

## PILL MILLS MUST GO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, in my home State of Florida, seven people die a day, each day, of prescription drug abuse. We had three teenagers a couple of weeks ago die in 1 week. A gentleman, a friend of mine, buried his daughter on a Saturday. I talked to him on Monday, and he pleaded with me to do something about killing these pill mills all across our State.

Florida prescribes 10 times more oxycodone pills than all other States combined. To put it simply, we have more pain clinics than McDonald's restaurants.

It's time to put these pill mills out of business. We have 1,300 pill mills in Florida. We need to shut them down now. Four thousand deaths in Florida in 2008.

I've introduced legislation to crack down on pill mills. My bill will stiffen penalties and fines and use the seized assets to fund prescription drug databases. Forty-two States have databases. Florida does not. We need a database today.

The time to act is now. I urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me in this fight, to put these pill mills out of business and stop these needless deaths.

## HONORING GERALDINE FERRARO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with the New York delegation to honor the memory and many contributions of one of our favorite daughters, Geraldine Ferraro. Last Thursday, New Yorkers poured out in great numbers to honor her at her funeral. Her three children—Donna, Laura, and John, Jr.—spoke eloquently and movingly in support and love of their late mother. And at the funeral and speaking in a eulogy beautifully for her, Vice President Mondale, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Congresswoman JANE HARMAN, Senator MIKULSKI, and former President Clinton.

It would have thrilled her to see four women precede a President in eulogizing and speaking about her, two of whom were Secretaries of State, because it was her life that helped inspire and move women forward in our national life, not only in politics but in every area—business, finance. All areas of American life, Geraldine Ferraro inspired with her life and her historic run for Vice President of the United States.

With her passing, America lost a leader who was as wise as she was warm; a trailblazer who broke down barriers for women. For women everywhere, not just in the United States but across the world, Geraldine Ferraro

was a champion and a heroine. For me, personally, she was a dear, dear friend and a mentor.

What seemed to non-New Yorkers as a feisty and fast-talking woman seemed to us as just another mom from Queens. She inspired us with her personal story.

The daughter of Italian immigrants, raised by her seamstress mother after her father died at 8, she became a public school teacher, a lawyer—one of just two women in her law class—and a Member and leader of Congress, elected in 1978. She also, after her historic run, became a commentator on television, a delegate to the United Nations. She headed the World Conference in Beijing in 1995, and I was proud to be part of her delegation at the World Conference on Women.

Last August, on her 75th birthday, we renamed the Post Office in Long Island City in her honor. It used to be in her district; it is now in mine. And I was honored to be able to author the legislation and work with my New York colleagues and others to pass it. And she was so thrilled at that naming to see so many of her friends, not only from New York and her district but across the country, come in one place to honor her.

Later that day, which happened to also be Women's Equality Day, she rang the bell at the New York Stock Exchange in honor of the progress for women.

I know that a post office is only the start of the memorials to this wonderful, charming, talented trailblazer who continued blazing trails her entire life. I met with her shortly before she died, and she had a list of constituents she wanted helped and causes she wanted completed.

We do stand on her shoulders and women like her who came before us.

I will never forget, as an eager, young delegate to the 1984 Democratic National Convention, and I can tell you firsthand that Geraldine Ferraro thrilled us when she took the stage as the first woman ever nominated by a major political party to be its candidate for Vice President of the United States.

□ 1030

It was absolutely electrifying. She changed my life, and she changed the lives of women everywhere. She changed the aspirations of women and how they view themselves.

I will never forget being on the floor. Many of the men gave their delegate card to the women delegates who were part-time delegates. So the floor was filled with women. People were handing out cigars saying, "It's a woman." And when she went to the floor, there was literally applause for over 10 minutes.

I shall miss her dearly and shall honor her passing by redoubling my efforts to complete her unfinished work to pass the ERA. It is time to enshrine in our Constitution the high principle

of gender equality that Geraldine Ferraro so courageously stood for in her life.

Geraldine, we will miss you, we honor you, and we thank you for your many, many contributions to American life.

