

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING MEDRAD ON
2010 MALCOLM BALDRIGE NA-
TIONAL QUALITY AWARD

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize MEDRAD Incorporated as a recipient of the 2010 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award—the nation's highest presidential honor for excellence in manufacturing.

MEDRAD began in the kitchen of its founder, Dr. M. Stephen Heilman, more than forty years ago and continues to showcase western Pennsylvania as a leader in medical technology. Today, the company manufactures cutting edge medical devices used for diagnosing and treating diseases. MEDRAD's international headquarters are located in my district and it employs more than 1,400 individuals throughout the Pittsburgh region.

The company is recognized as a market leader in the United States and Europe as it continues to produce quality medical equipment for healthcare providers and patients. MEDRAD has been a pioneer in medical imaging technology, enabling doctors to get specific scans that lead to faster, more accurate treatment. The company has also been an excellent source of job creation and economic development in western Pennsylvania. It has helped the region transform itself from one dominated by the steel industry and manufacturing to an emerging medical, life-science, and technology hub.

The Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recognizes exemplary companies committed to high achievement and superior performance strategies. Congress established the award in 1987 in an effort to enhance the competitiveness of U.S. businesses through recognition of model companies.

Madam Speaker, since 1988 only 86 organizations have received this award. As a previous recipient of this award in 2003, MEDRAD becomes one of only five repeat-winners in the award's 23-year history.

I would like to extend my congratulations to MEDRAD and its employees for receiving the 2010 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

CLAIMS RESOLUTION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the motion to concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 4783. I applaud Chairman RAHALL for his work on this legislation and commend Speaker PELOSI and

Leader HOYER for bringing this legislation to the floor.

The Senate amendments to H.R. 4783 include, among other provisions, the funds necessary to implement settlements reached in the Pigford case brought by black farmers who were discriminated against by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, between 1983 and 1997.

These farmers were denied farm loans and related financial assistance—such as disaster assistance—or were forced to wait so long to receive such assistance that many of them suffered significant financial loss and even the foreclosure of their property.

Perhaps not surprisingly given how the USDA had already treated them, many of these farmers were subsequently unable to obtain justice from the USDA when they brought discrimination complaints to the agency.

Multiple studies of the USDA's lending process revealed the scope of the discrimination inherent in the USDA's practices, showing that the agency awarded a disproportionate portion of aid to white farmers and even to major corporations—and had made significantly larger awards to white farmers. Discrepancies were noted particularly in the provision of disaster assistance payments.

I note that according to the 2007 Census, the average annual market value of African American-owned farms was less than \$31,000. By comparison, the average value of farms owned by white farmers exceeded \$140,000—and many of the corporations that were receiving USDA payments were worth millions of dollars.

While the USDA changed its practices in the late 1990s, the agency remained unable or simply unwilling to rectify the harm its discriminatory action had caused to black farmers—leading Timothy Pigford to file a class action lawsuit seeking relief.

A settlement resolving this suit was approved in 1999—and according to the Congressional Research Service, as of September 2010, nearly 7,000 of the 22,721 farmers eligible to join this class action suit had received approved adjudications.

However, many thousands more who suffered discrimination and were eligible to receive a settlement have still not received an adjudication—or missed the deadline to submit a claim under the original settlement.

Subsequently, Congress enacted legislation permitting those who had not received a determination to petition for one in civil court. And in February of this year, the Obama administration reached a \$1.25 billion settlement of these so-called “Pigford II” claims.

The Senate amendments to H.R. 4783 include the funds necessary to pay these claims and bring closure to thousands of families who have waited for so many years for this restitution.

I note that the Senate amendments also include the funds necessary to resolve suits brought by Native Americans pertaining to the mismanagement by the Department of the Interior of natural resource royalty funds.

The finalization of these funds is a critical step that we take as a nation to show the world that we are truly committed to equality, and that we are a nation where every person is treated fairly, regardless of race, creed or color. We are also a nation where even the Federal Government is not above the law—as evidenced by the payment of reparations to those who have been harmed by the government's illegal and discriminatory acts.

I urge the adoption of the Senate amendments to H.R. 4783.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF THEODORE C. SORENSEN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Theodore C. “Ted” Sorensen, peerless wordsmith and presidential counselor, who died on October 31, 2010, only a week before the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's election.

Born in Lincoln, Nebraska, Ted Sorensen always mused about the impact that Lincoln—the President and the place—had on his life. He grew up immersed in the language and lore of Lincoln, excelling at speech and debate and engaging in impassioned discussions with his father, C.A. Sorensen, Nebraska's Attorney General and a close associate of the progressive Republican Senator George Norris. By the time Ted Sorensen made his way to Washington DC after graduating with honors from the University of Nebraska and its law school, his rigorous, homespun upbringing made him the perfect partner for Kennedy.

Joining Kennedy's staff as a legislative aide only days after Kennedy's election to the Senate, Ted Sorensen remained with him until the fateful day in Dallas that forever changed America. For a decade, they were inseparable. Kennedy called Ted Sorensen his “intellectual blood bank,” and Ted often said that he could finish Kennedy's sentences for him. Together they renewed our commitment to civil rights, averted a nuclear war, and began the race to reach the stars. Their unique and enduring relationship defined a decade, and in concert they called on a nation to serve and to sacrifice.

Though shattered by loss, Ted Sorensen did not let unspeakable tragedy silence him. He wrote and lectured widely on public affairs, publishing a bestselling Kennedy biography and his own memoirs. He practiced law, aided candidates and officeholders, and mentored a younger generation of writers. As one of the last living links to the Kennedy legacy, Ted Sorensen felt a special responsibility to share the spirit of his fallen friend. After Ted's passing, Caroline Kennedy thanked him for “his guidance, his generosity of spirit and the special time he took to teach my children about

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

their grandfather." For 82 years, he remained committed to the same people and principles. In the final analysis, Ted Sorensen was sustained by the world of words, just as his words sustained the world.

