

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORKS
OF SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, "Be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em."—William Shakespeare, "The Twelfth Night."

It is with a sense of proud sadness and deep gratitude that I am blessed to offer a few words about a man who was born to greatness, had it thrust upon him and achieved greatness—because, in the end, he was not afraid.

It is with an array of inexpressible emotions that I am blessed to call him an inspiration, mentor, and most valued friend.

To be Ted Kennedy's friend was to be wrapped in a special embrace, a golden aura of generosity and thoughtfulness, compassion and comradeship. It simply felt good to be around him.

I believe the highest praise bestowed on anyone is that he made the people around him better. This he did by calling all of us to the better angels of our nature.

It is said that to whom much is given, much is expected. No one expected more of himself than did Ted Kennedy, and no one gave more of himself to others.

No one bore greater burdens—some of them the result of cataclysmic events that damaged not only our nation, but hurt him deeply and in ways that would have paralyzed any of us.

He carried on, shouldering the future of a young and sprawling family and the continuing hopes and dreams of our nation.

In a speech in August of 1968, mere weeks after the death of his brother Bobby, Teddy said:

"There is no safety in hiding. Like my brothers before me, I pick up a fallen standard. Sustained by the memory of our priceless years together, I shall try to carry forward that special commitment to justice, excellence and courage that distinguished their lives."

We met in 1978 in San Francisco when I was little more than a laborer in the vineyards of California Democratic politics. In 1979, I joined his campaign for president and was appointed to his state steering committee.

I soon found myself involved in decisions about who to seat at the 1980 Democratic Convention and in strategic discussions about how we might win the nomination against a sitting president.

In this way, he lifted the fortunes and the sights of so many, allowing us to find new challenges, to seek out new responsibilities and to broaden our own understanding of what we could do, who we could be and how we could help him achieve an America of justice, excellence and courage.

It was at the convention, of course, that he gave what is widely regarded as his greatest single speech. The speech concluded with those words that have continued to ring out through the decades: "The work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die."

Conventions have become pre-packaged events with carefully staged "spontaneous"

demonstrations of affection and support. At the 1980 convention, we were outsiders, there against the wishes of an incumbent president whose strategists controlled all the machinery of convention-like hoopla.

So, for an hour, we clapped and cheered, we cried and we chanted "Kennedy, Kennedy."

In retrospect, we were enthralled not by the end of a campaign but by the promise of future fights and the certainty that our cause would go forward, as would our work on behalf of the downtrodden and the disaffected.

He said in 1985, with yet another presidential election stirring, "The pursuit of the presidency is not my life. Public service is."

He loved to be of service and he reveled in all that it meant, taking joy in those things that would have seemed small and inconsequential to him—and spreading joy.

In 1986, while serving as a member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, I was elected to the position of chairman of the Board. The title was nice, but it was antiquated and was a vestige of an era when only men served in office. I asked the county counsel to take the necessary steps to change the title to president of the Board.

It became a national news story that appeared in the Wall Street Journal, an article that included the headline: "Eshoo to become president."

Teddy sent me a telegram that read: "I always wanted to be president, but I'm glad you got there first."

No one bore greater burdens—some of them self-inflicted. He faced them unflinchingly and with the hope that he would do better. In a scandal-besieged era, he was, again, an example to us of how to live in the public eye with humility, with humanity and with yet another kind of courage.

He said: "I recognize my own shortcomings—the faults in the conduct of my private life. I realize that I alone am responsible for them, and I am the one who must confront them. I believe that each of us as individuals must not only struggle to make a better world, but to make ourselves better, too."

When others would have scrambled for the safety of obscurity, he stood at the helm and sailed the storms.

He was flawed but in a way that makes his virtues stand even taller, for in our midst was a man who never thought of himself as a saint, but believed that the least among us deserve the greatest blessings this nation can bestow.

He was generous. He was thoughtful. He was passionate. He was courageous beyond measure.

And so it is fitting that his last large moment on the national stage should be filled with hope. This is how he lived his life. This is the gift he gave to us.

At his final Democratic convention, he harkened to his own past to paint an enduring vision of a better tomorrow that is uniquely Teddy:

"The work begins anew. The hope rises again. And the dream lives on."

