

## IMPROVING ACCESS TO CLINICAL TRIALS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2010*

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, many years ago, I had the good fortune to meet Joey O'Donnell. Joey was the son of my close friend from Malden, Massachusetts, Joe O'Donnell. Joey was a brave and resilient child despite suffering from Cystic Fibrosis, CF, a cruel disorder that robs the body of the ability to breathe normally and leads to other debilitating health problems. As a result, CF typically cuts lives tragically short.

In 1986, Joey passed away when he was only 12-years-old. Because of Joey and the tireless work of his father Joe and mother Kathy, who encouraged me to intensify Government efforts to combat CF, I decided to found the Bi-Partisan Cystic Fibrosis Caucus in Congress. Our goal has been to raise awareness and build momentum towards a cure for CF, ALS, Parkinson's, Huntington's and other rare disorders.

I was pleased to partner with my colleague, Representative CLIFF STEARNS (R-FL), in passing the Improving Access to Clinical Trials Act and sending it to the White House to be signed into law. This bill will open up participation in clinical trials for diseases like CF to low-income and other patients. The bill excludes from the income caps set for the Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid programs the compensation that these patients receive for their participation in clinical trials for rare diseases. The legislation will ensure that this modest compensation will not affect eligibility for these programs.

Patients will no longer have to choose between their health benefits and the promise of a clinical trial. If we want to increase the chances of finding cures to diseases like Cystic Fibrosis, we also need to increase participation in these trials. The Improving Access to Clinical Trials Act gives low-income individuals a higher probability to help advance medical science, and helps save lives in the process, hopefully including their own.

The bill we passed yesterday and the law that President Obama will enact with his signature is really "Joey O'Donnell's Law". He inspired it, and his name will forever be associated with it. Joey died before his time, but his impact will be timeless. I salute my friend Joe O'Donnell and his wife Kathy and send my best wishes to the entire O'Donnell family. I also want to recognize my friend Bob Coughlin, President and CEO of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, for his tireless work to help find cures to CF and other rare disorders. This new law will offer hope to families around the country and bring us closer to the day when we consign these devastating diseases to the history books.

## TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF LARRY WILLIAMS

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tremendous public servant, whose heart was bigger than his six-foot-seven-inch frame. Sheriff Larry Williams served the citizens of Orangeburg County as a law enforcement officer for 33 years. We have lost this beloved lawman, but his influence and compassion for the people he served will live on.

Larry Williams was born in Bamberg County in 1956, to the late George Williams and Willie Mae Carson Williams. He was educated in the public schools of Branchville, and went on to attend South Carolina State University. He later earned his bachelor's degree from Claflin University in Criminal Justice with a minor in Sociology. Sheriff Williams gave back to his alma mater, joining the faculty as an adjunct professor of criminology and forensic science.

His career in law enforcement began as a police officer in the City of Orangeburg Police Department in 1977. After two years, he became a residential deputy with the Orangeburg Sheriff's Department. He quickly rose through the ranks to become a supervisor, and in 2000, he was elected Sheriff.

He received numerous recognitions for his dedicated service. In 2003, the South Carolina Sheriff's Association selected him as Sheriff of the Year, an outstanding accomplishment for a first term Sheriff. That same year he was recognized as an innovative Sheriff of Homeland Security. He also received recognition from the U.S. Marshals Service for his commitment to Operation Intercept.

Sheriff Williams established himself as a formidable lawman, who was well respected for his efforts to reduce the crime rate in Orangeburg County. His effectiveness won him the prestigious Strom Thurmond Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement and the Regional Organized Crime Institute's 2007 Gold Medalion Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement. That same year, he was selected as the Orangeburg County Community of Character Award winner for the character trait of "Citzenship."

In 2008 Sheriff Williams received the Criminal Justice Award from the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network. In 2010, the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Department under his leadership was a finalist in the Crime Victims Services Award from the National Sheriffs' Association. He was also recognized with the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal by the Battle of Eutaw Springs Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution in 2010.

Sheriff Williams always worked to improve his service as a law enforcement official. In 2002, he graduated from the 82nd session of the South Carolina Sheriff's Institute of Longmont, Colorado. Then in 2009, he completed the 62nd session of the Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar.

