

funds hold not accumulated reserves of wealth, but only promises that future taxpayers will be asked to redeem. That is the same as any other Federal Treasury security. So they are raising a question about whether the full faith and credit of the Federal Government lies behind not only the Social Security trust funds, but the \$6 trillion of debt the United States of America has accumulated over the years.

If that filters through to the world financial markets, there will be a catastrophic collapse of the dollar, a run on the dollar; U.S. securities will be dumped in the market, and it will bring about economic catastrophe.

So I recognize they are trying to do a job here. The President ordered them to come up with the rationale for privatization. But do not do it in this extraordinarily irresponsible way. Just say, look, we want to cut people's benefits so that we can then transition to a privatized plan, and, of course, the models in Great Britain, Argentina and Chile did not work out so well, but we think they will work out better here.

Be honest. Do not lie and do not threaten the security of the world by threatening the sanctity of U.S. Treasury bills.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE EUDORA WELTY

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

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues may not yet be aware of the death earlier today of one of America's giants. Eudora Welty died this afternoon in Jackson, Mississippi, at the age of 92. Her literary career spanned portions of 7 decades, and her awards and decorations place her among the superstars of American literature.

Her novel, *The Optimist's Daughter*, earned her the 1973 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. In addition, her honors included four O. Henry prizes, the National Book Foundation Medal, the American Academy of Arts and Letters William Dean Howells Medal, the National Institute of Arts and Letters Gold Medal for the Novel, the American Book Award for Literature, the American Book Award for Paperback Fiction, the Phi Beta Kappa Association Award, and many more.

It is a point of personal pride for me that Miss Welty was a native Mississippian, having been born in Jackson in 1909 and educated in the public schools of our State, as well as at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus. For years, we Mississippians have considered Eudora Welty our State's preeminent citizen. May 2 is annually celebrated in Mississippi as Eudora Welty Day.

Mississippians are also proud of the fact that she has been increasingly recognized throughout America as a na-

tional treasure. She was appointed to the National Council on the Arts by President Nixon in 1972, and she twice received the Freedom Medal of Honor from Presidents Carter and Reagan.

Beyond her acclaim in her native America, Miss Welty's works have been translated into virtually every European language, as well as Russian and Japanese. She has been recognized by many heads of state. In 1987, Eudora Welty was knighted, knighted, by the Nation of France; and in January 1996, Miss Welty was presented with the French Legion of Honor.

Eudora Welty understood not only the South, but the complex family relationships and individual struggles against adversity which have combined to give our country its rich texture. Her works of fantasy and tall tale narration included two of my favorites, *The Robber Bridegroom* and *The Ponder Heart*, which have been adapted for the Broadway stage, but which are still read aloud in the Wicker household.

Mr. Speaker, over the next few days and weeks the publicity concerning the life of Eudora Welty will perhaps assist a new generation of students and young people in appreciating the extraordinary life and accomplishments of this remarkable American. Perhaps I will be able to express in a more adequate way the admiration and kinship that I feel for her as a fellow Mississippian.

Suffice it for now to say that her work sparked the imagination of countless readers around the globe, that she universalized the Southern experience and made it relevant to people beyond the region's boundaries, and that her life and her life's work are worthy of our heartfelt praise and gratitude.

Now, with the indulgence of the Chair and my other colleagues in the Chamber, I am pleased to yield to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. SHOWS).

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Mr. Speaker, today I stand before you, my colleagues, and the American people with sad news. One of our Nation's greatest writers has passed away. Earlier today Eudora Welty died. Miss Eudora lived in my district down in Jackson.

Miss Eudora will always live, Mr. Speaker, in the hearts of thousands around our planet who have read her words discovering a world of penetrating thought, stark memories and prose that can bring the angels to Earth and soothe our longings to connect with our broader world.

Eudora Welty grew up in Jackson, Mississippi. She spent her entire life living and writing in Jackson. But her words were and are universal. Miss Eudora knew her home, and she could pen her thoughts in a way that made the South and Mississippi a place in all our hearts. One cannot begin to adequately address how she could make us feel, euphoric at once and then again nostalgic and magic.

