

COMMENDING THE WORK OF WILSON HOSPICE ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the staff of Wilson Hospice in Sidney, Ohio, as they mark 20 years of service to the region.

As part of Wilson Memorial Hospital in Sidney, Wilson Hospice provides invaluable care to the people of Shelby, Auglaize, Champaign, Darke, Logan, and Miami Counties. The hospice's professional and volunteer caregivers take great pride in helping those with terminal and other challenging illnesses in the final stages of their lives.

Wilson Hospice offers a wide range of assistance, from in-home care to aid in nursing facilities and other assisted-care centers in the region. Hospice staffers tailor care to each patient's needs, working in concert with families and doctors to provide pain management, spiritual and emotional care, and whatever other support is required. Because catastrophic illnesses frequently come with significant financial burden that harms quality of life, no one in need is ever turned away from Wilson based on an inability to pay.

The hospice excels in the outstanding grief support services it provides to families—including a phenomenal program targeted at teens and children, who often have the most difficult times dealing with the loss of a loved one. For more than a year after a loved one's death, family members may receive personal and group counseling and support services through the hospice. Those who have participated in these programs never forget the commitment and compassion of the many caregivers who help them cope with their losses.

Madam Speaker, Wilson Hospice will celebrate its 20th anniversary with an event this Monday, October 22. I look forward to attending and joining people throughout the region in applauding the dedicated staff of the hospice for all they do to provide comfort and peace to patients and their families.

TAX COLLECTION RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2007

ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Tax Collection Responsibility Act of 2007. This legislation will put a stop to the use of private debt collection agencies to collect federal income taxes and ensure that this critical government function is performed by public servants on behalf of American taxpayers.

The small proportion of individuals who do not pay their taxes does increase the burden for the rest of the responsible, law-abiding Americans. In 2004 Congress attempted to

hold these people accountable by authorizing a pilot private debt collection program for debts owed to the Internal Revenue Service. While this program was intended to be a more efficient way to collect unpaid taxes, it has proven to be a failure.

We have found that some of the private debt collection agencies are nothing short of bounty hunters, who use harassment to collect debts. Our constituents deserve to know that the person contacting them on behalf of the Federal Government is a public-servant, who is held to the highest standards of accountability and confidentiality, not a person whose paycheck depends solely on the number of collections they make.

In addition to the use of heavy-handed and abusive tactics to collect unpaid taxes, private tax collection agencies have also shown themselves to be significantly less efficient than the IRS agents who should be doing this work in the first place. This program has cost the American taxpayers \$71 million, but has only collected \$20 million, for a net loss of over \$50 million. The IRS's National Taxpayer Advocate testified that for the same \$71 million investment, the IRS would have collected around \$1.4 billion. It simply does not make sense to waste public funds in this manner.

The Republican motion to recommit on this legislation would add to the bill a wholesale repeal of the estate tax. Repealing the estate tax would be fiscally irresponsible and break the promise this Congress made to the American people to work towards a balanced budget. Since its adoption would make the bill violate the House PAYGO rules, this motion is clearly nothing more than a political move to kill the underlying bill. This motion to recommit shows where the Republican Party's priorities are; the estate tax currently affects less than two percent of the wealthiest estates. A full repeal would require that taxes on millions of working Americans be raised and that Social Security and Medicare benefits for American seniors be reduced. I will continue to support a responsible approach to reducing the estate tax that provides relief for families without burdening future generations with additional deficit spending.

Mr. Speaker, it is unacceptable that the IRS outsources a function as central to the Federal Government as tax-collection. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3056.

COMMEMORATING PHOENIX HOUSE'S 40 YEARS OF COMMITMENT TO SERVING THOSE STRUGGLING WITH ADDICTION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Phoenix House, an honorable organization that has been an outstanding member of my community and many other communities nationwide for 40 years. The praise is well-deserved, and I am proud to recognize its invaluable service to our country.

Phoenix House is a provider of substance abuse treatment and prevention services oper-

ating in nine states across the country. In my district alone, it provides critical services to nearly 600 people each year. Phoenix House utilizes an approach based on mutual support and success through community. Today, we celebrate Phoenix House's 40 years of commitment to and success in serving those struggling with addiction and substance abuse.