## MEMORIAL FOR GERALDINE FERRARO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I also am part of the New York delegation, and I want to talk about Geraldine Ferraro. My good colleague, CAROLYN MALONEY, basically laid out her life and all the good things that she did. I guess I want to talk about what she meant to so many of us that weren't even in politics back then.

I think the first time that I ever saw Geraldine or heard of Geraldine was when she was announcing that she was going to be running for Vice President. So all these things from last week, when we were notified that Geraldine had passed away, many of us wanted to go back to New York for the funeral. Unfortunately, our business here kept us here so we couldn't go back. We're kind of used to that.

A lot of times it is said you can spend a lifetime here in Congress, but 2 minutes after you die they will say, "Who was that?" But that's not Geraldine. Geraldine was someone that was a force. Again I say in 1984, like most Americans, I took notice of Geraldine Ferraro when she did accept the Democratic nomination for Vice President at the national convention in San Francisco.

She struck me as a unique figure on TV, a woman in a male-dominated profession. She had a smile. She had confidence. When she got onto that stage, you just knew this radiance that came out of her. For myself, I was not in politics, didn't follow politics too well, but she certainly gave a strong impression to me.

Her message was also full of hope. I happen to believe that, especially when we say to people, "If we can do this, we can do anything." I am one of those people that believe that. I am here in Congress. Everybody said I couldn't do that. Somehow I got here. Somehow I have stayed here. Somehow I keep fighting for my constituents back at home.

She inspired women to get involved. She inspired them to get involved in politics, whether at the staff level or as a candidate. And while I understood the importance of the event, I had no idea that I would be standing here praising this woman that I first saw on TV. As I said, I had no political ambitions. I was a nurse, just several miles away from the city where Geraldine was. Like most Americans, I did vote and I followed the news, but I never thought I would get involved in politics.

Fast forward 12 years, it's mid 1996, and I'm still a nurse in Nassau County and still not thinking about politics whatsoever. Something happened to my life, as it does to so many other lives. An event happens, and all of a sudden you change and become an activist. Gun violence was unfortunately the issue that hit my family and many families on the Long Island Railroad. My husband was killed. My son was seriously wounded. I decided that I was going to do something about it. Geraldine Ferraro, the person that I saw on TV, called me. She said, "Carolyn, you should really think about running for Congress." There were other people calling me, too. And I'm thinking, "I'm a nurse. What do I know about politics?"

But you know what? If I was going to try and do something, then I had to run. Everybody told me I was going to lose. Maybe I would have. But I didn't. I won. But Geraldine was always there to give advice. Just because you're a woman doesn't mean you can't be tough. Just because you're a woman, you can be tough and you can be gentle, and you have to use that to get legislation done.

Well, here I am in Congress, and I am proud to be following in the footsteps of Geraldine Ferraro. I wouldn't use the words, the kind words that people use for her on myself like "pioneer" or "trailblazer." I actually followed Geraldine and her advice to come to Washington and try to make a difference.

Like so many women in New York politics today, Geraldine helped me as I went through from private citizen to candidate to public official. She opened so many doors for me, introducing me to people that I needed to meet. She was well known for this, for spending as much energy helping lift up others and having another woman follow.

We will all remember you, Geraldine. I will always remember you. God bless you. We do remember you. Thank you.

Again I thank my colleagues, CHARLIE and CAROLYN and PETER, for arranging this moment we could pay tribute to Geraldine.

With only 17 percent of members of Congress being women, we still have a long way to go when it comes to equality in representation.

But certainly we couldn't be where we are today if it weren't for Geraldine.

I for one am looking forward to making a living tribute to Geraldine, to take her philosophy of helping others, of lifting people up the ladder behind you, as I continue my career here.

Thank you very much.

#### 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF UPPER BIG BRANCH MINE DISASTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it was exactly 1 year ago today that an explosion ripped through Upper Big Branch Mine in Montcoal, West Virginia, killing 29 workers. It was the deadliest

mine accident in 40 years. But perhaps "accident" is the wrong word to characterize what happened in Montcoal, West Virginia, last year April 5. This wasn't a hurricane, it wasn't a tsunami or some other act of nature.