Ms. Eudora wrote about a "sense of place," who we are and how our world, the dirt, people around us, the humidity and the community made us unique. She made us remember home, and she led us to realize the good and the bad in our society. And for this, we could read and learn and strive to be better.

Eudora Welty won a Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for *The Optimist's Daughter*. She was also the recipient of the National Medal for Literature in 1980 and a National Medal of Arts in 1987. Her work is recognizable by nearly everyone: A *Curtain of Green*, *The Wide Net*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, *Ponder Heart*, and *Delta Wedding*, to name only a few. Her work to this day is widely published in French and other languages, as well as in English.

Miss Eudora experienced and saw her world, the American South of the 20th century, with a keen eye and ready pen. She put her feelings and observations on paper in what can only be described as brilliance. A reader of a Welty piece is forever changed, forever touched by the human experience.

Eudora Welty took on a life with a zeal for truth, and she took the truth and made it real on paper. Ms. Eudora was born in 1909 and was educated at Mississippi State College for Women, now the Mississippi University for Women, and also at the University of Wisconsin. She lived through the Great Depression, snapping black and white photographs of Mississippi scenes for President Roosevelt's WPA Program. She experienced World War II, the economic expansion of the fifties, the change of the sixties, and continued through the seventies, eighties and nineties, until she passed away today, July 23, 2001.

So much history and change occurred during this remarkable life. But Ms. Eudora, through it all, realized that the human experience remained. She saw the pain and the triumph, the celebration and the agony, and Ms. Eudora has given us the great gift of place, memory, and humanity.

Ms. Eudora was an icon. She, through her grace, gentleness and greatness, has given so many Mississippians a role model. Ms. Eudora, through her life and writings, has given thousands a kind of permission to strive for their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think her curtain of green has closed with her passing, but rather has opened; has opened wide, so that all of us can continue to embrace the characters, places, and events she told us about. The curtain of green is open wide for us today, as it will be for all countless generations to come.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I will simply close by saying our colleagues, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. Pickering), were on the floor earlier and expressed their regret at not being able to stay for this presentation and this

moment of observance. They will be submitting remarks for the RECORD later on.

I will simply close today with the words of a fellow Mississippian, William R. Ferris, Chairman of the National Endowment of the Humanities, who said this afternoon, "Eudora Welty's mastery of language was unparalleled, and her unswerving commitment to her craft as a writer will inspire future generations. We mourn the loss of a truly great writer and friend whose love and compassion enriched us all."

PUTTING PATIENTS BEFORE PROFITS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday evenings I usually do a radio show called "Talking to the People" with a co-host, Garfield Major; and on last evening, we were supposed to have a guest, a young lady who was going to be with us. But then, of course, during the week she passed away, and we decided that we would dedicate the show in her memory. Her funeral is going to take place on Thursday of this week, and I simply want to say to the family of Evelyn Spivery and all of the people who worked with her that we share with them in their grief and sorrow at her early and untimely death.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lend my support to and talk about an issue that is important to all of America, and that is the issue of a patients' bill of rights. Not just any patients' bill of rights, but I support the patients' bill of rights sponsored by my colleagues Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. EDWARDS in the Senate, and the companion legislation sponsored by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) here in the House. I support the patients' bill of rights that puts patients before profits, and values human life over the bottom line.

The idea of a patients' bill of rights is nothing new to this Congress. We have all listened to the rhetoric, and we have all been involved in the debate. As a matter of fact, as a Member of Congress since 1996, I must say that it is interesting to see where this debate has gone.

I find it worth commenting that the question we are now faced with is not so much whether we should pass a patients' bill of rights, but which version we shall pass. In other words, we are all pretty much in agreement that patients need to be afforded an increased level of protection from the predatory tendencies of some components of our health care delivery system. But rather than immediately delving into the particulars of why we should prefer one version over another, I believe it is instructive to take a step back for a mo-

ment and look at the concept of a patients' bill of rights in the first place.

