

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES HILLARD
BLACKBURN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I come tonight with a sad heart. A very close and dear friend of mine, Chuck Hillard Blackburn passed away last week at the age of 83. I was saddened, Mr. Speaker, because I was here doing the people's business in the people's House, that I was unable to go to pay my respects to such a fine American.

There was something about Chuck that was very unusual. Chuck was a Republican. He loved being in the Republican Party. But after he met me and he joined forces with me, he changed his affiliation from the Republican Party to the Democratic Party and started working with me in my endeavors as I started early on running for the Carson City Council, on to the State legislature, and then here to Congress.

In all three of those runs, Mr. Speaker, he was there for me. He managed my office. He made sure that the phone banks were covered. One could not have found an any more endearing person than Chuck Blackburn.

Chuck often spoke about growing up in his State of Ohio, City of Springfield and, as a boy, how he enjoyed being with his father fishing and doing some of the great things that boys and fathers have a great relationship with. Then he moved to California. Again, enjoying his grandchildren, he did some of those same things that he had done with his father with his grandchildren.

But I do not want to ignore the fact that Chuck served this country in three wars. A great veteran he was, always giving patriotism to this country, having served it very well.

During his 27 years in the military, he often talked about the many strides and struggles and the many times that he had to go on the battlefield. But he did not regret, not a single bit of it, because he loved this country. Chuck Blackburn was an American who absolutely felt that being an American was the greatest thing in the world.

Then after coming out of the military, having served for 27 years, he became a manager with the Kelly Services and was the manager there for 10 years, after which he began to just do voluntary things there in the city of Carson.

That is when he joined forces with me. From that point on, he was my friend, my devoted constituent, my really true trustworthy friend whom I could always depend on as I ran the campaigns.

He was in the La Bon Temps social club, and it was a club where men would dress each year in their fine after-6 attire and have ballroom dancing and parties. He was known as a guy

who was very soft on his feet or very smooth on his feet. He did the ballroom dancing like no one could. I can see him now with his tall slinky body, handsomely dressed in this tux, waltzing across the floor with his wife Eugenia, a great man, handsome man, a very great American.

He attended the church of the Holy Communion with his wife, Eugenia, for many years. They were married some 24 years. In their years of marriage, they sought to have all of their grandchildren baptized here at the Church of the Holy Communion. Upon his death, that church was the place in which a memorial service was done for him.

We will miss Chuck, a great guy, a true friend, a great American, a great patriot. But the one thing that I can say for him, that he loved this country. He loved the people, his neighbors, and he loved this congresswoman. I certainly cannot say enough for the fine gentleman he was. I will sorely miss him as we gear up for this election come the year 2000. But I know wherever Chuck is now, and I certainly will presume he is in heaven or assume he is, that he is saying, "Now, you just go girl, because you have got to win this reelection. I am going to be there in spirit to make sure that those phone banks are covered, that those who come to volunteer will sign in, and that you will have victory come November of the year 2000." Good-bye Chuck.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. SHOWS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHOWS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LAND MINES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support increased investment in assistance to persons affected by land mines.

As many of my colleagues are aware, Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan will be making her first official visit to Capitol Hill tomorrow in her capacity as International Patron of the Land Mine Survivors Network to bring awareness to the devastation caused by land mines around the world.

More than 60 countries are infested with land mines and have the potential of killing or maiming innocent civilians, male and female, adult and child. Every 20 minutes, another life is devastated by an anti-personnel Land Mine.

Designed to maximize suffering and terrorize populations, land mines are truly indiscriminate weapons of mass destruction in slow motion. They cannot tell the difference between the footfall of a soldier or a child at play.

Although the cost of producing a Land Mine is as little as \$3, the injuries suffered by innocent civilians cannot be cured with a price tag. More than 80 percent of Land Mine victims are civilians who must deal with the physical, psychological, and social ramifications of being prey to the damage of a Land Mine.

The proliferation of mines is a global and man-made epidemic. It is also an American problem, having affected more than 100,000 Americans. One such American is Jerry White, co-founder of the Land Mine Survivors Network. While traveling as a college student in Israel, Jerry stepped on a Land Mine, lost his leg, and joined the ranks of the more than 300,000 and growing Land Mine survivors.

Unlike Jerry, however, fewer than 10 percent of Land Mine victims have access to proper medical treatment and rehabilitation. Even fewer have the necessary support to effectively return to the social and economic mainstream.

I urge my colleagues to support the efforts of Queen Noor, Jerry White, and the Land Mine Survivors Network to bring awareness to this important issue and to provide a voice to those survivors who do not have the opportunity or ability to speak for themselves.

Let us walk into the next century, Mr. Speaker, with honor and hope for a Land Mine-free world. Let us work together to ensure that all countries offer the support and tools needed for persons injured by antipersonnel mines to reclaim their lives and become productive and contributing members of our society.

SENIOR CITIZENS NEED ACCESS
TO AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION
DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, this evening, I rise to address this House because our senior citizens can no longer afford the prescription drugs that they need to have a decent life. That is the simple truth.

PhRMA, the Pharmaceutical Research Manufacturers of America, has formed a bogus consumer group called Citizens for Better Medicare and hired a Republican ad agency to front a \$20 million to \$30 million campaign to distort the truth about prescription drugs and senior citizens.

The American Association of Retired Persons spokesperson was right when he told the New York Times "This phony coalition created and financed by the pharmaceutical industry is what we have come to expect from the drug companies over the last decade."

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Fundamentally, they are in favor of the status quo, which leaves millions of