San Diego, CA. Dr. Carloss, along with and his wife Barbara, returned a few years later to Kentucky and settled in Paducah to practice as an oncologist. Dr. Carloss worked in Paducah for 28 years, choosing to help those who oftentimes were facing a death sentence.

Along with helping his patients, he became a point man in the campaign to battle cancer. He has written medical scientific papers, been involved in many research and clinical trials over his career, and been given numerous accolades in the form of honors and awards from his peers.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a man who worked tirelessly and gave so much of himself to the people he served. Recently the Paducah Sun published a story about Dr. Harry Carloss, which admirably illustrates the work, sacrifice and commitment Dr. Carloss gave to his patients, and to finding a cure for cancer. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Paducah Sun, Mar. 12, 2008]

CARLOSS STANDING DOWN—AFTER A RELUCTANT WITHDRAWAL, COMBATANT IN WAR ON CANCER LOOKS BACK ON CAMPAIGN

(By Steve Vantreesse)

PADUCAH, KY.—A cancer doctor dying of cancer—that sort of story has a dark irony.

In the case of Paducah oncologist Harry Carloss, happily it isn't true.

“I've heard the rumor,” he said, not particularly offended. “I don't have cancer. I have physical limitations that forced me to retire.”

Instead of his primary foe over 32 years as a cancer fighter, a fall from a ladder stopped the 57-year-old Carloss in his oncological tracks. He broke his back, had it surgically repaired as best as could be done—ruined spinal parts removed, at least—and now is debilitated. Not dead, not totally paralyzed, both of which he could have been. Just limited.

He returned to his practice after injury and surgery, but found after a trial period that he couldn't remain on his feet for any length of time, or sit in most circumstances, for that matter. He makes little reference to ongoing pain, loss of sensation and difficulties in walking that came with the nerve damage.

“Other people have far worse problems,” Carloss notes in self-deferring fashion.

He's seen enough to know. As once the sole oncologist in a void west of Louisville, south of St. Louis and north of Nashville, Carloss saw a steady parade of patients in dire straits.

The Lexington native and University of Louisville medical school graduate went to the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation (San Diego, Calif.) to work in primarily hematology. He and his wife, Barbara, returned to Kentucky, coming to Paducah as a smaller town in which to raise their kids.

“I came here to be an oncologist, but I had doubts at first that a town the size of Paducah could support an oncologist,” Carloss said. “That turned out to be the joke of the century.”

In the 28 years that he practiced in Paducah, Carloss treated thousands. When he recently had to cease practice, he found that he had approximately 3,000 current patients on chemotherapy who shifted their cases to other physicians' care.

Even though cut short by result of accident and injury, Carloss can still claim a lengthy practice in a field that often doesn't produce long runs.

"Thirty-two years is a long time to practice as an oncologist," Carloss said. "There is a high burnout rate. Most doctors who do this end up in research or something outside seeing patients every day."

One reason is that there is extra emotional burden in specializing in the care of people who in many instances are fatally ill.

The position of the oncologist has improved through the years as medicine has, yet there is still the excess baggage that comes from serving some of the sickest people.

"Their problems become your problems," Carloss said. "Especially during the early years of my practice, before medicine evolved as much, many cancers were just a death sentence."

"The stuff we had to use for chemotherapy would either kill you or cure you," he said. "It has to attack cancer cells, but it attacked white blood cells, too. We now have antidotes that chemo patients get to keep their white cell levels from dropping."

"There are lots of things we have to battle cancer now that we didn't have then," Carloss said. "And over the years the mortality for cancer has gone down. It's become more of a chronic disease than a death sentence."

That has eased Carloss' burden of fighting what too often seemed a losing battle. More clear wins against cancer certainly helped, but he also has learned to benefit patients—and himself—with relative, mitigated victories.

"I discovered pretty early that I couldn't fix everything," he said. "What I learned is, while I might not be able to save somebody, there are things I could do. I might give them more time, make sure they had less pain and improve the quality of the life they had left."

Carloss said fairly early in his practice he got help in dealing with losses, assistance that came from dying men.

"I explained to one man that he was terminally ill and offered him a chance to take part in some research," Carloss said.

"He really didn't show any emotion and I wasn't sure he understood, so I explained his situation again—and still no emotion."

"Then he told me that he'd landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day and everybody in his group was killed but him," he said. "He figured that everything he'd done since that day was a bonus. And he said if he could do anything that would help somebody else with the time he had left, he'd be glad to."