The very idea that we need a patients' bill of rights, an idea, I remind you, we are all in support of, implies the presence of an injurious element within our health care system. The simple fact that we are debating this idea means that each one of us at some level acknowledges the basic reality that the interests of some parts of our health care delivery system seem to be adversarial to the interests of patients.

I believe that the debate over which patients' bill of rights to accept can be resolved simply by looking more closely at what I will call the nature of the beast. Too often I believe that we talk about solutions without fully understanding the problem. I believe that with a careful examination of the means and motives by which some components of our health care system make money off the pain and suffering of patients, the answer to the question of which patients' bill of rights is the real patients' bill of rights becomes self-evident.

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Now, what is it about those components of our health care system that is so inherently evil? Well, let me read a quote from Milton Friedman, a well-known advocate of free market economics. Mr. Friedman says that "few trends could so thoroughly undermine the very foundations of our free society as the acceptance by corporate officials of a social responsibility other than to make as much money for their stockholders as possible." In other words, if we go by the dictates that managed care organizations live by, not only is it undesirable to take a patient's well-being into account, it is simply unethical to do so. Any motive other than the profit motive is extraneous and inappropriate. This narrow-minded approach has placed our great Nation in a completely unique situation. We are the only Nation in the entire world with a health care system whose fundamental organizing principle is to avoid as many sick people as possible.

Let me say that again. I believe this gets to the crux of the matter. Many managed care corporations are predicated upon avoiding the needs of patients.

Now, given the fact that some managed care corporations are opposed to the needs of patients, given the fact that some managed care guidelines, as they are currently written, do not allow patients to stay overnight for a mastectomy or see a neurologist for new onset seizures, and given the fact that some corporations spend 25 cents of every dollar on administrative expense while Medicare is administered at a rate of over 12 times less, and given the fact that many of these same corporations feel that patients' rights that would allow the patient to go into a court of law to seek redress for injury, I think it is clear, Mr. Speaker, that the only real Patients' Bill of

Rights is the one that puts people over profits, and the motive is to protect the patient.

STAND UP FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of our National Guard. For 225 years our young men in the National Guard and our young women in the National Guard have stood in the gap when our Nation was called. From Concord to Kosovo, they have put their lives on hold, left their families, their jobs and responded to our Nation's needs. Today, they are continuing that great tradition.

If it was the will of the President to send our young men and women into harm's way tonight, they would drop everything and they would go. As we speak, the 184th Bomber Wing at McConnell Air Force Base, an Air National Guard unit in Wichita, Kansas, is on call. If the assignment came to send our B-1 bombers to a foreign target, it would be the volunteers of the 184th Air National Guard Bomber Wing that would fuel the planes, load the bombs, fly the mission and, once again, stand in the gap for us and for our children.

I tell my colleagues this with great pride because I know many of these young men and women in the 184th. Some of them grew up in Wichita, Kansas, the air capital of the world, home of Boeing, Beech, Cessna and Lear Jet. Some of them are second and third generation aircraft workers. It is almost genetic for them. It is a passion for them.

That may explain why the 184th B-1 Wing has the highest mission-capable rate of any of the B-1 bases, including the three active duty B-1 bases, the highest mission-capable rate. Of course, the average length of experience on the flight line at the McConnell Air Force Base for the Air Force workers is 15 years, 15 years of experience. However, at the active duty bases, it is only 3 years. On top of that, the cost per flight hour is lower at the Air National Guard unit at McConnell Air Force Base. It is a little over \$6,000 per hour to fly the B-1, compared to over \$10,000 per hour at the active duty base, considerably more. Lower cost, more experience, higher mission-capable rate: That is an attractive alternative to the active duty, and it tells us how important Air National Guard is to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, when we compare how the Air National Guard has handled their mission with the B-1 to the active duty, one would think there would be no question whether we should keep the B-1 mission in the National Guard. But, Mr. Speaker, the Guard is under attack. According to the Secretary of the Air Force and released program