He served 3 years as a Crime Victim Services committee member for the National Sheriffs' Association. He was also a member of the South Carolina Association of Countywide Elected Executives, the executive board for

the Salvation Army, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Palmetto State Law Enforcement Officers' Association, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He volunteered his time with the United States Youth Games of South Carolina.

A man of faith, Sheriff Williams was a member of Canaan Baptist Church in Branchville and an honorary member of First Nazareth Baptist Church in Columbia.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in recognizing this giant in the law enforcement community. Sheriff Williams was an extraordinary advocate of his beloved Orangeburg County and a wonderful role model for young people. He made a lasting mark on his community, our state and our nation. We all owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude, and we can best honor his memory by immolating his commitment to public service.

## TRIBUTE TO RETIRING COLONEL ERIC N. SINGLE

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that Colonel Eric N. Single is retiring from the United States Air Force after 29 years of distinguished service.

Colonel Single received his commission in 1981 through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Auburn University, AL. He graduated from pilot training at Williams Air Force Base, AZ in 1983, and has extensive experience in the B-52G, B-52H and B2 bombers as an aircraft commander, instructor and evaluator. In 1991, Colonel Single deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm, flying 26 combat sorties in the B-52 over Iraq and Kuwait. He graduated from the U. S. Air Force Weapons School in 1992 and was selected as initial cadre for the B-2 program.

In 1998 Colonel Single took command of the 393d Bomb Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, MO, where he led the B-2 through its combat debut in the skies over Kosovo. Colonel Single not only led his Squadron to success in Operation Allied Force, he acted as flight lead and Mission Commander on the very first B-2 combat mission earning him a Distinguished Flying Cross and a place in aviation history. His courageous flight proved once and for all the true value of stealth and long range strike.

After his historic flight Colonel Single served on the Joint Staff in the Force Integration Branch. He went on to command the 5th Operations Group at Minot Air Force Base, ND and the 40th Air Expeditionary Operations Group on Diego Garcia, BIOT. Prior to his current assignment in Air Force Global Power Acquisition, Col Single served as the Vice Commander, 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman Air force Base, MO.

Colonel Single is a Command Pilot with over 5200 hours. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster; Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster; Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters; Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters; Aerial

Achievement Medal; Air Force Commendation Medal; Air Force Achievement Medal; Combat Readiness Medal with four oak leaf clusters; National Defense Service Medal with bronze star; Southwest Asia Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; and Kuwait Liberation Medal, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Madam Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Colonel Eric N. Single for his exceptional commitment to the United States Air Force and the United States of America.

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MEDIA OUTLET FIRES JOURNALIST WHO CRITICIZED DEMOCRATS

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**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, for journalists who criticize Democrats, the punishment can be severe.

ABC's Washington, DC affiliate recently fired veteran anchorman Doug McKelway after he broadcast a negative report about President Obama and congressional Democrats, according to the Washington Post.

During the Gulf oil spill, McKelway reported that an anti-oil demonstration attracted protesters from "far-left environmental groups."

He also mentioned that President Obama accepted over \$77,000 in campaign contributions from BP.

And he said that the Senate was unlikely to pass cap-and-trade legislation this year because Democrats don't want to "propose a huge escalation in your electric bill" before Election Day.

Although McKelway's comments were true, he was subsequently fired.

This is yet another example of the media protecting President Obama.

The media should give Americans the facts, not fire journalists who tell the truth.

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COMMENDING JOEL WERNICK

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**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has greatly improved the medical community of Georgia, Joel Wernick.

For over 20 years, Mr. Wernick has served as president and CEO of Phoebe Putney Health System in Albany, Georgia. Through his stewardship, Phoebe Putney has thrived. The number of physicians has doubled. The facility has grown by several million square feet, and state-of-the-art technologies are now available to the patients.

Phoebe Putney Health System is the region's largest employer, and is comprised of Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, a 450-bed tertiary care teaching hospital and Phoebe Worth Medical Center, a critical access rural hospital. Phoebe Putney Health System also manages the Southwest Georgia Regional Medical Center, Georgia's first critical access hospital, in Cuthbert, Georgia. Phoebe Putney

oversees the Southwest Georgia Family Medicine Residency and is the site for the Medical College of Georgia's first satellite clinical campus.