Six heroin addicts started the Phoenix House in 1967 when they came together at a dextoxification program at a New York hospital. Today, it is the nation's leading nonprofit substance abuse treatment and prevention agency—operating more than 100 programs in New York, California, Texas, Florida, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, and Vermont.

Over the years, Phoenix House has treated approximately 150,000 substance abusers and currently cares for nearly 6,000 men, women, and teens each day. Phoenix House operates more than 100 programs including residential centers for adults, as well as outpatient, and prison programs—at close to 120 locations in nine states. It also provides education and prevention programs, with in-school and after-school programs that reach more than 30,000 young people every year.

Moreover, for more than two decades, Phoenix House has operated the Phoenix Academies, where teens can make up schooling lost to drugs and recapture opportunities for higher education and careers. As a result, thousands of at-risk youth every year are given the tools and support they need to leave drug abuse behind and become contributing members of their communities. There are now eleven Phoenix Academies operating in seven states, and they were designated by the U.S. Department of Justice as a "model program" in 2005.

A 2004 study by RAND Corporation, a respected research organization, found that adolescents treated at a Phoenix House Academy demonstrated substantial reductions in drug use and unlawful behavior and improvement in psychological status—and that the Academy outperformed other juvenile programs in achieving these objectives.

Phoenix House is also the leading research organization among treatment providers. Its expanding research agenda reflects the broad array of services it provides; its growing number of research partners; and the historic imperative of Phoenix House to improve, refine, and innovate to make its services better, stronger, less costly, more accessible, and more predictably effective. I believe that those are objectives that all of us, as a Congress, can support.

Phoenix House was recently featured in an HBO documentary series titled *Addiction*. The project is one of the most ambitious efforts ever undertaken to educate the American public about drug addiction as well as recent advancements in treatment. *Addiction* aired on HBO in March, April, and May of 2007. I am honored to join Phoenix House in celebrating its 40 year commitment to fighting the war on drugs. I want to thank Phoenix House for the lives it has touched and its leadership in battling this harmful addiction that affects every family.

A TRIBUTE TO CROWELL, WEEDON & CO. ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of a very prominent business located in my 34th Congressional District, Crowell, Weedon & Co., the largest independent investment firm in the western United States.

In 1932, during the depths of the Great Depression, Warren Crowell and George Weedon had the vision, courage and conviction to open the doors of a stock and bond brokerage firm on Spring Street in Downtown, Los Angeles. The venture posed a significant risk at the time considering the nation was still grappling with the fallout from the 1929 stock market crash and the nation's financial center, New York City, was considered the likely home for such ventures. Nevertheless, Mr. Crowell and Mr. Weedon were determined to help individuals and small business owners reenter the stock market. They felt very strongly that families and businesses should establish savings and investment plans with the long-term goal of achieving financial independence.

Three generations and 75 years later, Crowell, Weedon & Co. continues to be guided by the same core principles upon which it was founded: confidence in the vitality of the American free enterprise system; reliance in long-term investing, rather than short-term speculation; a conservative philosophy of investing in select enterprises; and an enduring commitment to serving clients by making their individual investment needs a priority.

Crowell, Weedon & Co.'s approach to working with their clients is reminiscent of a time when investing was less complicated and more personal. As its motto "Built on Integrity. . . Grown on Trust" reflects, the firm places a strong emphasis on developing strong and enduring firm-client relationships. Crowell, Weedon & Co.'s business approach has produced an insightful investment philosophy, which has strengthened the company and enabled it to withstand numerous market fluctuations. Crowell, Weedon & Co. today boasts of a partnership with more than 70 owners and 75 years of consistent profitability since its first day of operation.

The company's proud legacy is reflected in the firm's leadership. Donald Crowell, the founder's son, served as Managing Partner for over forty years. Today, Donald's sons, Andrew and Don, Jr. serve as two of the firm's 70 partners. Together, they carry on the proud Crowell family tradition.

Madam Speaker, on October 19, 2007, more than 500 employees and guests will gather at the Los Angeles Westin Bonaventure to celebrate the company's 75th year. I congratulate Crowell, Weedon & Co. on this landmark achievement and ask my colleagues to join me in extending to the firm's management and employees best wishes for many more years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF IDENTIFICATION FRIEND OR FOE LEGISLATION

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will stop the selling of our U.S. servicemembers' safety.