How do we honor a man whose own enduring words pay him far greater tribute than ours ever could? Paying tribute to Nebraska Senator George Norris, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed the following criteria: "History asks, 'Did the man have integrity? Did the man have unselfishness? Did the man have courage? Did the man have consistency?'" Like his lifelong political hero Norris, this much Ted Sorensen had—and more.

Much more than a counselor to a president, Ted Sorensen was the keeper of the Kennedy flame, and the conscience and unrivaled communicator of liberalism in America. Largely thanks to him, Kennedy campaigned in poetry and governed in the same manner. Ted Sorensen's speeches were poetry written in the meter of American memory, and it is fitting that he has become part of our national narrative himself as his prose takes its place in the pantheon of the past. Together with his friend and political patron, Ted Sorensen lit a fire, and the glow from that fire continues to truly light the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest condolences to Ted's wife, Gillian Martin Sorensen; his children, Eric, Stephen, Philip, and Juliet; his seven grandchildren; his brother, Philip; and his sister, Ruth. Ted Sorensen was the last and the best of the New Frontier, and words cannot adequately express his impact. We have lost the man who challenged our country to live up to its promise in liquid, living prose. His words and his work will live on in the muted marble of the Kennedy gravesite, and in the hearts and minds of all those who thrilled to his vision of a kinder, more just America. He and President Kennedy inspired me and drew me to public service, and I am especially blessed to pay tribute to this extraordinary American. Ted Sorensen has drafted the words and the blueprint; now, the trumpet summons us once more, and again the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans. We mourn his passing and we accept his final challenge to realize our Nation's best ideals.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE PAUL W. TRESSLER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Paul W. Tressler who is retiring after faithfully serving the people of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania as a judge, prosecutor and public defender for much of the last four decades.

Judge Tressler's distinguished public service career started as a prosecutor in the District Attorney's Office in 1968, eventually organizing and supervising the County's first Narcotics Task Force and serving as head of the appellate division. Appointed by Gov. Richard Thornburgh to fill a vacancy on the bench in April 1983, Judge Tressler later that year was

elected to a full term and has held the job since then.

Improving the adjudication process for juveniles, and ensuring the effectiveness of the various programs for young offenders, have been hallmarks of Judge Tressler's tenure. As Juvenile Judge, he established the first truancy program in Montgomery County and played a central role in securing a grant to establish a model program to prevent children from being held in secured detention for more than six hours. Thanks to Judge Tressler's hard work and dedication as Administrative Juvenile Judge, County juvenile agencies have been recognized with numerous prestigious state and national awards, including Shelter Education Program of the Year, the Residential Program of the Year, the Outstanding Detention Program and the Community Service and Victim Services Award. He is sharing his tremendous knowledge as an instructor with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, currently teaching prosecutorial practices in its child abuse and exploitation course.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the outstanding service and extraordinary career of the Honorable Paul W. Tressler and all who dedicate their careers to the pursuit of justice.

HONORING WILLIS EDWARDS

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Civil Rights icon Willis Edwards for being honored during tonight's "Heroes in the Struggle" gala in recognition of his commitment to HIV/AIDS activism.

For decades, Mr. Edwards has been dedicated to maintaining a national dialogue on HIV/AIDS. As a member of the National Board of the NAACP he helped to establish the HIV/AIDS Committee of the NAACP, and has served as a member of that committee since 1997. He has spoken across the country and around the world on HIV/AIDS issues, and served as Associate Producer for the film "The Faces of AIDS."

Too often people do not want to confront the HIV/AIDS epidemic, but it is advocates like Mr. Edwards who remind us that millions of people around the world continue to contract and to suffer from this deadly virus.

HIV/AIDS is but one of the many areas for which Mr. Edwards has served as a leader and advocate over the course of his lifetime, and I am pleased to offer my congratulations for this award he so clearly deserves.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, Monday, November 29, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 5877 and H. Res. 771 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I

been able to vote. Last night I was conducting a meeting with local businesses in my district and was unable to travel to Washington, DC in time for the votes.

Had I been present on rollcall No. 581 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 5877, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 655 Centre Street in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, as the "Lance Corporal Alexander Scott Arredondo, United States Marine Corps Post Office Building", I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present on rollcall No. 582 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 771, Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Mesothelioma Awareness Day, I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 6464, THE "FIREFIGHTER SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2010"

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 6464, the "Firefighter Safety Enhancement Act of 2010". This bill helps address the needs of this country's dedicated heroes—our firefighters—who risk their lives every day as they race to save ours. Many of these brave men and women, whether they are volunteer, on-call, or career firefighters, are in dire need of new and up-to-date fire stations and training facilities. We truly need to address this matter, because their duties already place firefighters' lives and health in danger, and we should not allow them to work in facilities that also put them at risk.

I have seen firsthand in my own district that our fire stations are deteriorating and many are beyond repair. In Virginia, Minnesota, the fire station is more than 100 years old. It was originally designed for horse-drawn apparatus, and the floor is so stressed that giant timbers have been used to support the structure so the fire engines do not fall through the floor into the basement. In Pine City and Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota, the fire stations outlived their usefulness decades ago.

We expect our Nation's firefighters to protect us, and yet we have not provided them with the necessary fire stations and training facilities that help us protect them. When he was running for President a number of years ago, Senator John Kerry said, "we shouldn't be opening firehouses in Baghdad and closing them down in our own communities." That message remains as true today as it was then.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6464, the "Firefighter Safety Enhancement Act of 2010".

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE MARY CURTIS DAVEY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the long life and lasting legacy of