

advantage of initiatives, like Together Rx, that are safe, effective, and proven to provide Medicare patients with medicines at lower cost.

But Mr. Speaker, if the House really wants to address the issue of high drug costs, it would pass a real prescription medicine benefit for our seniors. The Congress needs to enact a prescription medicine plan that is simple, comprehensive, and a part of Medicare. I am hopeful that in conference we are able to come together in a bipartisan manner and pass a real prescription medicine benefit. That is part of the solution to this problem.

The bill before us is a threat to the safety of America's drug supply and its consumers. I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 2427 and the motion to recommit.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER ARNOLD STRICKLAND, CORPORAL JAMES CRUMP AND DISPATCHER LESLIE MEALER

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 7, 2003 the City of Fayette, the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Alabama lost three public servants in a senseless act of violence. Officer Arnold Strickland, Corporal James Crump and Dispatcher Leslie Mealer. These men were performing their duties inside the Fayette Police Department when they were tragically struck down.

Arnold Gunther Strickland was a veteran law enforcement officer with twenty-three years of experience with other departments in West Alabama and nearly three years with the Fayette Police Department.

James Eddie Crump was a 1994 graduate of the Tuscaloosa Law Enforcement Academy and had served in law enforcement for nine years, including over six years with the police department in his hometown of Hamilton and nearly three years in Fayette.

Leslie Franklin Mealer, better known as "Ace," had a fifteen year association with law enforcement in Fayette County. He served as a Reserve Deputy for the Fayette County Sheriff's Department, Reserve Officer with the Town of Berry Police Department, Dispatcher for the Fayette County Sheriff's Department and Dispatcher for Fayette County E-911.

We live in a world today that puts our police officers in harms way each and every day. More and more, these brave men and women find their lives at risk. The uneasy feeling that washes over their families as they do their jobs is heightened when such a tragedy occurs.

I wish I could offer some words that would comfort the loved ones left behind. Three families have had their hearts broken. Officer Arnold Strickland, Corporal James Crump and Dispatcher Ace Mealer were assets to their community. They were sons, husbands, fathers and friends. They were citizens and Americans who gave back to their community and had so much more to offer, so much more to give to make the world a better place. They made the ultimate sacrifice and we honor them today.

I am grateful to Officer Strickland, Corporal Crump and Dispatcher Mealer for their cour-

age, dedication to duty and the protection they provided to the citizens of Fayette. As Fayette Mayor Ray Nelson has said, "These three men gave their ultimate sacrifice, but not in vain. They died doing what they loved best, and they gave their best." They will always be heroes.

PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET ACCESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is designed to lower the high prices for prescription drugs in this country by allowing Americans to import from twenty-five developed countries including Canada and most of Western Europe. Prescription drug costs are significantly lower in these countries than they are in the United States. Drug companies have been charging more to Americans, I think, because we have been willing to pay.

But it is not right to expect American consumers to subsidize prescription drug prices for other industrial countries. By holding American consumers in a captive market, prices for drugs here have been able to climb an average of 77 percent above prices found in other countries.

Because of the huge difference between what Americans pay for prescription drugs here and what they can pay just across the border, these drugs are already making their way to Michigan by the busload. This bill will simply expand access to increased savings for all Americans and require FDA to ensure the authenticity and safety of these products.

The Medicare Prescription Drug bill we passed last month did nothing to address the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs, and simply committed the government to picking up part of the tab. Unfortunately, this means that Americans can now get fleeced by these costs as both consumers and taxpayers. Opening up drug prices to an international market while limiting purchases to drugs approved by the FDA and produced in FDA approved facilities will help assure safety and help keep costs down.

MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION SECURITY ACT OF 2003

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, the Multiemployer Pension Security Act of 2003, which will strengthen and protect the defined pension benefits of thousands of workers.

Of the nearly 44 million working men and women who participate in defined benefit pension plans almost ten million people, approximately 25 percent of all those who have defined benefit pensions, participate in multiemployer plans. These plans are managed under a wholly different structure than single-employer plans. Although recent policy debate

has focused primarily on single-employer plans, in introducing this legislation today, I intend to broaden the pension debate to include the very important issues facing multiemployer plans.

Multiemployer pension reform legislation is necessary and overdue. The bold, structural reforms of the Multiemployer Pension Security Act will provide the millions of active and retired workers who participate in these plans with the long-term security of knowing their promised benefits will be funded and safeguarded.

People have spoken of the "perfect storm" that has ravaged funding levels in single-employer pension plans. Stock market losses, a sluggish economy and record-low interest rates have combined to create serious underfunding problems. Those events have impacted multiemployer plans also, but the issues for multiemployer plans are much broader than just a dip in the Dow. There are fundamental weaknesses in the system and structure under which these plans operate. For example, one key difference between single-employer plans and multiemployer plans is that there is no minimum funding level required in multi's. While a weakening single-employer plan will trigger remedial action, the same threshold is not present for multiemployer plans. Losses can continue until there is simply no more money and no more time, and benefits cannot be paid. The Multiemployer Pension Security Act of 2003 will correct this deficiency in current law.

The lack of adequate, minimum funding standards is just one of the many weaknesses of the multiemployer pension plan system which this legislation will correct. Not only do multiemployer plans lack the regulatory "stop-loss" measures of single employer plans, participants do not currently have the assurance of insurance. When a multiemployer pension plan fails, or when a company participant in a multiemployer plans goes bankrupt, there is no Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to rely on because multiemployer plans do not fall under the same PBGC structure. This legislation will address that and give men and women of multiemployer plans the same governmental oversight provided to participants of single-employer plans.

I am introducing the Multiemployer Pension Security Act because we, as a nation, must address these issues now to prevent further deterioration of these plans and to assure that promised pensions are available to existing retirees and to current participants when they retire. We cannot focus only on single-employer plans; we are also responsible to the almost ten million men and women in multiemployer pension plans. I urge my colleagues to review this legislation and join with me to urge its passage.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID KELLY

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a House Resolution extending the condolences of the United States House of Representatives to the family of Dr. David Kelly.