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HONORING ELIZABETH BIRCH

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 2003*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a person who has ably served the national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community for over 8 years: Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign.

Elizabeth is stepping down from the helm of the Human Rights Campaign, but leaves with many victories won and a strong organization that will continue to move our country forward.

Elizabeth is a visionary. Her ideas and conceptions are remarkable. She conceived the idea of the HRC Youth College—which trains dozens of young LGBT Americans who then work on congressional campaigns. She also created WorkNet, a program that documents the ever-growing number of businesses who understand it is good stewardship, and good business, to treat their LGBT employees fairly. WorkNet also assists employees who want their company to increase its commitment to equality. These are just two examples out of literally hundreds for which Elizabeth deserves credit.

Elizabeth is a leader. When hired by the then-Human Rights Campaign Fund, she was a Californian and not accustomed to the sometimes harsh ways of Washington. As Executive Director, she secured her political footing quickly and HRC's influence continued to grow on Capitol Hill. Because of her leadership, HRC has helped defeat numerous anti-gay measures and advance policies that are based on fairness. When needed, she would take to the public airwaves to remind our leaders in Washington that Americans do not want a government intolerant to its own citizens.

Mr. Speaker, my remarks cannot adequately describe the exceptional work and accomplishments of Elizabeth Birch. She is an extraordinary human being. She is my friend. I am grateful for the leadership she has provided, and she will be sorely missed.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1, MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 2003*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, It would be healthy for the conference committee to debate this in the context of the overall program that will serve the senior citizens most in need. Having the possibility of the wealthiest senior citizens paying a little more does not seem unreasonable.

Unfortunately, Congress is slowly but surely painting itself into a corner. As people rule out

tax or fee increases, benefit reductions, co-payment adjustment or eligibility modifications, there appears to be no way the current program can be maintained, much less add a new, important, but expensive prescription drug benefit without a massive infusion from the general fund (borrowed dollars).

With increasing budget deficits, more tax cuts, and escalating demands on Social Security and Medicare (both in terms of service and demographics), we are headed for a train wreck. We must start making some adjustments because time is growing short and a problem that is already difficult is becoming more serious as time goes on.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO GIVE DC CITIZENS A PLACE IN STATUARY HALL

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 2003*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Government Reform Committee Chair Tom Davis (R-VA) introduced a bill with me today to permit two statues honoring citizens of the District of Columbia in Statuary Hall of the Capitol, just as statues honoring citizens of states are placed in the historic hall. This legislation would allow the city to offer two statues to the Congress on behalf of D.C. residents.

The District of Columbia was born with the nation itself. The city has more than two centuries of its very own rich and uniquely American history. It goes without saying that the almost 600,000 American citizens who live in the nation's capital deserve the honor of having two of its history makers represented in the halls of the nation's Capitol just as citizens who live in the 50 states have long enjoyed.

Our bill would allow the Mayor and the City Council to devise the method for determining the identity of the honorees, who must be deceased. Mayor Anthony Williams has already agreed to find funds in the District's budget for these statues upon the passage of this legislation.

Every time we allow the District to be excluded from its place among the 50 states, we undermine our own fight for congressional voting rights and full democracy. It is for this reason that I insisted on a D.C. coin when quarters were authorized for the states and a D.C. travel and tourism stamp. I got the Postal Service to issue the first hometown D.C. stamp depicting D.C. neighborhoods, as well as traditional monuments, last month. My coin bill has been introduced and is expected to be approved soon on the suspension calendar.

While D.C. residents have not yet obtained the same full political equality and voting rights as the states, they have all the responsibilities of the states, including paying all federal taxes and serving in all wars. Today when we are losing residents in Iraq, the least we should do is to give this city its rightful and equal place in the Capitol. Recently the District lost 44-year old Lt. Col. Paul W. Kimbrough, an African-American engineer who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. A month ago I attended the funeral of 21-year old Specialist Darryl Dent of the D.C. National Guard who was killed in Iraq. There are more

than 100 soldiers still serving in Iraq from Specialist Dent's 547th Transportation Company.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WEAVER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to the life and memory of a great citizen from my district. John Weaver of Naturita, Colorado, an employee of the Montrose County Sheriff's Department and a devoted public servant, tragically passed away recently in the crash of his ultra-light airplane. As his family and our community mourn John's passing, I would like to pay tribute to his memory here today.

John was very active in the Naturita community. He was Lead Dispatcher at the West End Communications Center for the Montrose Sheriff's Department, where he helped make that office a unified and efficient team. His hard work and dedication saved countless lives. John was also a member of the Naturita Town Board, and he worked tirelessly to open the Basin Clinic, a local medical clinic which serves the residents of Naturita. In addition, John was instrumental in establishing the Naturita Fire and Rescue team, serving his community as a volunteer fire fighter.

Mr. Speaker, John Weaver was a man of conviction and kindness. A dedicated public servant, a devoted neighbor, and an active member of the community, John went out of his way to help his friends and neighbors whenever he could. While John has passed away, his legacy will certainly live. I am honored to join with my colleagues in honoring John's life and memory here today.

IN HONOR OF ST. INNOCENT ORTHODOX CHURCH

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Innocent Orthodox Church on the 20th Anniversary of the founding of St. Innocent the Apostle to America Parish.

Twenty years ago, a coalition of dedicated Orthodox Christians from a variety of ethnic backgrounds came together to practice their faith in a common language. These early members began holding biweekly services in the Community Room of Great Northern Mall and established committees to determine the growth and direction of the new parish. St. Innocent was chosen as the patron saint because the zeal of the missionary, who taught the Orthodox Christian Faith across North America and Alaska, would be an inspiration to the members of the new church.

In 1984, the members of St. Innocent began holding services in a rented chapel in Westlake. Members established a church school program for children and adults and weekly bible studies. The church is also very active in outreach to the surrounding community. Each month, money from an extra collection is donated to charitable organizations or