

I wish him and his family all the best in the years ahead.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MANTON), our honoree and our friend, who is not leaving New York but leaving the Congress.

Mr. MANTON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) very much, a great dean of our New York delegation, and all of my colleagues who are here tonight joining in this tribute.

Some mention was made of my mother and father being Irish immigrants who came from the west of Ireland from small farms. They did not know each other in Ireland. But they came to the great city of New York from the quiet country life of their respected farms, and they met in New York City where they married and raised a family.

The reason I am here is because we live in a republic which recognizes that people can advance themselves. My father was always one who said you must get an education.

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My father had a third-grade education. My mother was much more educated. She had eight grades of education. She came to the loud and boisterous and busy city of New York with the cacophony of all these sounds and taxis and trucks and people and I always wondered how they survived those early years.

I was blessed in being able to have a number of jobs before coming to this great body. Some mention was made of my service in the United States Marine Corps, it was 2 years of active duty, some 5 years in the New York City Police Department, 15 years in the New York City Council, and now 14 years in this great body. Where else can you walk through the hallways of this Capitol and know that they were traversed by other people who were Members of the House of Representatives: John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Abraham Lincoln, James Madison, and there are others, John Tyler, James Polk, Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce and others that I will not mention. So it shows that in the United States of America, people from modest backgrounds under our great system of laws can get an education and prosper in this great nation that we know as the United States of America. Yes, I have had an affinity for the problems in my parents' ancestral land, in Ireland. I was very pleased to serve as the cochair on the committee which we know as the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs, and the fact that we had the peace agreement of Good Friday makes my service and I think the service of all of those who were involved in that process in bringing President Clinton into it, having him invest a lot of political capital, sending an envoy, Senator Mitchell, to Ireland and generally working with the leadership in Northern Ireland of both traditions to see that we had this

agreement. It makes me happy, and I know the people that have worked in this body happy as well.

I have had the opportunity to, as was mentioned, go to law school and practice, I practiced law for some 20 years before coming to this great body, and I am going to return to that profession. I loved it a lot, I have missed it in the last couple of years and decided that I am going to take another try at it.

My colleagues, I thank you very much for bringing on this special order tonight. It is with a certain amount of bitterness that I am leaving this body but I am not, as you have suggested, leaving politics, too. I am going to continue as long as they will have me as chairman of the great Queens County Democratic organization. It is an organization that stands for the principles of the Democratic Party that we all love and admire. With a certain amount of sadness, I bid you good-bye for a short while. I will be around. Please do not forget me. When you come to Queens, you are always welcome. Some of you may end up in Queens with the reapportionment of 2002, and we will be awaiting your good suggestions on how these lines should be drawn and whatever input we can make into that.

I say good-bye, God bless you, and thanks for everything. It has been a great honor.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order tonight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

#### DEMOCRATIC MANAGED CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 15 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, let me also if I can just take a minute to also express really the friendship that I have had over the last few years with TOM MANTON. He is also on the Commerce Committee with me and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) as well. I have always admired him for the reasons my colleagues have all set forth but just to mention a couple of things. My father was a policeman. I know what it was like to have a policeman, to serve on the police force, and I know that he is the kind of policeman or the person in the police law enforcement background that is really kind of the perfect image, if you will, of a law enforcement individual.

In addition to that, I have seen him as I think the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) said really be a consensus builder on the committee. The committee can often be very contentious, not only Republican-Democrat but even within the Democrats. TOM was always the person that was out there trying to bring us together on so many very important issues. I also saw him operate with the Hellenic Caucus. I do not know if that was mentioned tonight, but he worked very hard with the Greek community and he was a leader dealing with those issues as well. I really admired him for a long time. We worked on the Merchant Marine Committee together. He was always a person that was trying to help other Members of Congress, to help his colleagues at all times and do what was best for the country and for his State and for his district. Thanks again, also. I am going to miss you as well.

Madam Speaker, I just wanted to take some time this evening, if I could, to essentially refute, if you will, some of the statements that were made earlier this evening in the special order that my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle made on the issue of HMO reform. I have taken to the floor many times over the last few months to point out that I believe, and I think the evidence shows, that the Republican leadership of this House was very much determined not to bring a true HMO or managed care reform to the floor and essentially was very much under the influence of the insurance industry which still today does not want to see any real HMO reform. And so I was sort of, not shocked I would say but I was sort of displeased to see that in the waning hours of this Congress that the Republicans who put together the HMO bill that passed this House were actually trying, I think effectively, to defend their actions, because they know that the American public is clamoring for HMO reform.

And so I will say two things tonight: One is the fact that the HMO reform bill was not even taken up in the other body, in the Senate, is a strong indication of the fact that from the beginning, the Republican leadership in both houses of Congress had no intention of really dealing with the issue of HMO reform. In addition to that, the Republican leadership over here bypassed all the committees, never allowed hearings, never allowed a markup of the HMO reform bill and at the 11th hour when it appeared that there was overwhelming support for the Democrats' patients' bill of rights, which was really sort of a bipartisan bill because we had some Republicans, also, that supported us, but when the patients' bill of rights, the real HMO reform bill, was gathering incredible strength and the Republican leadership felt it was necessary to address the issue in some form, they quickly brought up their HMO bill, brought it to the House floor, without hearings, without committee markup, and passed it very narrowly, I think by about five votes, and