

M.L. RICHARDSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and applaud M.L. Richardson for her outstanding service to our community.

M.L. Richardson has served the Jefferson County community in numerous ways since 1994. Currently, M.L. is serving as the Director of Strategy and Sustainable Development for two area corporations.

M.L. Richardson's dedication directly benefits her community with continued service to Jefferson County through countless volunteer hours spent for area organizations, serving on area Chambers of Commerce and boards including the Jefferson County School District's Bond-oversight committee, the Jefferson Economic Council, Community First Foundation, the Golden Civic Foundation and many others. Additionally, M.L. works to raise funds for area charities such as the Mother Cabrini Shrine.

In the words of one of her colleagues, "M.L. is a woman who exhibits leadership through her everyday actions and has a professional and entrepreneurial spirit that has been proven over and over through countless accomplishments."

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to M.L. Richardson for her recognition by the West Chamber of Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING SSGT. SHAWN MICHAEL ROBERTS, UNITED STATES ARMY FOR HIS INDUCTION INTO THE SGT. AUDIE MURPHY AWARD PROGRAM

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate a fine Alaskan soldier—SSgt. Shawn Michael Roberts. SSgt. Roberts has recently been inducted into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Award program in the Army. Sgt. Audie Murphy, for whom this award was named, was a famous Hollywood actor, as well as the most decorated American combat soldier of World War II. Sgt. Murphy was a courageous warrior and received every decoration of valor our country has to offer, including two Silver Stars, three Purple Hearts, the Distinguished Service Cross and the Medal of Honor. In short, this induction is one of the highest honors in the Army and reflects the comparable level of commitment and dedication that has been exemplified in SSgt. Roberts' performance.

It is little wonder, in light of his many accomplishments, that Shawn has received this award. Since entering active duty in December 2001 SSgt. Roberts has served two tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as one tour in Bosnia. During his tenure with the U.S. Army, Roberts has received numerous medals of commendation, including the Iraq Campaign Medal with three campaign stars.

Alaskans are proud of our military heritage and I am proud that our country has such noble defenders. I thank SSgt. Roberts for his service to our country and I congratulate him on his induction into this award program.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to oppose the amendment offered by my colleague, Representative BART STUPAK. I know that he is following his own conscience, but I want to preserve the right of women nationwide to follow their conscience as well. I support a woman's right to be either for or against abortion. The decision is a private one and it is a matter of faith as well as a matter of conscience, and it is supported by our Constitution.

This amendment is not about federal funding for abortion . . . the current version of the bill and federal law, the Hyde Amendment, already prohibit spending tax dollars to finance abortions. This amendment goes beyond that language. It prohibits private health insurance plans that receive even one dollar of federal funding to offer abortion services to any of their customers. This eliminates coverage for an important health service that millions of women currently have. This amendment leaves women even worse off than they are now. I cannot support such all-encompassing language.

There is a certain irony here that demonstrates how prejudiced this amendment is toward women. Insurance plans would allow a man to obtain Viagra and cause an unwanted pregnancy, but it penalizes women for becoming pregnant.

Insurance is intended to cover the unexpected. Yet, this amendment would deny women the right to purchase their own coverage as part of a regular insurance plan. It will heap an ugly punishment upon those who often times can least afford it, and it will push women into the past of back-alley butchers.

Today women are entitled under the law to a safe abortion. It is estimated that in California before the Roe v. Wade decision, about 100,000 illegal abortions were performed each year. Abortion was the most common single cause of maternal deaths in California prior to 1973. We should not turn back the clock. As we work to provide universal health for all our citizens, women should be protected. This amendment does nothing to advance this and I ask my colleagues to defeat it.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, this past Monday night I decided I could better serve the

citizens of the 18th district of Illinois by hosting a town hall meeting to listen to their thoughts and concerns with the Speaker's health care proposal, rather than rush back to Washington to vote on a resolution honoring man's best friend.

As I participated in a town hall in Washington, Illinois with more than 1,000 people in attendance, I heard a reoccurring theme of concern, outrage, disbelief, frustration and fear for what Speaker Pelosi's health care proposal could mean.

The final question of the night came from a young man named Joshua. In a room surrounded by those three or four times his age, young Joshua had the courage to ask me the difficult question if I supported what President Obama wants to do with Healthcare.

I told Joshua that I've spent my first 9 months in office trying to figure out exactly what the President was actually trying to do with health care. It is this precise confusion of goals, conflicting messages and lack of communication from the Majority which has all Americans still trying to figure out exactly what the President and the Speaker are trying to do.

