

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF DARCY POHLAND

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness I rise today to mourn the passing of my friend and Minnesota news pioneer, Darcy Pohland.

Ms. Pohland was born in Mendota Heights, Minnesota and graduated from Sibley High School. She started her career as an intern at WCCO-TV's Washington, D.C. bureau while attending George Washington University.

In 1963 Pohland accidentally dove into the shallow end of her apartment's swimming pool and broke her neck, causing permanent paralysis from the chest down. After months of rehabilitation at the University of Minnesota, Pohland was hired by WCCO-TV in 1986 as a part-time dispatcher and quickly worked her way to the assignment desk in 1989. In August of 1994, she became one of the nation's first quadriplegic reporters when she was assigned as a full-time local news reporter. Soon she was covering top stories, making her one of WCCO's top reporters.

She will be remembered for being positive, opinionated, and smart. Her love of Minnesota sports was second to none. Most of all, Darcy will be remembered for being the friend you could always count on.

Madam Speaker, the world is a smaller place because of the passing of Darcy Pohland.

A TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROBERT PURCELL

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Air Force Colonel Bob Purcell who died in Fort Worth, Texas, on December 6, 2009.

He was born on February 14, 1931 in Louisville to the late William Tilden Purcell and Mary Baldwin Purcell. He was a 1949 graduate of St. Xavier High School in Louisville. Upon graduating from St. Xavier, he attended the University of Louisville, Speed Scientific School. He attended primary flight training at Marianna Air Base in Marianna, Florida. He received his basic training at Greenville Air Force Base in Mississippi. He graduated in December 1954 as a 2nd lieutenant and also received his pilot wings. He went to advanced training in the F-100, assigned to Kadena AFB in Okinawa. He subsequently upgraded to the F-105 and flew combat missions in Vietnam until he was shot down on July 27, 1965. He was the 17th American captured. He remained a prisoner of war for seven-and-a-half years. He repatriated on February 12th, 1973.

After repatriation, he returned to school and completed studies earning a BA from Bellarmine University and an MA in Political Science from Auburn University. He was also a graduate of the United States Air Force Air University Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base. He finished a distinguished Air Force career as a full Colonel.

After he retired from the Air Force, Percy became a simulator pilot Instructor with American Airlines in Ft. Worth, Texas. He was a former member of St. Louis Bertrand Catholic Church in Louisville where he also attended elementary school.

He loved his family, his friends and his country. He was a true American hero, and I am honored that we live among such men of courage and character.

THE REPUBLICAN MYTH OF SOLVING HEALTH CARE WITH TORT REFORM

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to debunk some of the health care myths we've heard from my friends across the aisle. Listening to my Republican colleagues, you'd think that lawyers were single handedly responsible for breaking our health care system. It's one of the major pillars of their health care proposal they recently unveiled and has long been one of their favorite talking points. They seem to have little else to talk about when it comes to health reform.

I have always believed that you can have your own opinion but you can't have your own facts. For years, Republicans have claimed that because patients are able to sue doctors at whim for inordinate sums of money, doctors have been forced to buy expensive malpractice insurance. This system, they say, is one of the major causes of the nation's beleaguered health care system. But it seems Republicans have been very inventive with their facts.

A new report from Public Citizen undercuts the Republican refrain that health care costs have skyrocketed because doctors have been forced to practice "defensive medicine." The report found that the value of malpractice payments is actually at its lowest since 1999, and when adjusted for inflation, malpractice payments are at their lowest since 1992. The report goes on to show that for five consecutive years, the number of medical malpractice payments has fallen and for six straight years, the value of malpractice payments has fallen. Have we seen a corresponding decrease in health care costs for the last five years? Absolutely not. Quite the opposite, in fact: health care spending rose a staggering 83 percent between 2000 and 2009, while malpractice payments actually fell 8 percent during the same period. Litigation costs were found to be

less than one-half of one percent of health care costs. Blaming our health care crisis on litigation costs is just baloney.

So instead of looking into how we can hold the insurance industry more accountable, my Republican colleagues have made a boogeyman out of devilish trial lawyers. But medical malpractice costs have been wholly stagnant and represent an inconsequential portion of our total health care spending. It's time the Republicans brought some new ideas to the table.