So, we are saddened at his passing and in the knowledge we will never see his like again and that we will never be warmed by the sun in quite the same way.

But we are filled with the promise he believed and that he gave us, ready to do battle in his name and to extract a measure of joy from life, as he would do.

And we are comforted in the knowledge that he is with his family and his legions of friends and that he is at peace. May God grant this peace to Vicki, his great love, his precious children and his entire family.

As John Bunyan wrote in "Pilgrim's Progress":

"When the day that he must go hence was come, many accompanied him to the riverside, into which as he went, he said, 'Death, where is thy sting?' And as he went down deeper, he said, 'Grave, where is thy victory?' So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side."

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of recognizing the month of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

This special recognition started 25 years ago to highlight and raise awareness of this devastating disease.

Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among women in the U.S. other than skin cancer.

In 2009, it is estimated that in the United States there will be 192,370 new cases and 40,170 deaths from breast cancer.

Sadly, just in my District in San Bernardino County, California the breast cancer incidence was reported to be 116.6 cases per 100,000 females during the period of 2001 to 2005.

This is why we need to continue all efforts to raise awareness, not just during October but throughout the year.

As a husband, father, grandfather, and as a son—the wonderful women in my life continue to be my driving force behind trying to make a difference in this fight against breast cancer.

My efforts and passion date back to my public service in the California State Legislature.

Through the leadership of Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, I helped passed the reauthorization for the Breast Cancer Stamp, which to this date has raised over \$55 million dollars for research on breast cancer.

These efforts coupled with the month long activities of many organizations on behalf of Breast Cancer Awareness Month are necessary to ensure that all men and women across America have the tools to overcome breast cancer.

While we recognize October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we must also keep in mind that breast cancer is prevalent in our society and any healthcare reform must address this problem.

This is why passing healthcare reform that includes a ban on denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions is extremely important.

Millions of Americans combating breast cancer must not be denied coverage based on their condition at a time when these individuals need coverage the most.

We must ensure that access to adequate testing for breast cancer and patient education is readily available.

I congratulate all individuals and organizations that will hold events this month, and urge

every American to do their part to observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the citizens of the Borough of Somerville, county of Somerset, New Jersey, as they celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the incorporation of their municipality.

Although the Borough of Somerville was not incorporated until April 16, 1909, its roots lie much deeper in American history. The town of Somerville was settled in 1683 by Dutch and English immigrants as part of Bridgewater Township. The town unwaveringly aided in the fight for the independence of our Nation, including housing General George Washington from December 1778 to June 1779 while the Continental Army was stationed at Camp Middlebrook.

Until the 1840s, Somerville was a sparsely populated agricultural community. However, with the completion of the rail line in the 1840s and the development of water power in the 1850s, Somerville rapidly developed. From the abundant red clay from which Somerville was built, brick making became one of the earliest industries.

Today, Somerville is an essential hub in central New Jersey, and the seat of county government, the Somerset Board of Chosen Freeholders. Its bustling yet quaint Main Street boasts numerous boutique specialty shops and a large variety of dining options. The borough also hosts many local recreational, cultural, and historical activities, including the annual Tour of Somerville bike race, the oldest bicycle race in the United States, and both the home of the historic Wallace House and Old Dutch Parsonage. Somerville has truly become a premiere destination for visitors.

The Borough of Somerville continues to grow and prosper. Currently, the borough is in the process of completing a large redevelopment project to include a new shopping center, town homes, and many other amenities on the grounds of the former borough landfill. The project is centered around the Somerville train station and envisioned as a transit village redevelopment.

Madam Speaker, for 100 years, Somerville has been a center for local commerce, not only the citizens of Somerville, but for all of New Jersey. Somerville is truly a unique and special part of New Jersey, and I ask you, Madam Speaker, and my colleagues to congratulate all residents of Somerville on their special centennial celebration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on October 7, 2009 I missed rollcall

votes 756, 757, 758, 759 and 760. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" or "aye" on all.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY'S PIZZA
SHACK

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, LYNN WOOLSEY, to recognize and honor Mary's Pizza Shack, which has been selected as the Business of the Year by the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Not only is Mary's Pizza Shack being honored by the Chamber, but the restaurant chain is celebrating its 50th year anniversary as a mainstay in Sonoma Valley.

