

you, Ellie for all you have done and all that is still to be accomplished.

AMERICAN SAMOA TSUNAMI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, one month ago, the U.S. Territory of American Samoa was struck by the world's most powerful earthquake of 2009, which set off a tsunami that left untold damage and loss. Once more, I want to thank the Obama Administration, the U.S. Congress, and our friends in the House and Senate, including the Hawaii Delegation and the Territorial Delegates who have stood by us every step of the way.

I especially thank Senator DANIEL K. INOUE, HI, Senator DANIEL K. AKAKA, HI, Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE, HI, Congresswoman MAZIE HIRONO, HI, Congresswoman MADELINE BORDALLO, GU, Congressman GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN, MP, Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN, VI, and Congressman PEDRO PIERLUISI, PR for their unwavering support.

I also thank the many foreign nations and non-government organizations who have been so generous in helping us rebuild.

I also want to recognize Cathy Barnhardt of the Combined Airline Ticket Office, CATO, and those at the United Airlines government desk including Debbie Smith and Darlene Sacha, and also Debbie Trance-Mordecai of United Global Services at the JFK airport in New York for the outstanding service they provide at all times.

Above all, I pay tribute to the people of American Samoa for the strength, courage and faith they have shown in the face of adversity. My heart also continues to go out to the families of those who have lost loved ones, and I ask for your continued support and prayers on their behalf.

Again, I express my sincere gratitude for everyone, named and unnamed, for lending us a hand when we need it most. I appreciate your kindness and assure you that the people of American Samoa are grateful for your service.

HONORING DANIEL L. WALTER,
M.D.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Daniel L. Walter as he retires after 45 years as a Family Practice physician in Davison Michigan. Dr. Walter will be honored at a celebration on November 4.

After graduating from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1959, Dr. Walter completed an internship in Family Practice at Madigan Army Medical School and Madigan General Hospital. He was then commissioned as a Captain in the U.S. Army and served from 1960 to 1963 as a Battle Group Surgeon attached to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort

Bragg. During this time he was the recipient of the Army Commendation Medal, Senior Parachutist Badge and a U.S. Navy Commendation.

Dr. Walter established a Family Practice in Davison in 1963 once his military service was concluded. Over the years Dr. Walter has participated in numerous community and medical associations. Acknowledged and appreciated by his peers, he served in leadership positions with several organizations. Dr. Walter also committed extensive time to educating the area coaches and high school staffs about recognizing and treating sports injuries. He was the first Diplomat of the American Board of Family Practice in the Flint area. Dr. Walter and his wife, Peggy, have six children.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join his family, friends and colleagues in congratulating Dr. Daniel L. Walter on an excellent medical career. I wish him the best for many, many years ahead.

RED RIBBON WEEK

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I support Red Ribbon Week and our unified efforts against illegal drug use.

Red Ribbon Week represents the largest united effort of the American people to promote drug prevention. We must all continue to support this effort.

This dreadful problem plagues communities throughout our Nation and especially my home district in South Florida. Miami is one of the leading areas in cocaine related deaths. And an estimated 20,000 people a year die from illegal drug use throughout the United States each year.

Thankfully, over 80 million people participate in Red Ribbon week by pledging to lead a drug free life. With our encouragement we can have many more youths take this pledge.

As a former educator I know that Red Ribbon Week offers the perfect opportunity to raise awareness and help educate students at a young age on the dangers of drug use. The terrifying fact is that over 60 percent of teens reported that drugs were sold, used, or present at their schools. We must teach students about the dangers of drugs and discourage them of ever becoming involved with drugs in the first place. Only by actively engaging our children can we impress on them the importance of being drug-free.

It has been proven that when teenagers' parents talk to them regularly about the dangers of drug use, they are 42 percent less likely to use drugs. Families, adults, and children joining together for this cause have a profound impact on not only those participating, but also the communities as a whole.

We must continue to strive to increase awareness and participation in Red Ribbon Week to help stop this devastating problem of drug abuse and drug-related violence.

In this effort we must also remember those who seek to safeguard our children in the fight against drugs. Just this Monday, three Drug Enforcement Administration agents died tragically while conducting overseas operations. The agents were returning from a counter-nar-

cotics operation when the military helicopter they were riding in crashed. Seven U.S. military servicemembers were also killed in the crash.