The rest of us know the real reasons why our health care costs are spiraling out of control. Medical inflation continues to outpace general inflation. Insurance companies are making record profits and rewarding their executives with jaw-dropping salaries. The third quarter net income for Humana was almost \$300 million, a 65 percent increase from the third quarter of 2008. The CEO of Aetna made almost \$24 million last year while the CEO of WellPoint made nearly \$10 million. In many areas of the country, people can only get health insurance from only one or two companies, and with such diminished market competition, those companies can charge whatever they want. And the list goes on and on. But my Republican colleagues have conveniently buried their head in the sand and have literally chosen to ignore 99.5 percent of the reasons for our nation's broken health care system.

Sure, it is easy to demonize the trial lawyers. But if we fail to address the true reasons for rapidly escalating health care costs, we will never fix the real problems we're facing and health care costs will continue to skyrocket. To do otherwise would force prevent us from taking this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get reform right. While I know the final health reform bill will be far from perfect, it will still include meaningful and enduring reforms that will drive down costs and help millions of Americans. In the meantime, I hope my Republican colleagues will find themselves a new theme song.

INTRODUCTION OF "THE NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1 PRESERVATION ACT OF 2010"

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I am here today to introduce "The Next Generation 9-1-1 Preservation Act of 2010." This bill represents the hard work of my colleague and E9-1-1 Caucus Co-Chair, ANNA ESHOO, as well as our Senate Co-Chair counterparts, Senators AMY KLOBUCHAR and RICHARD BURR.

Representative ESHOO and I have worked on 911 issues for many years and I appreciate her reaching across the aisle to work on these issues. As we both sit on the Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction on these issues,

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

it was only logical that seven years ago we would work together to start this Caucus. This year we welcomed two new Senate Co-Chairs, Senator KLOBUCHAR and Senator BURR who are going to be shepherding this important legislation on the Senate side. I know they share our concerns with E911 service and understand the unique importance of ensuring this technology will expand to the areas that need it most.

Moving forward to "Next Generation 9-1-1" is one of the most important aspects of our legislation. Encouraging rural communities like Illinois' 19th district to invest in these critical technologies is what our Caucus and this legislation are hoping to achieve. My goal, along with my Caucus Co-Chairs is to bring attention for the need for true interoperability in these call centers and ensure that all Americans can have access to these critical emergency services.

Finally, one of the most important parts of our bill is to correct the problem of states diverting their 9-1-1 funds to support other programs. The Next Generation 9-1-1 Preservation Act prevents states that divert funds from receiving the grants in the legislation. In tough economic times I can see how it would be tempting for states to reach into 911 funds but we simply cannot allow these important tax dollars to be used for something other than critical 911 services.

I am proud to be an original sponsor of this legislation and look forward to working with my good friend Representative ESHOO and my Senate Co-Chairs on getting this legislation signed into law.

RECOGNIZING LESTER A. STUMPE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Lester A. Stumpe, an engineer with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) for nearly 3 decades. As an engineer, Lester played a key role in protecting the rivers and streams in northeast Ohio. I am saddened to learn that Lester died on Sunday, March 7 after a 5-year struggle with cancer.

Lester Stumpe had more than 30 years of experience designing and directing a variety of efforts to protect and enhance our water resources. He conducted numerous large-scale multifaceted facilities planning and watershed studies. In total, he directed or managed more than \$20 million in engineering and technical studies that have resulted in several hundred million dollars in constructed projects.

Lester served on a variety of boards and committees to further environmental and infrastructure goals in the Greater Cleveland area. Through his studies and activities, Lester has greatly contributed to our knowledge and protection efforts of both West Creek and Mill Creek, major tributaries to the Cuyahoga River.