Although the Mine Safety and Health Agency, MSHA, has yet to complete their investigation, it is absolutely clear from the preliminary reports that this tragedy was avoidable but for negligence and carelessness on the part of Massey Energy.

When Chairman MILLER and I traveled to West Virginia with Congressman RAHALL, miners told us that Massey routinely cut corners on safety. And yet the miners were afraid—they told us this too—to come forward for fear of losing their jobs. That's why we need stronger Federal whistleblower protections, Mr. Speaker. MSHA inspectors can't be everywhere all the time. So we need to rely on the people who know best. We need to rely on the workers, those that can report safety violations, because they are living with them. We must ensure that these workers have job protection when they come forward.

The questions we need to be asking ourselves are what can we be doing to make sure this does not happen again to them? What can we do to ensure that our Nation's coal miners, some of the hardest working and courageous people you will ever meet, aren't descending into a potential death trap every time they clock in?

But the silence from the United States Congress has been positively deafening. It is incomprehensible to me that we still haven't passed the Robert C. Byrd Miner Safety and Health Act. How many miners have to die before we take action?

□ 1040

Worker safety, not just in mines, but in workplaces above ground and across the Nation, is under siege thanks to irresponsible cuts in the Republican continuing resolution. Fully half of OSHA's staff would be furloughed if H.R. 1 becomes law.

A weak economy like this one that we are living in right now also further undermines worker safety, because as workers who want to report violations know, there are dozens who would take their jobs in spite of unsafe conditions just to have work.

Mr. Speaker, last Congress I was chair and now this Congress I am the ranking minority member of the Workforce Protection Subcommittee, and in that role I am absolutely committed, along with Congressman GEORGE MILLER and NICKY RAHALL, to bringing OSHA and MSHA into the 21st century, strengthening regulations to protect people from injury, sickness, and possible death on the job.

Needless to say, the Upper Big Branch explosion has devastated a tight-knit community with so many families still coping with grief. Gary Quarles, who testified before the Edu-

cation and Labor Committee last year, said "The life's been sucked right out of me" because he lost his only child in the explosion. Another man says of the death of his twin brother, "It's like part of me is gone." One woman lost her fiancé, whom she met when they worked side-by-side in the mine. And I cannot imagine the ordeal of Timothy Blake, who survived the blast and tried in vain to save eight coworkers.

But on this one 1-year anniversary, Mr. Speaker, let's do more than look back. Let's do more than remember and be sad. Let's use this tragedy as a call to action. In honor of the 29 fallen miners, let's give their coworkers the safety and protection they deserve.

#### CUTS TO THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. A lot of talk around here about millions, billions, and trillions, but let's just try to put a face on some of the cuts the Republicans put in H.R. 1.

I think one of the meanest of their cuts and the stupidest of their cuts is to eliminate a program called YouthBuild. Now, I'm sure most of them don't know what it is. They have never met with the kids who come back here every year.

This is a program that started in 1992 under George H.W. Bush. It's a program that takes kids who have generally dropped out of high school, had problems with drugs, alcohol, other things, but at some point decide they want to get straight and they want to do something better with their lives.

So this program takes kids between 16 and 24, helps them get their GED, gets them some counseling, gets them involved in peer groups. They learn leadership skills, teaches them how to build houses and the houses they build are for low-income Americans.

In the long term we have found incredible results with this program. Last year—and these are almost 100 percent high school dropouts with problems—78 percent of the kids completed the program. That's pretty extraordinary. Now, after, when they leave the program, the longevity of the effect of this program, 7 years after completing the program, 75 percent of the YouthBuild kids, kids who had problems with drugs, alcohol, homelessness, dropped out of high school, everything else, are either in college or employed in jobs earning more than \$10 an hour.

That's a pretty darn good investment. And what does this cost, and why would the Republicans zero it out? Well, it cost \$102 million last year for 20,000 students.

Now, we could, I guess, instead leave them in the street without their high school degree, hopeless, maybe they would get back on drugs, maybe they will get in trouble, maybe we will them in jail, and then we will spend \$30,000 a