Of these heroes, Special Agent Chad Michael was from my Congressional district and I would like to take this moment to honor his memory and sacrifice. Before being reassigned in August to a DEA operation in Afghanistan, Special Agent Michael was a member of South Florida's DEA team for six years. The DEA agents were assigned to the agency's operation against Afghanistan's opium trade, which frequently funds insurgent activity. Efforts in Afghanistan began in 2005 and in the past year have been reinforced to fully attack international drug trade and the activities it funds. Since illegal drugs have a large dependence on international sources, it is critical that we support those who help to fight this part of the drug war.

My prayers go out to Special Agent Michael's family, and to the families of all the heroes who risk their lives each day to make our country and this world safer and drug-free.

As a mother and grandmother, and for the sake of all our children, I urge all Americans to take the Red Ribbon Week pledge this and every October.

CONGRATULATING JOYCE ANN BROWN ON CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF FREEDOM AND FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam speaker, I rise to express my best wishes to celebrate the life and achievements of Joyce Ann Brown. I had the pleasure of having Ms. Brown serve on a reentry panel during the 39th Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference. Ms. Brown was unjustly convicted of a crime she did not commit and served nine years, five months and 24 days in prison before this injustice was realized and the guilty verdict was reversed. Upon release, Joyce started the not for profit organization, Mothers (Fathers) for the Advancement of Social Systems Inc. (MASS Inc.) in Dallas, TX. This organization focuses on assisting released ex-offenders reintegrating into society.

The reentry of ex-offenders is an issue of very high priority and importance to me and I am personally invested in the success of organizations like MASS, Inc. With the passage of the Second Chance Act in 2008, organizations such as MASS will benefit from additional federal grant funding to strengthen programs that aid ex-offenders in becoming productive contributing members of society.

Throughout my career, I have fought for the underserved and underrepresented and on my journey have come to admire Joyce Ann Brown for all her work and achievements in the area of social justice. Ms. Brown spent three years writing letters to appeal the atrocious injustice she faced and continued to fight upon release. Therefore, I am delighted to be included in commending Joyce Ann Brown and would like to thank her for her assistance with our work here on the hill. The organization she has created has helped many

ex-offenders as well as their families, and has provided the support needed for a healthy society.

Providing support to ex-offenders is paramount to becoming productive citizens, taxpayers, mothers and fathers. Research has shown that successful employment interventions among ex-offenders benefits not only the ex-offender, but also his or her family, social networks, communities and society at large. The benefits reaped by society through the MASS organization and the work of Joyce Ann Brown are vital to the preservation of a healthy society and should rightfully be congratulated and recognized.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on October 28, 2009, terrorists killed nearly 100 people—including dozens of women and children—when they attacked a women's market in Peshawar, Pakistan, with a car bomb. These type of heinous acts are a sad reminder of the gruesome tactics used by those who want to undermine stability in Pakistan and the region as well as threaten American families and our allies. I wish to express my deepest sympathies to the people of Pakistan—an ally of the United States in the global war on terrorism.

In the wake of these most recent attacks, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton—who was on the ground in Pakistan at the time—correctly stated that those terrorists who perpetrate these types of murderous acts are “on the losing side of history.” This is why we must continue to fight to defeat the terrorists overseas to protect American families here at home. We must stand with the people of Pakistan and the people of Afghanistan to protect and defend democracy and freedom.

I know firsthand of the sacrifices of the Pakistani people. I was honored to have breakfast with former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at her home in Islamabad four weeks and a day before she was murdered. The brave people of Pakistan responded to this brutal attack with resolve to continue building a civil society.

PREVENTING EXTORTION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, the following essay was presented to me at a health care townhall. I believe this historical analogy is very sound.

PREVENTING EXTORTION

(By Jack Churchill)

The debate about a public health insurance option mirrors the debate about public power in the 1920's and 30's. The arguments then were very similar to the arguments we hear today.

The principal issue then was whether the federal government should enter the public

power business by investing taxpayers' money to build the Tennessee Valley Authority and to harness the Columbia and other rivers for electrical energy or the sites should be transferred to the private sector. A second issue was who should build transmission lines and set wholesale prices when the Federal government built dams.

