

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF JOHN DOMINICK BENEDETTO: HE SHARED HIS FAITH IN ETHICS AND FAIRNESS TOWARD HIS FELLOW MAN

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to my friend, John Dominick Benedetto, who died August 29, 2005, in Jupiter, Florida. His memory lives on in the loving embrace of his family and many friends.

John brought a breath of love and beauty to everything he touched, whether in music, the arts, in the preparation of foods, or in his creativity as an entrepreneur.

In World War II, he served his country in the U.S. Air Force. But his appreciation for this land was manifest most deeply in his heartfelt concern for all of its people. He truly believed that every man, woman and child was due—without distinction—the fairness and justice that are America's promise.

In his unassuming way, John personified for me the great Godly virtue taught to us in the Gospel of Matthew: As you have done it unto one of the least of these, you have done it unto me.

My love and condolences go out to Patricia, his faithful and loving wife of 28 years, their five daughters and two sons, their seven grandchildren, and of course, his brother, Tony.

For the information of my colleagues I submit the following obituary which was published in the South Florida Sun-Sentinel on August 30, 2005.

Benedetto, John Dominick, was born on March 18, 1923 in New York City, died August 29, 2005 in Jupiter, FL. He is survived by his loving wife of 28 years Patricia, his brother Tony, five daughters, two sons and seven grandchildren. As a young boy, John sang with the Metropolitan Opera Company, where his beautiful tenor voice resonated through the hills of Italy. His talent and creativity was a mainstay throughout his life, and manifested through his passion for music, life, art, and family. After returning from his tour with the U.S. Air Force during WWII, John became an entrepreneur whose passion for invention was nurtured through the development of many ideas and opportunities. As an innovative thinker, John thought about ways to make the world a better place to live and to foster positive social change. John loved to bring people together, whether it was for a small family gathering where he would create amazing meals with love, or simply sitting on his dock and fishing with a friend or relative. His travels and life's path brought him many experiences that were colorfully shared in anecdotes over a card game or an expertly mixed drink. John's charm and charisma attracted many friends, and allowed him to touch many people. John will be greatly missed. A private service will be arranged by the family for a future date. In lieu of flowers, the family thanks all who can please donate to the

TRIPPS organization: 263 Shamey Lane Kenesaw, GA 30144 <http://www.tripps.org/>.

### CHILD MEDICATION SAFETY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

### HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, specifically pertaining to H.R. 1790, the Child Medication Safety Act, I firmly believe that parents should have the final say about the administering of medication to their child. I agree with the legislation's main intent to prohibit school personnel from requiring a child, as a condition of attending school or receiving services, to obtain a prescription for a controlled substance or a psychotropic drug.

### JIMMY BRESLIN GETS IT RIGHT: THE IRAQ WAR IS A LOCAL ISSUE

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce into the RECORD the commentary entitled "War must be a local issue", written by Jimmy Breslin in the November 9, 2005 issue of Newsday.

Jimmy Breslin's writing cuts to the heart of an issue and this article does just that. He focuses on how the President's lies are perpetuated at the local level, in this case by Mayor Michael Bloomberg; and how some in the Congress and we as citizens accept those lies because we are living "in a time of National Alzheimer's."

Mr. Breslin wrote of the funeral of a 26-year-old marine, Riayan A. Teheda at which Mayor Bloomberg spoke two years ago. According to Mr. Breslin, the Mayor pronounced of the marine killed in Iraq: "He died to keep the weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of . . ." After those words, Mr. Breslin said "you heard no more." Speaking of Mayor Bloomberg, Mr. Breslin wrote: "He was up there in the presence of a gallant New Yorker and he spread a lie and for me it was the start of his campaign and it ended with me not voting for him . . ."

The funeral of Riayan A. Teheda was at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church on Wadsworth Avenue in Washington Heights, which to Mr. Breslin was "more than somewhat local." He reports that he had been to the funerals of other kids in the Bronx, Ridgewood and in Brooklyn. Mr. Breslin concluded: "If a kid who gets killed is local, then—the war is local."

When President Bush "comforts" the families who have lost their sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, fathers and mothers by telling

them the deaths of their loved ones honors those have died before them, he cannot really provide comfort. The parents of a fallen soldier would never ask that another family suffer what they have suffered. The parents I have met don't believe their sons and daughters need the deaths of other sons and daughters to prove their children have died honorably. They believe their children died for their country. They have died for their country.

To quote Mr. Breslin again: "They die in the splendor of bravery, the prayer of valor. And fall in vain because the government causes them to die in vain."

What Mr. Breslin identifies is national leadership that is, "a fake and a fraud and a shill and a sham" who has now, unwittingly perhaps, admitted he was wrong but blames the Democrats who voted to go to war because they made the mistake of believing what he told them.

American soldiers and Iraqis are still dying. The President has still not told anyone the real reason we are in Iraq. He has not told the truth about the intelligence he and a chosen few had when he took this country to war.

Jimmy Breslin is one of New York's most talented writers. His description of New York and of the Nation as having Alzheimer's is strong but descriptive in a way hard to put in to other words and have the same effect. The people in this country do not know there are two wars being fought by a tiny fraction of this population and that their sacrifice is being inflicted and endured out of the sight of the Media and the American public.

[From Newsday, Nov. 9, 2005]

WAR MUST BE A LOCAL ISSUE

(By Jimmy Breslin)

The church was empty at dusk. You stood in the stillness and looked at the place, right there on the side of the altar, where Michael Bloomberg spoke over the casket of a fallen aristocrat of the city, Riayan A. Teheda, Marine, dead in Iraq at age 26.

Bloomberg pronounced, "He died to keep the weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of . . ."

You heard no more. He was up there in the presence of a gallant New Yorker and he spread a lie and for me it was the start of his campaign and it ended with me not voting for him last night.

He says of Iraq, "It is not a local issue."

This was almost 2 years ago at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church on Wadsworth Avenue in Washington Heights, which is more than somewhat local.

By myself, I have been at the deep grief of another soldier's funeral in the Bronx, one in Ridgewood, another in Brooklyn.

If the kid who gets killed is local, then—the war is local.

This war continues without an official protest that would call out the will of the people of the City of New York and might count in a Nation that by now realizes it has been the victim of a president who is a fake and a fraud and a shill and a sham and now is going around with the blind staggers.

Only the other night, in a television appearance with the opponent, Ferrer, Bloomberg was asked about withdrawing troops from Iraq and—heavens!—you can't do

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