

(Oncology Nurse Ruth Van Gerpen. Oncology nurses play an important and essential role in providing quality cancer care. These nurses are principally involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and the associated side-effects patients experience. As anyone ever treated for cancer will tell you, oncology nurses are intelligent, well-trained, highly skilled, kind-hearted angels who provide quality clinical, psychosocial and supportive care to patients and their families. In short, they are integral to our nation's cancer care delivery system. ONS has five chapters that serve the oncology nurses of Nebraska and help them continue to provide the best possible cancer care to patients and their families in our state.

On behalf of the people with cancer and their families in Nebraska's First Congressional District, I would like to specifically acknowledge Ruth Van Gerpen for her leadership within the Oncology Nursing Society as a member of the ONS Board of Directors. Ruth is a clinical nurse specialist (CNS) for oncology at BryanLGH Medical Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. She has been an RN for 28 years and has devoted 20 of those years to oncology nursing. Ruth works to improve patient outcomes, enhance professional and consumer awareness, and educate and support newly diagnosed individuals and their families. Through Ruth's and ONS' leadership, our nation is charting a course that will help us win the war on cancer.

Cancer is a complex, multifaceted and chronic disease, and people with cancer are best served by a multidisciplinary health care team specialized in oncology care, including nurses who are certified in that specialty. According to the American Cancer Society, one in three women and one in two men will receive a diagnosis of cancer at some point in their lives, and one out of every four deaths in the United States results from cancer. This year approximately 1.37 million people will be diagnosed with cancer and another 570,000 will lose their battles with this terrible disease. Every day, oncology nurses such as Ruth see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment.

Today, more than two-thirds of cancer cases strike people over the age of 65, and the number of cancer cases diagnosed among senior citizens is projected to double by 2030. At the same time, many of the community-based cancer centers are facing significant barriers in hiring the specialized oncology nurses they need to treat cancer patients. We are on the verge of a major national nursing shortage, and it is estimated that there will be a shortage of 1.1 million nurses in the year 2015.

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) is the largest organization of oncology health professionals in the world, with more than 31,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals. Since 1975, the Oncology Nursing Society has been dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching, research, administration and education in the field of oncology. The Society's mission is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. To that end, ONS honors and maintains nursing's historical and essential commitment to advocacy for the public good by providing nurses and healthcare professionals with access to

the highest quality educational programs, cancer-care resources, research opportunities and networks for peer support.

I commend Ruth Van Gerpen for her leadership and ongoing commitment to improving and assuring access to quality cancer care for cancer patients and their families, and I urge my colleagues to support oncology nurses in their important endeavors.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF
ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of His Eminence, Archbishop Iakovos, who faithfully led the Greek Orthodox Church in North and South America for over thirty years. With his passing on April 10th, the world lost a great spiritual leader and humanitarian who desired peace and unity between all nations and religions.

Archbishop Iakovos, who was born as Demetrios Coucouzis on July 29, 1911, first set foot on American shores in 1939, after graduating from the Halki Theological Seminary. In 1945 he received a graduate degree from Harvard Theological Seminary and five years later he became an official U.S. citizen.

When Archbishop Iakovos became the leader of the Orthodox faithful in 1959, he made it his goal to bring the church into mainstream life for his followers. In the spirit of incorporating Greek Orthodoxy in America, he encouraged the use of English in the liturgy, set up dialogues with other Christian denominations, as well as Jewish and Muslim leaders, and became the first Archbishop to meet with a Roman Catholic Pope in 350 years.

As a humanitarian, Archbishop Iakovos also became very interested in political issues, particularly those impacting human and civil rights. He regularly visited the White House and met with every U.S. president from Eisenhower to Clinton. His strong vision for peace compelled him to voice his opposition to the Vietnam War, support for the rights of Soviet Jews, and encouragement for the Middle East Peace process. As a champion of social causes, he will forever be remembered for assisting the civil rights movement in America by marching in 1965 with Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, Alabama.

Throughout his career, Archbishop Iakovos was highly honored for his work. In 1980, former President Jimmy Carter awarded him the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. He served on the World Council of Churches and also was awarded honorary degrees from over forty colleges and universities.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life and legacy of Archbishop Iakovos, who through faithful leadership brought the ideas of faith, equality, peace, and unity to the forefront of the world's political and religious stage.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF CELIA
BARRAGAN OF CANYON INTER-
MEDIATE SCHOOL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many, accomplishments of Celia Barragan, Canyon High School Teacher of the Year.

Celia Barragan received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Texas State University in San Marcos. She currently teaches fourth grade in Comal Independent School District. With over twenty-eight years of experience in teaching, she understands the unique needs of our kids.

She personally believes that the two most important qualities that can be nurtured are "positive self-esteem" and "responsibility". Teaching young people to place value in these virtues is important for skills and development later in life. With a long and distinguished career, Celia Barragan has helped generations of our students to excel in, school.

I am proud to have this opportunity to honor the contributions of Celia Barragan, the Canyon Intermediate School Teacher of the Year. Her many years of passionate service have been a blessing to the Comal community.

LONGFORD WATER COMPANY, LLC

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the citizens of Longford, Kansas in their work to create and support Longford Water Company, LLC.

For years, this town of 89 people has had a reputation for providing high quality, good tasting water. Road signs near the community advised, "For Good Health and Longevity Drink Longford Water, Kansas Purest." Groundwater from Longford is clean and soft because it is naturally filtered by a distinctive group of underground rocks known as the Kiowa Formation. Years ago, communities used to compete at the Kansas State Fair regarding the quality of their water. Water from Longford was a frequent winner.

More than a year and a half ago, a group of local individuals formed Longford Water Company, LLC. The reason: to research the possibility of capitalizing on Longford's reputation for high quality water by bottling it for sale. They discovered that most of the bottled water for sale has been treated by reverse osmosis, a process used to purify water through removal of unwanted chemicals. This procedure is expensive and removes natural minerals from the water that contribute to good physical health. Due to its high quality, Longford water does not need to be subjected to this added expense.

Following extensive research, the company took the following actions: announced that the production facility will be located in Longford; agreed to purchase water from the City of Longford; in order to minimize marketing and shipping costs, established a marketing distribution system that focuses on a 50-mile