

An inspiration to all of us, Dan Garvey always displayed his total dedication and love to his late wife, Donna, whose memory is also honored. Together they raised four wonderful children, Maureen, Lynn, Dan, Jr., and Kevin.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in saluting Daniel J. Garvey on his successful career at Marist High School, and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

REMARKS FROM THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR RUTH P. RITTER MADE BY HER SON, DON RITTER ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1997

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a former colleague and friend, Congressman Don Ritter. He recently lost his mother and asked that I share the eulogy he delivered in her honor.

Please bear with my reading these remarks. I'm not accustomed to reading speeches but * * * it's easier for me to get to the finish. I guess Mom was emotional, too. Listen to this if you can hear us Mom, Holden came all the way from Germany, Christopher from Los Angeles, Kristina from San Francisco, Edie and Jordan from Pennsylvania, Melody came from right here in Seffner but she would have come from around the world. It is a truly wonderful thing that we gather here today to say good-bye to our beloved mother, grandmother, guardian, role model and friend. But it is not a final adieu that we bid, for she will be with us in spirit; she will be in our hearts for as long as we live, perhaps forever.

I believe I speak for everyone here and for all who knew her who could not be here today. When we think about what defined Ruth P. Ritter during her marvelous, exciting, rich and full lifetime, here's what rings out like a bell.

She was Nurturing: Ruth P. Ritter was the most nurturing person I have ever known. She nurtured us, constantly, over the decades—our education/families/our security after she was gone.

She had Dignity: She had great dignity. She was a grand lady—her principles did not shift and change with time. She was consistent, judging people by their deeds, not their words.

She was an Optimist: She always looked to the brighter side. Never did she give up hope. She had suffered greatly but never lost her cheery spirit. When her health deteriorated, she still focused on her children and her grandchildren. And she worked at making her hopes come true.

She was Modest: She was so modest about her own achievements, the way she lived was so modest. She clipped coupons until the very end—while the stocks and bonds of the trusts she established for family grew large.

And she was Talented: First, she was a great mathematician and a great teacher. She was an award winning teacher of children. She taught us. And she did all this in spite of a handicap. She had difficulty hearing and that went way back. I remember her fear, after working so hard to become an Assistant Principal, at taking the Principal's exam based on her hearing. And that was long ago. It was a constant difficulty as she was so keen on engaging in discussions with people. Yet, she would always be a natural teacher, almost up to the end. She used to

work late at night preparing her lessons. I remember helping her with the art work, posters, presentations, teaching materials. We worked together. We enjoyed each other.

Second, she was a great investor of her capital. She took Dad's limited investments and a never ending influx of a part of her pension and invested wisely, continuously, relentlessly. She put it together for us. She barely touched it. She told me this would be her gift to her children and grandchildren. It meant more to her than spending it on herself. And that's the way she lived.

She Sacrificed: She was born sacrificer for her family. That was her greatest gift throughout our lives. Gifts of love, friendship, concern and wealth live on. She got enormous pleasure from giving to us and thereby helping us to build our own lives. Generosity was Ruth Ritter's middle name. She helped me at every important stage of my life.

She Persevered: Perseverance was her stock in trade. When she made up her mind, something had to be, she would make it happen. She, paraphrasing Sir Winston Churchill, would "never give up." Sometimes it could be called stubbornness . . . but whatever you call it, her perseverance made her strong in life and kept her going through grievous times . . . I can remember the times, the sound and the fury over things we both believed were true . . . oppositely!

Edie and I and Jason and Kristina will never forget the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday visits—the magnificent presents, the turkey dinners, the love—first with Dan and Mom and then with Mom alone. And although we've lost both and Steve in less than a year, Mom, we will not despair. We will take a page from your book and go on in the very best way we can.

When her firstborn son and my brother, Stephen, with whom there was a truly wonderful reconciliation in the latter years, died prematurely last year, it was an enormous blow to Mom. Stephen and Melody were her great friends and near neighbors in the Tampa area and were the reason Mom came back east for what she knew were her final years. Steve's death brought unimaginable sadness to Mom, but she never lost her optimism about life and her family.

And last, dear mother of mine and of all of us, how you would have gotten pleasure to see us gathered together—your loved ones, your family hopefully getting to know one another after so many years.

The really good part of today, the sunrise part, is that we are, at last, our blood line, our family and those who joined it, ready to go forward, smartly and confidently, into the future. We will build on the love, the nurturing spirit, the dignity, the hope, the modesty, the optimism, the perseverance, and the skills of life that we received and we learned from you.

Until we meet again, Mom, we shall love, cherish and remember you.

ASSISTED SUICIDE FUNDING RESTRICTION ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 1003, the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997. This important piece of legislation prohibits the use of Federal funds to support, advocate, and/or facilitate assisted suicide, even if assisted suicide becomes legal in one or more States.

Programs covered by the bill include Public Health Service block grants, Medicaid, Medicare, Indian health care, the Military Health Care Program, the Veterans Medical Care Program, and the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program. While Federal funds have not been used to pay for assisted suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing, H.R. 1003 legislatively prohibits such from taking place.

Adoption of this measure is an important move in the assisted-suicide debate. As we consider this legislation, courts in Florida and Oregon are deliberating on the legality of assisted suicide. And, the Supreme Court is reviewing decisions, by the Second and Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeals, which have declared assisted suicide a new constitutional right. The Supreme Court's pending decision on these cases has major implications for most States across this Nation and many are looking to Congress for clear and effective policy directions.

Until now, Mr. Speaker, Federal programs have generally lacked a written policy on this issue. By passing H.R. 1003, we preclude potential problems that may arise from the decisions pending, in the Supreme Court and other courts across this country, on assisted suicide. However, H.R. 1003 does not prevent States from legalizing assisted suicide or from supporting it with State funds.

This measure states clearly that it will have no effect on issues of abortion, withdrawal of medical treatment, or the use of drugs needed to alleviate pain, even when an unintentional side effect could be a shortened life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of prohibiting the use of Federal funds for assisted suicide. Vote "yes" for H.R. 1003.

HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION CLARIFICATION ACT

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that addresses a problem developing in the resort and vacation industry, an industry of great importance to my home State of Florida and many other States in this country. Without corrective legislation, I fear the 1.7 million timeshare owners in the United States will ultimately bear an unfair Federal tax burden on their timeshare homeowners associations, simply because these associations complied with State law and sound business practices.

The issue involves the Federal income tax treatment of timeshare homeowners associations. Since the 1970's, timeshare homeowners associations have applied the same tax principles used by condominium associations that do not elect or do not qualify for tax-exempt status under section 528 of the Internal Revenue Code. An IRS Technical Advice Memorandum (TAM 9539001), however, has concluded that a timeshare homeowners association cannot use the same tax treatment relied on by condominium associations in determining taxable income.

As a result, it appears the IRS is poised to adopt burdensome standards for timeshare associations that could result in the inclusion of all regular member assessments in income,