A young man told Carloss that there was a blessing in his cancer as opposed to a fatal heart attack.

"He said at least he had time to correct his mistakes and say his good-byes to people," Carloss recalled.

Carloss doesn't regret the emotional expenditures from his past practice. He does have some sore spots about some of its frustrations.

"Because of the way treatment is paid for, all services aren't available to everybody," Carloss said.

He said Medicare regulations and the resulting insurance coverage parameters are such that every cancer patient simply cannot get access to some of the drugs that might be beneficial.

"Now drugs have become so expensive that reimbursement drives what can be used for a

patient," Carloss said. "I could, or I used to could write you a prescription for a drug that would cost you \$72,000 for a year's supply. There are drugs available that nobody can afford."

"That's the part of the practice that I don't miss," he said. "Before, in the first 25 years of my practice, if there was a drug out there, I could use it for a patient and it would be paid for. We never turned anybody away if they didn't have the money."

Beyond patient care in small town America, Carloss has been a point man in the campaign to counter cancer.

He has been involved in a wealth of research and clinical trials through the years. He likewise has been a prolific writer of medical scientific papers.

Carloss' honors and awards among medical peers have stacked up through his career. His foremost recognition may be his selection for mastership in the American College of Physicians, which comes only for those cited for exceedingly stellar career achievements.

Carloss, a plain talker might say, had a lot of irons in the fire. His injury-forced retirement was such an abrupt change in schedule, the reversal of pressure was so extreme that it might have produced the bends in a mental sense.

Long days of life and death decisions were suddenly switched over to longer days of no particular commitments.

"I had lots of people that I was taking care of, and it took me two months to stop calling the office every day to check on them," he said. "I solve problems during the night, and it took me two months before I could sleep through the night and not be lying there working things out in my head."

The demands of the career don't seem to have taken a regrettable toll, however.

"If I could do it all over tomorrow, I'd do it again," Carloss said.

TRIBUTE TO THE MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an organization that has contributed greatly to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and its citizens. The Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center celebrates its 25th year of service this year. The center has been a long time contributor to the State and the community in western Kentucky surrounding Maple Mount.

In 1983, after many years as a boarding school, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph made a difficult, yet promising decision to close its educational facilities. That led to the opportunity to develop the center into a modern facility. After much thought and prayer, the sisters that so dedicatedly ran the boarding school worked to transform it and its surroundings into a retreat center offering programs and meeting spaces for businesses and organizations.

Since the renovation 25 years ago, the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center has focused on spirituality, the arts, and environmental education. Each year, 500 students visit the center to tour the surrounding farm and learn good stewardship of the Earth. Groups from churches and businesses frequent the center, which contains living quarters and a cafeteria.

Not only does the center add to the mental and spiritual well-being of the people of western Kentucky, it works to preserve the environment as well. Through the dedicated leadership of Sister Amelia Stenger, director of the center, the Ursuline nuns have made it their mission to educate the community about the environment. In so doing, they have built one eco-friendly home out of straw and now plan to rebuild a home using several energy-saving measures.

They plan to build a "near-zero" home that uses no outside sources of energy in western Kentucky. Sister Stenger pioneers these efforts after a visit to Austria, where she toured various conservation efforts there. This house will be called the Casa del Solé Environmental Education Center. The name is Italian for "house of the sun," and for the Ursulines it also refers to Jesus Christ.

The service and selflessness of Sister Stenger, three previous directors, and the center's staff has contributing much to those who visit the center every year and to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center for 25 years of service in the community.

HOUSE CONSIDERATION OF FISA LEGISLATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I commend the House of Representatives for debating its amendment to the Senate's FISA Amendments Act of 2007. This is a step forward and a good bill.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act is intended to protect both our National security and the privacy and civil liberties of Americans. This law was passed to protect the rights of Americans after the excesses of an earlier time.

The FISA Amendments Act of 2007 that passed the Senate had a number of serious failings and did not adequately protect the privacy and civil liberties of Americans with this sweeping new surveillance. I had hoped that the Senate would incorporate improvements that had been reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee and that I and other Senators offered as amendments on the floor. It did not. Instead, having gotten exactly the bill they wanted from the Intelligence Committee, the administration threatened of Presidential veto if any further improvements were made. The Senate bill was flawed.

The House leadership understood that under our constitutional system of government, Congress gets a say in legislation. For the last month the House has worked with 4 Senators and sought to work with congressional Republicans and the administration to fashion a reasonable compromise between its earlier legislation, the RESTORE Act, which passed last fall, and