

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.