

This is an issue I hear about in my district a lot, both from those inspired by Senator Wellstone's passion for this issue and those willing to share their stories to make change.

We all know the current system is unfair. People should not have to forego essential treatment because of cost when care could mean improvements to their quality of life and productivity.

Parents should not end up with an emergency room bill they can't pay because they rushed their daughter to the hospital after a suicide attempt, or watch their child suffer after being released from a residential center because insurance coverage ended—not because his treatment was over.

And our servicemen and women returning from Iraq should not be handed a 1-800 number to treat a mental illness.

As we look to reform our health care system, mental health and physical care can no longer be looked at as separate entities. It is morally right, and good for both our economy and our health care system. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and I yield back my time.

HONORING SPIKE O'DELL ON HIS
RETIREMENT FROM WGN RADIO

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Spike O'Dell, retiring host of the Spike O'Dell program on WGN Radio in Chicago. Spike has brought his unique style of humor and knowledge to countless Chicagoans every morning for the past two decades. I have appeared on his morning show numerous times, and I can honestly say that it has been a pleasure working with Spike and his staff, especially his producer Jim Wisner. Spike will be sorely missed on the radio by all in Chicagoland.

A native of East Moline, Illinois, Spike graduated from York College in Nebraska before obtaining his certificate in broadcasting from a local vocational school. His first radio job was at WEMO in his home town of East Moline, Illinois, before moving on to KSTT in Davenport, Iowa. Next, he moved to WBT in Charlotte, North Carolina, then on to KLIK back in Davenport, Iowa. Spike's big break came in 1987 when he was offered the afternoon show on WGN Radio in Chicago. He flourished in this role at WGN, garnering a loyal following, and in 2000 he succeeded the late Bob Collins as the host of morning programming. Since his appointment, Spike's show is consistently rated the top morning show in Chicago.

The Spike O'Dell show did not just report the news, it was where the news was made. From exclusive interviews with everyone from entertainers to politicians, on sight reporting from across the globe and insightful editorials from Spike and a wide cast of contributors, the Spike O'Dell show was always both informative and entertaining.

The self proclaimed "worst kept secret" in radio, Spike announced his retirement nearly 2 years ago, telling listeners that on January 1, 2009 there would be a new host for the morning show. While a successor has yet to be

named, it is going to be extremely difficult to find someone as hard working and who generates as loyal a fan base as Spike.

It is my great privilege to honor Spike O'Dell for his commitment to radio in Chicago. I wish the best to Spike and his wife Karen. May his retirement be as successful and rewarding as his show.

HONORING LINDA RAWLS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, to honor and acknowledge Linda Rawls, who has been named the 2008 Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year, or simply the Sonoma Treasure, by the City of Sonoma. Each year the City's Cultural and Fine Arts Commission selects one of the hundreds of artists living and working in the Sonoma Valley to receive this honor. Ms. Rawls was singled out for her decade's long work in costume design.

By one account, she has fitted and costumed the stars and extras of more than 132 productions, including those of the Sonoma City Opera, the Sonoma Ballet Conservatory, schools plays at Sonoma Valley High and each of the grade schools, Vintage House Senior Center, churches and Hootchie Doo Productions, a community theatre group. Her talents have led her to create designs for productions in neighboring counties, including 42nd Street Moon productions in San Francisco.

According to Ms. Rawls, "Costumes have to do everything. A show can have no scenery, but with a woman's dress or a man's hat, you can decipher the time and place in an instant." She calls costumes the "elemental scenery of a play, telling more about character and context than anything else on stage."

Ms. Rawls stumbled into her artistic calling 26 years ago when the costume designer for a school opera in which her 8-year-old son was performing unexpectedly quit. She volunteered to step in and has been following her passion ever since.

Her peers have acknowledged Ms. Rawls work by awarding her the Best First Day Costume Award from the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival in Buxton, England in 1996 and the Dean Goodman Choice Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theatre for Costume Design in 2003.

Madam Speaker, Linda Rawls is a true artist in every sense of the word and it is appropriate that we honor her today as the 2008 Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year.

IN RECOGNITION OF COACH JIM
BOEHEIM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Coach Jim Boeheim for helping to bring home a Gold

Medal in Men's Basketball at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, and for his decades of service to Syracuse University basketball and the Syracuse community.

Jim Boeheim, an Upstate New York native from the Wayne County town of Lyons, began his career with Syracuse basketball as a walk-on player in 1962. By the time he was a senior he had worked his way to being a co-captain and helped lead his team to the NCAA tournament for the second time in school history. After graduating from Syracuse, Jim had a successful pro playing career until he turned to coaching when he joined the Syracuse Men's Basketball coaching staff in 1969. He worked his way up the ranks, starting as a graduate assistant coach to ultimately being named head coach in 1976.

For 32 years Jim Boeheim has honorably served as head coach of the Syracuse University Men's basketball team. During his tenure he has become one of the most successful and respected coaches in college basketball history. He has led all of his teams to a winning record, including 30 seasons with 20 or more wins. His 30–20 win or better seasons ties him with coaching legend Dean Smith for the most ever. Under Coach Boeheim's direction, SU has made it to the post-season 31 times, including 25 trips to the NCAA Tournament where they made appearances in three championship games. In 2003 Coach Boeheim led the Syracuse Orange to its first ever NCAA National Championship Title.

With 771 career wins, Jim ranks 11th all time in wins among Division I head coaches, 4th among active coaches. He is also the winningest coach in Big East Conference history, with 342 conference wins, which include five conference championships. In September 2005 he was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

In November 2005, Jim continued to add to his hall of fame resume when he was named as one of three assistant coaches for USA Basketball Men's National Team for a three year appointment. His coaching expertise helped lead Team USA to an undefeated record in the 2008 Olympics, culminating in a 118–107 victory over Spain in the gold medal game. Team USA's victory not only brought home a gold medal, but it also restored pride and respect in American basketball, and Jim's role in achieving both was instrumental. His role as part of the gold medal men's basketball team gives us all another reason to applaud him. With his Olympic success, Jim brought a piece of Syracuse to Beijing and a piece of the gold back to Syracuse.

Jim is someone that I have admired for his entire career, not only for being a great coach, but for also being a great human being. He has always handled himself with class, even in the face of adversity from critics, many of whom have never even played basketball. He has never looked for credit in his teams' successes; he just goes out and does his job and does it well. I also hold Jim in high regard for his selfless contributions to his community through numerous charitable initiatives, including Coaches vs. Cancer, for which he has been a top fundraiser, nationwide, for many years.

On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York, I thank Coach Boeheim for his contributions to basketball, both at Syracuse and at the Olympic games, and for being an outstanding community leader. I also wish to