Lester was passionately concerned for the streams and watershed areas of Northeast Ohio. His job title was NEORS's "Manager of Watershed Programs, Policy and Technical Support." But for Lester, this was much more than a job or title. Protecting our region's watersheds was Lester's life mission. Even while

battling cancer, Lester lit up with enthusiasm when he communicated his ideas about how to make the Cleveland area's watersheds cleaner and more habitable to the species meant to live there, including the human species.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Lester and expressing condolences to his wife, Marcia Mauter, his children Meagan, Melissa and Justin Mauter, his mother Dorothy, his sister Ruth Tofle, and the many friends, relatives, and colleagues who mourn his loss.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I was unable to make the vote on H.R. 2847 due to the untimely death and funeral of one of my staffers' father.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "Nay." If there is one thing the American people agree upon it's that major changes are necessary in order to dig ourselves out of this spending quagmire. The American people want us to reform our spending practices so that our economy can be prosperous once again.

The irony of this "Jobs" bill is that it includes a net tax revenue increase of \$14.3 billion, which will force employers to cut jobs in order to pay more money to the federal government. Strangely, the Democrats attempt to give a tax break to small businesses on one hand but then take away with the other.

This legislation also includes another short-term extension of the highway authorization. Instead of continuing with short-term extensions of transportation funding, Congress needs to enact a meaningful, 6-year surface transportation funding bill.

Today, I introduced the Keeping American Businesses Competitive Act. This legislation would lower the top business tax rate from 35 percent to 22 percent. The United States currently has the second highest corporate tax rate of any industrialized nation, putting American workers and businesses at a huge competitive disadvantage. Rather than the Democrat "solution" of increasing taxes to address job loss, lowering the corporate tax rate will actually put people back to work. According to the Milken Institute, lowering the rate to 22 percent would "create an additional 350,000 manufacturing jobs and increase total employment by 2.13 million."

If this Congress is serious about getting Americans back to work, it should focus its efforts on proven, free-market principles that will level the playing field for our businesses to compete and keep capital and jobs here in the U.S.

For the above reasons, I oppose this bill.

HONORING DR. RITA BORNSTEIN'S CONTRIBUTIONS AS THE FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT OF ROLLINS COLLEGE

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2010

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. This month, I would like to recognize a few of the phenomenal women from central Florida who are making a distinguished contribution to my district, the great State of Florida, and to our nation as a whole. Today, I honor Dr. Rita Bornstein. Dr. Bornstein's commitment to education and her service as the first female president of Rollins College from 1990 to 2004 was trailblazing. Her distinguished leadership throughout her time at Rollins serves as a model to her unwavering dedication to her students, the university and her overall educational ideals.

Under President Bornstein's leadership, Rollins focused on strengthening its commitment to excellence, innovation, and community. Standards were raised for faculty evaluation, student selectivity, and all aspects of administration. Average SAT scores for entering arts and sciences students rose more than 65 points, and Rollins' place in U.S. News & World Report's annual rankings of "America's Best Colleges" climbed from No. 6 regional university in the South to No. 2, and No. 1 in Florida. That trajectory has continued—Rollins is currently No. 1 in the South. Innovation was encouraged and rewarded, and programs were added in film studies, international business, and sustainable development, as well as the signature Rollins College Conference for first-year students. The college's commitment to building strong communities was enhanced through programs of intellectual discourse, civic engagement, international study, and service learning.

In addition to raising the education standards and national acclaim of Rollins College, President Bornstein also oversaw Rollins' most ambitious fundraising effort. Widely considered to have transformed the college, The Campaign For Rollins secured \$160.2 million, providing support for academic programs, scholarships, faculty chairs, and facilities, and significantly strengthening the college's financial health. Thanks to the generosity of donors, including the largest gift in Rollins' history—alumnus George Cornell's \$93.3-million bequest—and astute financial management, the college's endowment more than quintupled during Bornstein's presidency.

In 2001, she was named to the George D. and Harriet W. Cornell Chair of Distinguished Presidential Leadership when Rollins received a \$10-million gift for the first endowment of a college presidency in the nation. At the conclusion of her 14-year presidency, she was named president emerita and appointed to the George D. and Harriet W. Cornell Chair of Philanthropy and Leadership Development. As a recognized leader in higher education, Dr. Rita Bornstein regularly consults on issues of leadership, governance, and fundraising in the nonprofit sector. She is also the author of numerous journal articles and book chapters and two books, including *Legitimacy in the Academic Presidency: From Entrance to Exit*, published in 2003.