The answer to the second question was first enunciated on the Senate floor in the fight over the Wilson Dam in 1920 by Senator John Sharp Williams of Tennessee. He said “The government should have somewhere a producer of these things that should furnish a productive element to stop and check private profiteering.” Thus was born the yardstick federal policy which later found its way into TVA legislation through the efforts of Nebraska's Senator George Norris. In a 1932 campaign speech in Portland, Oregon, Franklin Roosevelt referred to his TVA and other regional proposals as “yardsticks to prevent extortion against the public.”

Roosevelt's statement enunciated America's public power agenda, which through the years has saved the federal government and electrical consumers hundreds of billions of today's dollars. This public investment provided the electrical energy to build the bombers and the atomic bomb and was a critical factor in winning World War II.

At the time of the Yardstick Public Power legislation of the 1930's, most of the farms and homes in rural America were without electrical power. Only in the cities could private power companies make a profit selling electrical energy. With the launching of the New Deal yardstick pricing, together with publicly owned electrical cooperatives and public utility districts, rural America was electrified and private utilities ended up serving a large majority of rural consumers.

Because we adopted yardstick pricing back in the 30's, today America possesses a healthy and balanced mix of private, public, and cooperative electrical systems.

The public power analogy might be a useful device in combating the brutal campaign against a federal public health insurance option. History is repeating itself. We see the same epithets of socialism, unfair competition, and government interference with private enterprise.

Both America's constitutional system of government and our free enterprise economic system are built upon the fundamental notion of balancing power between institutions. It is only when there is an imbalance of power within one of the two systems or the share of power between them that we fail. Recent disasters created by imbalance, including Enron and California energy manipulation and the collapse of the American banking system, wiping out our citizens' retirement accounts, are painful examples.

Most importantly and perhaps most painful for great numbers of our citizens today, America trails all developed countries by many years in fashioning an effective national health services delivery system.

There is no industry that has a more shared and complex mix of nonprofit, government, and private for-profit delivery systems. Yet we have a system that is neither cost-effective nor meets the needs of our citizens whether insured or not. It is a system that is out of balance. It desperately needs an effective yardstick.

The imbalance in our system began in 1975 when the Supreme Court gave the green light to commercialization of medicine by removing medicine from protection of the antitrust laws. The imbalance was greatly exacerbated in 1980 when the American Medical Association changed its ethical guidelines to declare that medicine was no longer a professional service but both a business

and a profession. The other factor of great influence that has led to imbalance is the dominance of investor-owned private insurance companies born from the establishment of employer-based health insurance systems.

Thus began the corporatizing and domination of Wall Street in organizing and pricing for-profit medical services. Rather than a system organized to deliver cost-effective medical services to patients, today we have a system designed for profit.

Despite the roles of federal Medicare, state Medicaid, members of Congress health care programs, federal delivery systems such as the Veterans Administration, and nonprofit group health cooperative associations, the balance of power in our national health care delivery system is now largely in the hands of Wall Street-driven for-profit enterprises. Every medical procedure from putting on surgical gloves to sending bills to the insurance company has become a profit center. And the pricing for all the services are set largely in an oligarchical framework of administered pricing. There is absolutely no competitive pricing. Have you or anyone you know ever negotiated the price of medical service?

So history repeats itself. The Democratic party is charged with formulating another national yardstick policy that will have enormous consequences for the health and welfare of our citizens in generations to come. Like Franklin Roosevelt, President Obama is simply leading the nation to create sufficient power in the public sector to balance against the private sector and the Wall Street pricing effect. Or in President Roosevelt's words, “a yardstick to prevent extortion against the public.” And as President Obama stated the issue “to keep insurance companies honest.”

The failure of Congress to build in an effective market yardstick for pricing medical services would cost future generations trillions and fail to deliver cost-effective medical care to all our citizens. No amount of regulation will suffice. Only the market mechanism will provide effective cost reduction to pay for universal coverage.

OCTOBER BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Besides skin cancers, breast cancer is the most common cancer occurring among American women. In 2009, it is estimated that around 179,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in the United States. And, an estimated 1 million new breast cancer cases will be identified in the coming year. For approximately 500,000 patients this year, this disease will be fatal. The time to address this problem is now.

I encourage all women to get a mammogram because early detection is the key to beating this disease. A time commitment of only one hour can save your life.

I am a proud sponsor of H.R. 1691, the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act of 2009. This bill would prohibit a health care provider from limiting hospital stays for mastectomy or breast-conserving surgery to less than 48 hours. However, this measure protects and defers to the physician-patient relationship by not mandating a certain hospital stay if both