Between August and October of 2006, 4,800 used combat uniforms bearing "glo-tape" patches were inadvertently sold despite a determination by a Defense Department office in July of that year that the patches had to be removed and destroyed before such uniforms could be put on sale. A year later less than 350 of the uniforms and patches have been returned. The availability of these items on the black market has the potential to cost U.S. military lives.

Glo-tape patches and other military items designated as "Identification Friend or Foe (IFF)" are specifically designed to allow members of our armed services to easily identify each other in poor lighting and certain other inclement conditions.

In the hands of the enemy, these patches could allow for infiltration into our ranks, as happened in January of this year when insurgents dressed in U.S. military uniforms in Karbala entered a secure compound killing one serviceman and abducting four others.

IFF items are listed by the military as items that are required to be completely demilitarized, and are not to be sold to the public. Yet, there is currently no enforcement procedure to ensure that persons illegally in possession of these items return them to the Department of Defense.

An investigation in July of 2007 by Newsweek magazine determined that IFF items were easily obtained at retailers in several areas of the United States without consequence (See article following).

I have introduced legislation that will protect our men and women from those whose reckless acts would cause them harm. First, the bill codifies into law that it is illegal to possess, purchase, or sell Identification Friend or Foe items. The bill further requires the Department to provide notice anywhere that the Department authorizes the private sale of surplus or used military items that the possession, purchase, or sale of IFF items, original or counterfeit, is punishable by law.

Secondly, the bill makes it a Class B Misdemeanor, punishable by up to six months in jail per incident, to possess these items or transact business related to the items. It would also be a crime to counterfeit these items for personal or retail use.

We can and should do everything in power to protect our men and women in uniform by removing any advantage the enemy might seek to gain. Please join me in making the selling of our servicemembers' safety a crime.

[From Newsweek, July 16, 2007]

THE MILITARY: A DANGEROUS PATCH

The Pentagon prides itself on the ability of U.S. combat units to operate under cover of darkness. But that advantage could be eroded if a key item—infrared patches that troops use to ID each other at night—were to fall into the wrong hands.

According to a Defense Department spokesman, 4,800 used combat uniforms bear-

ing "glo-tape" patches were inadvertently sold to U.S. and Canadian clients of an Arizona-based company between August and October 2006—despite a Defense Department determination in July of that year that the patches had to be removed and destroyed before such uniforms could be put on sale. When the oversight was discovered, the Pentagon ordered the company, Government Liquidation, to return 1,200 garments containing the infrared patches that were still in its possession. (A company spokeswoman says the Pentagon did not notify Government Liquidation of any restrictions on the sale of the glo-tape items prior to October of last year, and a senior Defense Department official said the company did not violate any existing clause of its contract with the Pentagon when it was selling the glo-tape uniforms.)

The Pentagon imposed a blanket ban on the sale of combat fatigues this past February after Iraqi insurgents in U.S. combat uniforms entered a government security compound and killed five soldiers. But individual patches can still be easily obtained—as Newsweek reporters learned last month when they purchased several patches at military supply stores in Jacksonville, N.C., and Oceanside, Calif., without being asked to produce military ID. More than 4,000 of the patchbearing used uniforms are still at large, according to senior Pentagon official Paul Peters.

The U.S. Army began issuing combat fatigues bearing the glo-tape patches after a friendly-fire incident in the first week of the Iraq invasion that may have contributed to the deaths of 10 Marines. Known as IFF (Identification Friend or Foe), they come in various shapes and sizes that include U.S. flags; they can be detected at night by ground troops and airborne combat pilots equipped with night-vision goggles. No law forbids civilian surplus stores in the United States from selling the items, a fact that one Marine corporal finds alarming. "If you're moving around in the dark and you see someone with infrared patches, you won't be as on guard as you would be with somebody without those patches," says Jeremy Terhune, 26, an infantry rifleman from Saugus, Calif., who has served three tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. No evidence has yet surfaced that insurgents in Iraq or Afghanistan have acquired the patches.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, on October 15, 2007, due to obligations in the district, I missed the following recorded votes:

Roll No. 961, on H. Res. 738, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the Government of Syria's continued interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon; had I been present, I would have voted "aye";

Roll No. 962, on H.R. 2089, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 701 Loyola Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the "Louisiana Armed Service Veterans Post Office; had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; and

Roll No. 963, on H.R. 20, the Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research Care Act; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."