It is terrific to see people, particularly those from the 16th Congressional District of Florida, participate in this very important day of public awareness, both for prevention of cancer and to, hopefully, find a cure for cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take a moment to thank my personal outgoing at the comments recently provided by German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder’s justice minister, Herta Daeubler-Gmelin, who said, ‘‘It is deplorable that we sided with Iraq and Saddam Hussein. We merely were using you at an opportune time for our political expediency. The election or re-election of your government is that important that you can side with Iraq and Saddam Hussein, you do so at your own peril. This Nation has been a long and steadfast friend of Germany and its people. We have worked together on so many issues, too many to mention. But to sit here at an eleventh hour opportunity to regain power for the sake of power and demean our President and our commitment to working together for the international safety of every person on this globe is reprehensible.”

I hope he will refute and rebut the words of his justice minister. I hope he will at least find them to be offensive. I hope they will work on strengthening their determination to continue our united efforts against terrorism, that they will, in fact, join with France and Britain and others who have long recognized the threat terrorism poses to a free people. The President’s passionate delivery of the speech to the United Nations woke up a lot of people to the real threat that is facing all people, not just the United States. This is not for self-protection. This is for global peace. The President embarked on a very, very difficult campaign and he did so alone, with few supporters and few allies. After his speech, I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of what I considered important support for going into weapons inspections and reopening U.N. weapons inspectors into Iraq. That was a breakthrough and one I hope is taken seriously.

Paying tribute to congressman Joe Early

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

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week my colleague, the gentleman from Worcester, Massachusetts, sponsored and the House passed and I voted for a resolution naming a post office in Worcester for a former colleague of many of us in the House, my colleague from Worcester’s predecessor, former Representative Joseph D. Early, first met Joe Early in 1972 when I, along with two of my current Massachusetts colleagues (Mr. MARKKEY and Mr. DELAHUNT), was elected to the Massachusetts House. Joe Early was by then established an established in the Massachusetts House. Two years later, he came here. I was proud to support him in his campaign to come here in 1974, and 6 years later I became a member of the House and so worked with him for the ensuing 12 years.

I was very pleased to have a chance to join in naming that post office for him. I regretted the fact that I was not able to participate in the debate. I was tied up at a committee meeting, and I thought I was going to be notified in time but to my error I came too late to make the debate so I am taking this special opportunity now because of my enormous respect for Joe Early and in particular for his purely strong understanding of what the role of government ought to be in our society.

Joe Early, during his time in the Massachusetts legislature, during his three terms there, showed that what we need is passionate leadership, and he was passionate. Joe Early was a tough fiscal watchdog. On the Ways and Means Committee in the Massachusetts House and here on the Appropriations Committee, he was a man who paid close attention to the specifics and was very, very tough on those who would waste public money. But he also understood that there were important values for the quality of our life that had to be met with public monies and that those of us who can be unspoken, when demagogic amendments would be offered on the floor of this House to make cuts of various sorts, Joe Early would be one of the few courageous enough to point out how damaging they would be, how irresponsible it was to take that easy approach as opposed to doing the kind of tough, ongoing work that he did of familiarizing himself with the programs for which he had legislative responsibility and finding the necessary, determined fights hard to make sure that they took effect.

Those of us who knew Joe Early also were stimulated by his company. He was not, as people will remember who served with him, an unfailing dispenser of good cheer. If something was bothering you and you were looking for a smiley face, Joe was probably the last person on the continent that you wanted to encounter. But if you wanted serious conversation about our responsibilities and our obligations and you wanted to talk about both the strengths and the limitations of government, if you wanted to talk about