

IN RECOGNITION OF RON  
STEWART

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ron Stewart for his many years of public service and the many contributions he has made to the people of Colorado. I want to thank him on behalf of all Boulder County citizens for the depth and diversity of contributions he has made to ensure that Boulder County remains a very special place to live.

A lifelong resident of Longmont, Ron has been active in Colorado politics for over 30 years. During college he organized the Young Democrats in Longmont for several years and was elected Chair of the Boulder Democratic Party at the age of 21. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Colorado and did graduate work at the University of Colorado in Denver in Public Administration. He served as Executive Director of the Colorado State Party from 1972 through 1975 and was elected to the Colorado Senate in 1976 where he served two terms, retiring as Senate Minority Leader.

Before being elected as Boulder County Commissioner in 1984, Ron was a member of the Mile High United Way Board of Directors and Chairman for the Political Action for Conservation. From 1977–1982 he served on the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee, and he was a member of the Colorado Environment Lobby Board of Directors from 1985–1986.

He has earned several honors, including “Outstanding Senator” in 1984 from the Colorado Social Legislation Committee and “Friend of Education Award” from the Colorado Education Association in 1986, and has received awards from PLAN Boulder County, Boulder County Audubon, and the Colorado Chapter of Trout Unlimited. He also has been recognized nationally for his work on intergovernmental cooperation. This year, the American Planning Association bestowed upon him the very prestigious Distinguished Elected Official Award.

As a county commissioner, Ron has served with distinction from 1985–2005. He has been a visionary in the development of Boulder County’s Open Space Program, leading the effort to protect the county’s natural beauty and preserve its agricultural heritage. Commissioner Stewart has gained nationwide respect and admiration for his commitment to orderly land use planning that is built on cooperation and consensus, particularly through the Super-IGA. In presiding over an era of de-centralization of services, Commissioner Stewart has been a vigorous advocate for improving county government accessibility. In developing new ways to involve stakeholders in the county’s policy making process, he has done much to make government more understandable to its constituents. In trying to find ways to lessen the impacts of policy changes on those constituents least able to adjust to them, he has shown his compassion for the less fortunate.

I am particularly appreciative of the work Commissioner Stewart has done to invigorate the Boulder County social services delivery system, by fostering collaboration in program development and management, leading the way to innovative problem-solving, the most

notable examples being the Genesis and IMPACT programs. Commissioner Stewart’s advocacy for enhanced funding of social programs has made all the difference in a number of ballot questions, notably the Worthy Cause Tax, and as a result, Boulder County’s nonprofit human service agencies get the support they need.

Commissioner Stewart has been a careful custodian of the taxpayers’ dollars, managing the county’s budget with restraint and according to the highest ethical standards. He has consistently represented the Office of County Commissioner with grace and dignity.

On a personal level, I know Ron to be a remarkable leader, a dependable colleague, and a kind person with an infectious laugh. It is my sincere hope that his retirement from the office of County Commissioner will open the door to a future of rewarding experiences. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking Ron Stewart for all of the good and important work he has done for Boulder County and Colorado.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAMUEL STEPHEN DRUCKER UPON HIS ACHIEVEMENT OF EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2005*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent Samuel Stephen Drucker of Eagle Scout troop No. 204 in Lafayette, California, as he receives the distinguished honor of the Eagle Scout rank.

The honor of Eagle Scout is given only to those young men who have demonstrated that they have fulfilled its rigorous requirements, including living by the Scout Oath and Law, rising through the Boy Scout ranks, earning 21 merit badges, serving as a leader, and planning and leading a service project for their community. This is not an honor given out lightly: this young man is becoming an Eagle Scout because he is intelligent, dedicated, and principled.

I am proud to call Samuel Stephen Drucker my constituent, for he is a shining example of the promise of the next generation. Indeed, he represents the best of the young people in our country. I extend my sincere congratulations to him and his family, on this momentous occasion.

MEDICAL INNOVATION PRIZE  
FUND

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2005*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to share with you a summary of H.R. 417, legislation I recently introduced that would change the paradigm for financing medical R&D and pricing prescription drugs in the United States.

Rather than rely on high drug prices as the incentive for R&D, the bill would directly reward developers of medicines, on the basis of a drug’s incremental therapeutic benefit to

consumers, through a new Medical Innovation Prize Fund. Prices for prescription drugs to consumers would be at low generic prices immediately upon entry to the market.

By breaking the link between drug prices and R&D, we can provide more equitable access to medicine, end rationing and restrictive formularies, and manage overall R&D incentives through a separate mechanism that can be increased or decreased, depending on society’s willingness to pay for medical R&D. The bill, by rewarding only truly innovative products that provide new therapeutic benefits to consumers, would also dramatically reduce wasteful expenditures such as those on research, development and marketing of “me-too” medicines.

SUMMARY OF THE MEDICAL INNOVATION PRIZE FUND

The current system for financing research and development of new medicines is broken. High prices are a barrier to access. Companies invest too much in non-innovative “me-too” products and too little on truly innovative medicines. Massive expenditures on marketing of products consume too many resources with very little if any net social benefits.

My legislation, H.R. 417, creating the Medical Innovation Prize Fund is an attempt to fundamentally restructure this system. It presents a new paradigm for R&D of new medicines. This is how it would work:

The legislation would separate the markets for products from the markets for innovation. Products would become generics immediately after FDA approval.

The innovators would be rewarded from a massive Medical Innovation Prize Fund, MIPF.

The MIPF would make awards to developers of medicines, based upon the incremental therapeutic benefits of new treatments.

The MIPF would also have minimum levels of funding for priority healthcare needs such as: (1) Global infectious diseases; (2) diseases that qualify under the U.S. Orphan Drug Act; (3) neglected diseases primarily affecting the poor in developing countries.

These pay-outs would take place over the first ten years of use of a medicine. The payments from the MIPF would always go to the developer of the new medicine, regardless of who actually sells the product to consumers.

The legislation proposes to set the MIPF pay-outs at .5 percent of the national income of the United States (as measured by GDP).

An independent Board of Trustees would manage the MIPF. Trustees would include key government officials, as well as persons from the private sector, representing industry, patient groups and medical researchers.

Inventors would be free to obtain patents, and to use patents normally, until the FDA approves a new medicine. At that point, the patent owner would be remunerated from the MIPF, rather than from royalties on high drug prices.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. MARINE CORPORAL CHRISTOPHER L. WEAVER

**HON. JOHN LINDER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2005*

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I was informed by one of my staff that a childhood acquaintance of his, U.S. Marine Corporal Christopher L. Weaver, was killed in action in Iraq just last week.