

Joe then went on to become President and CEO of Heritage Enterprises, a longterm care corporation, located in Bloomington, Illinois.

The elderly of Illinois have greatly benefited from the leadership and dedication that Joe continuously displayed throughout his life. Whether it was in his capacity as President and CEO of Heritage Enterprises or the President of the Illinois Health Care Association, Joe tirelessly advocated on behalf of Illinois' seniors to ensure they were afforded the highest quality of care.

Not only have Illinois' elderly lost a friend and advocate, but our youth have as well. Prior to his passing, Joe had taken on the role of planner and fundraiser for the \$3 Million Challenger Learning Center, which will be an educational site for children to focus on studying math and science.

Joe Warner was involved in scores of organizations and knew the importance of investment in his community. He also knew the importance of investing in his family, and was a great husband and father to his wife, Rose Stadel, and their two children Jeff and Jennifer. The memory of Joe Warner will continue through his numerous contributions to his community. On July 22nd, Illinois lost a respected and admired friend. He will be missed. I ask you, my colleagues, to rise today in salute of the rich legacy Joe Warner has left behind.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK MATTAROCCHI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I rise today to pay tribute to Frank Mattarocci of Pueblo, Colorado. Mr. Mattarocci is the proud owner of LaTronica's, an Italian restaurant that remains very popular among locals throughout the Pueblo community for its delicious food and distinctive atmosphere. Today, I would like to recognize the success which Frank and his family have achieved in making LaTronica's an invaluable part of the life and culture of southern Colorado.

LaTronica's has remained in Frank's family for four generations. The restaurant was first opened by Frank's great grandfather, Liberto "Chief" LaTronica, in 1943. Despite a few modifications, the restaurant still looks almost exactly the same as when it first opened sixty years ago. Over the years, the restaurant changed hands from one generation to the next, preserving within its walls a rich family legacy that still remains constant today. Since the restaurant opened in 1943, it has largely been a family endeavor. Frank began working in the restaurant at age ten, cleaning glasses for his father behind the bar. Today, Frank has the help of his brother Mark, sister Tari, and cousin Maggie to ensure that the business runs smoothly.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Frank Mattarocci before this body of Congress and this nation for his enduring commitment to such a wonderful family restaurant. Small businesses like LaTronica's are

the backbone of our economy, and the heart of our neighborhoods. Over the years, LaTronica's has become a living example of history and culture, providing the community of Pueblo with great food, seasoned atmosphere, and many wonderful memories. I wish Frank and the rest of the family at LaTronica's all the best and good luck in all of their future endeavors.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE PAUL D. WELLSTONE, SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution honoring my colleague and friend, Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota.

Senator Wellstone was not only a friend of mine, but also he was a special friend of my district, the 9th Congressional District of California. In fact, he had visited my district not long before the tragic accident. People in my community embraced Paul for the same reasons so many across country did.

Paul Wellstone was a progressive champion who truly personified the personal, populist approach to politics. He was an organizer who never lost touch with his grass-roots. In fact, he proved that the support of everyday Americans, not huge sums of corporate cash, could still win elections. He proved that you don't have to compromise your beliefs to be successful. He proved that passion for beliefs earns the respect of even one's biggest opponent.

Paul Wellstone showed no fear and incredible energy in his approach to fighting for our shared progressive agenda. He stood alone as the sole member of the Progressive Caucus in the Senate. He worked tirelessly for the least among us; often against incredible odds. Paul was never afraid to speak up and to fight for his beliefs.

Despite the often-long odds he faced, Senator Wellstone was an extremely effective and accomplished Senator. His work on mental health parity legislation is widely recognized, and I sincerely hope to have the opportunity to vote yes on the Wellstone mental health parity legislation in the very near future. He, along with the help of his wife Sheila, passed several pieces of legislation to prevent domestic violence and to help its victims.

He worked tirelessly to end the scourge of homelessness among our nations' veterans and to ensure those who served this country received the health care they were promised and deserve. As a former educator, he fought for increases in Head Start, higher education funding, and better schools for all children in America, regardless of income. He fought for seniors and to alleviate the absurd cost of prescription medication. In short: he fought for us all.

The people of Minnesota, the United States Congress, the progressive movement, and all

Americans were fortunate to have such a strong, effective, tireless, and accomplished leader serving us in the United State Senate. We will miss him dearly.

And though he is no longer with us, we will always remember and thank him for his incredible service. Now we must honor his memory by continuing our collective fight to make his vision of America a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I have attached for the RECORD a copy of remarks I made in introducing Paul Wellstone at an event last year.

REPRESENTATIVE LEE'S INTRODUCTION OF SENATOR WELLSTONE (D-MN) AT 21ST CENTURY DEMOCRATS DINNER WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2001

As we come together tonight to honor some amazing populists with Democrats 2000, now known as 21st Century Democrats, I am extremely proud to introduce one of the greatest progressives in Congress—the phenomenal Paul Wellstone.

As many of you know, after more than 20 years of teaching, Paul Wellstone jumped into the 1990 Minnesota Senate race. He rallied a huge grassroots network of supporters, got a Green Bus to tour the state, and won his election. When you are trying to rally the troops in your state for an election, it's easy when you have an amazing, inspirational, progressive leader like Paul Wellstone. He personifies the personal, populist approach to winning elections. He proves you need the support of everyday Americans, not huge sums of corporate cash, to get elected.

During his tenure in Congress, Senator Wellstone has been a real leader in progressive causes and has held true to his beliefs. He is our one and only Congressional Progressive Caucus member in the Senate. He proves that you don't have to compromise your beliefs to be successful. He proves that your passion for your issues make even your opponents respect you. Senator Wellstone is one of the most effective members of the United States Congress, which is no easy feat these days and he champions issues few members will dare to discuss.

Senator Wellstone has been so active and successful in dealing with so many issues, but let me take a moment just to commend him on a few.

He is a tireless supporter of legislation to ensure mental health parity. He has passed several pieces of legislation with the help of his wife Sheila to prevent domestic violence and to help its victims. His work helping homeless veterans and on veterans' health care has earned him recognition of numerous veterans' organizations. As a former educator, his devotion to education and children's issues has led him to fight for increases in Head Start, higher education funding, and better schools for all children in America, regardless of income. He has partnered with Minnesota seniors to talk about the international disparities in prescription drug pricing and to pass legislation to correct this problem.

And these are just a tiny fraction of his successes. In short, the people of Minnesota, the United States Congress, the progressive movement, and all Americans are so fortunate to have a strong, effective, tireless, accomplished leader serving them in Paul Wellstone.

Senator Wellstone, welcome, and congratulations on this award you are receiving tonight.