In 2008, Phoebe Putney Health System helped to rebuild and expand the Sumter hospital in Americus, Georgia, after it was destroyed by a tornado; Sumter Regional Hospital is now Phoebe Sumter Medical Center and is a diversified health care system, complete with Inpatient and Outpatient Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services, Outpatient Surgery Services, Hospice, Rural Health Care Centers, Migrant Health, School Nurse Program and numerous physician specialties and office practices.

Through Mr. Wernick's excellent guidance, Phoebe has been recognized nationally for excellence in clinical quality, operations and community health. In 2004, Phoebe was presented the prestigious American Hospital Association's Foster G. McGaw Prize. Additionally, the health system became the first hospital recipient of a Discovery Health Channel Medical Honor. Phoebe also has won three Voluntary Hospitals of America, VHA Leadership Awards and the American Hospital Association's Nova Award for an innovative teen pregnancy prevention program.

Mr. Wernick is a native of Arkansas and a proud Razorback, receiving his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Arkansas, and earned his master's degree in hospital administration from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio.

He is married to Stacy Wernick, née Paul. They have one daughter, Lilly Katherine. Besides his involvement with multiple local, state and national organizations, he takes time to teach as a member of the Georgia Southwestern MBA faculty. He has been a Rotarian since 1982, and is a Paul Harris Fellow.

Mr. Wernick is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and is director of the VHA. He is also on the board of VHA-Georgia, the Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals, and he is Chairman of the Medical Resource Network, a statewide managed care network. Mr. Wernick is actively involved in many local civic and economic development initiatives. He currently chairs the Southwest Georgia Alliance for Progress, a regional coalition to strengthen economic, educational and cultural infrastructures.

Madam Speaker, Joel Wernick has greatly contributed to the lives of those in his community and across the State of Georgia through his leadership of Phoebe Putney. This year, he has been recognized by Georgia Trend magazine for his significant contributions, having been named one of the State's top 25 leaders. According to Georgia Trend, he "has guided the hospital to a period of historic growth in staff, revenues and new services, and has expanded the facility's presence in vastly underserved areas in Southwest Georgia." For his dedication to our region, I wish to commend and congratulate an outstanding leader and my friend, Mr. Joel Wernick, on this significant accomplishment.

MARKING "TED HOGAN DAY"

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**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on September 18, 2010, the city of Crane, Texas honored one of her own by proclaiming "Ted Hogan Day." Today, it is my distinct pleasure to mark that day here in the United States House of Representatives.

Ted Hogan, Sr. was honored for his outstanding citizenship and his loyalty to the people of Crane, but his true worth to his community goes far beyond that.

As an active member of the Crane Lions Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion, the Masons, and several local churches, Mr. Hogan was a fixture in Crane, constantly devoting his time to make his hometown a safe, friendlier, and more prosperous city. I am particularly proud to brag on Mr. Hogan's work on behalf of the children and young adults in Crane.

Through the Boy Scouts, the Masons, his church, and more, Mr. Hogan has devoted his life to lifting and building up the next generation of Americans. His work has helped sick children receive medical care, turn boys into men, and give a moral foundation to the young people in his church. Every citizen in Crane, young and old, has benefitted from Mr. Hogan's generosity with his time and wisdom. It is a fitting tribute that they chose to honor him and the work he has done.

It is one of my great pleasures as a Member of Congress to share brief sketches of the life's work of my constituents with the Members of this House, and Mr. Hogan is no different. He is part of a generation of Americans who understood that our country can only be great if we give more than we take and we invest in the institutions that serve future generations of Americans. Our nation would be a better place if more Americans walked in his footsteps.

On behalf of the citizens of the 11th district of Texas, I would like to echo our neighbors in Crane and thank Mr. Hogan for his service to God, his family, and his community. I am humbled to be able to represent him in the halls of Congress.

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CONGRATULATING ALTOONA CURVE

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**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate the Altoona Curve on winning the 2010 championship of Minor League Baseball's Eastern League.

The Altoona Curve is a Double-A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates that began play in Altoona in 1999. This is the Curve's first title after four previous trips to the league playoffs.

The Curve are a hit in Central Pennsylvania. The franchise was named minor league baseball's best in 2006, and the team continues to provide great entertainment during the summer months for hundreds of thousands of loyal fans.