Family matriarch, Mary Fazio, started the business in Boyes Hot Springs with a \$700 investment and pots and pans from her own kitchen. Her dream was to have a warm, family-friendly place where people could enjoy hearty portions of her family's favorite foods at reasonable prices. It was clearly a recipe for success. Today there are 18 "Shacks" in seven counties in Northern California and this third generation-run family business is branching out this year with a new fast/casual restaurant concept to compliment to original Mary's Pizza Shacks.

But Mary's is much more than a successful business model; it is an integral part of the fabric of the community.

For generations, it is been the after-game destination for every sports team in the valley, young or old. Countless victories have been celebrated there and losses have been made a little more bearable with a pepperoni pizza or two.

Since its inception, Mary's has given back to the community through its financial support of 50 community organizations each year, through its popular "Dine and Donate" nights, and its commitment to the valley's youth. As an employer, Mary's makes it a point to hire people with disabilities.

Madam Speaker, local businesses in the small communities throughout our two Congressional districts are much more than employers. They are the backbone of a support system for projects, non-profit organizations, and our youth and civic events that would not be successful without their involvement. Like many of the businesses selected by the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce as its Business of the Year, Mary's Pizza Shack exemplifies this commitment. It is therefore appropriate for us to honor Mary's Pizza Shack, the Fazio family and all of their employees, both past and present, for 50 years of dedicated service to the Sonoma Valley.

INTRODUCING H.R. _____, DRUG
PRICE COMPETITION ACT OF 2009

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Drug Price Com-

petition Act of 2009, a bill that will help achieve some of the goals that are essential to health care reform: ensuring fair market competition and increasing access to affordable drugs.

State-of-the-art drugs have undoubtedly improved and saved lives, and consumer demand for these drugs has certainly posed an economic burden on countless Americans. Although prescription drugs account for 10 percent of total health care expenditures, it is one of the fastest-growing segments within health care spending. Consumers are not the only ones who face the cost of prescription drugs. The federal government is now the largest purchaser of drugs in the United States and accounts for roughly two-fifths of the drug consumer market.

Generic drugs cost between 80–85 percent less than brand name drugs and comprise 70 percent of all drug prescriptions that are filled in the United States today. Many have acknowledged the role that generics have played in alleviating the burden of prescription drug costs on individual and government health care spending. The Hatch-Waxman Act of 1984 established a pathway for generic drugs to receive approval from the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, and enter the consumer market. However, some generic and brand name drug companies have exploited a flaw in this Act and have restricted access to generics.

Under the Hatch-Waxman Act, the first drug company that submits an application for product approval to the FDA receives a 180-day period of exclusivity in which no other generic company is allowed to enter the market. This application is also accompanied with a challenge to the brand company's drug patent. In response, brand companies often pay generic companies large sums of money to encourage them to postpone their entry into the market.

Generic drug companies frequently comply because they can retain their 180-day period of exclusivity even if they agree to enter the market years later than was first anticipated. Additionally, generic manufactures that were not the first-to-file have no incentive to challenge the brand company's patent and potentially open the blocked markets because they would not be able to enter the market until after the 180-day exclusivity period.

Madam Speaker, the Drug Price Competition Act of 2009 is a House companion to a bill that Senator BILL NELSON of Florida introduced earlier this year. The bill targets the root of the blocked drug market problem. It allows generic companies that win patent challenges to share the 180-day exclusivity period with the generic companies that first submitted an application to the FDA. However, no subsequent challenger would be eligible to share in the exclusivity reward once the generic drug has been launched.

If enacted, first-to-file generic manufactures would be less likely to accept a late entry date because this would mean that another generic manufacturer could win a patent challenge and share the 180-day exclusivity period.

Madam Speaker, generic medications are critical to managing everything from heart disease to battling life-threatening cancer. Stymied market competition and delayed access to generic medication pose serious health and economic costs to patients and taxpayers. The Drug Price Competition Act of 2009 will effectively correct the systemic flaw in the Hatch-