Unfortunately, we've finally learned what they want to do. Tonight, under the cover of darkness, the majority finally passed a health care plan that will raise taxes, raise health care costs, add to our national debt, and hurt America's seniors, families and small businesses. Over half those covered in the bill are done so by expanding entitlements instead of helping them afford insurance. This only exacerbates insurance premiums for ordinary Americans and dramatically increases our nation's debt.

The bill tonight was about expanding the size of government and leading us down the road to a no-choice government-run healthcare system. Instead of working across party lines to pass bipartisan reform, Speaker PELOSI has decided to let the votes against this massive entitlement expansion be the only true thing bipartisan about it.

HONORING PHILLIP MALIK**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Phillip Malik. Mr. Malik passed away on October 8, 2009, at the age of 94. His life was remembered by friends and family on Tuesday, October 13, 2009.

Phillip Malik was born January 1, 1915, in a region of Iran known as Urmia, in the small village of Gengachi. His father was a leader in the village, which was being pursued by marauders with intentions of persecuting all villagers based on their Christian beliefs. They would eventually end their journey in Habbaniya near Baghdad, Iraq. As a young man he survived the Assyrian Genocide and was a manager of the British Officers Club in Baghdad. Mr. Malik set his eyes on the United States, and in 1953 he settled in Chicago, Illinois. Five months later his wife, Maria, and their five children joined him in the United States. They did not like the cold of Chicago, and with a short visit to San Francisco, California, they decided to head west.

When he first moved to California's Central Valley, Mr. Malik worked as a janitor. In 1954, Mr. Malik purchased a 20-acre almond ranch in Keyes, California and later moved to a 40-acre almond and walnut ranch in Ceres. In the late 1950's he began a job selling Airstream trailers. Many years later he started his own mobile-home dealership and eventually branched out into real-estate development and farming. Today, several projects in the greater Modesto area are due to Mr. Malik's work.

Mr. Malik worked 7 days a week; never wanting to rely on others to take care of his family. He believed in helping others, and sponsored 67 extended family members, and assisted about 400 people in immigrating to the United States.

Mr. Malik was preceded in death by two children; Gina Marie and Don, as well as his wife of 65 years, Maria. He is survived by two daughters, Diane Pedota and Linda Glynn; three sons, Ron Malik, Bob Malik and Philip Malik Jr.; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Phillip Malik. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

RECOGNIZING MR. JACK DARIN ON HIS 20 YEARS OF ADMIRABLE SERVICE TO THE ILLINOIS SIERRA CLUB

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Jack Darin, Director of the Illinois Sierra Club and a powerful advocate for the environment, both in Illinois and across the nation. Mr. Darin has admirably served the Illinois Sierra Club for 20 years and throughout his tenure he has worked selflessly to promote causes including safeguarding our community's health, protecting the great outdoors, and finding viable energy solutions for the 21st century.

Madam Speaker, I recognize Jack today not only because he is a personal friend of mine, but because he is an example for all that one person can have a substantial impact on the future on the environment. Jack has successfully advocated for nutrient standards in sewage treatment plants, encouraged Illinois to adopt the toughest mercury limits for coal-burning power plants and led the fight for Illinois to possess robust anti-degradation rules for streams and rivers. His efforts have resulted in greater protection for Americans against health hazards and expanded access to the most basic human needs: clean water and clean air.

Since its founding in 1892, The Sierra Club has worked to protect and promote our great outdoors. Jack Darin has taken this mission to heart and is a true champion of conservation. Under his leadership, the Sierra Club prevented the destruction of thousands of acres of the Lake Calumet wetlands and in the process preserved the natural habitat of hundreds of plants and animals. The Illinois Sierra Club has also helped restore another natural treasure for the people of Illinois, the Midewin Tall Grass Prairie. Midewin is a unique resource

because it both protects wildlife and provides opportunities for education and recreation, such as twenty-two miles of public trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding.

Despite these successes, Mr. Darin continues to find creative solutions to Illinois's complex environmental issues. Mr. Darin helped establish the Renewable Energy Portfolio for Illinois requiring 25% of state power to come from renewable sources by 2025. As a result, Illinois legislators are an example for the nation because all electricity for the Springfield Capitol Complex is now derived solely from wind power. Jack work has also extended well beyond Illinois as he serves as a consultant on environmental issues for the President Obama's campaign in 2008.

Madam Speaker, the work of Mr. Darin, the Illinois Sierra Club and like minded individuals have placed environmental issues at the crux of our nation's political debate. Their work helps our society expand and grow in a responsible fashion and improve our quality of life. Thank you, Mr. Darin, for your 20 years of service to the Sierra Club, to Illinois and to your country.

PEGGY HALDERMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor applaud Peggy Halderman for her outstanding service to our community.

The dedication demonstrated by Peggy Halderman directly benefits her community, and is exemplary of her high personal and professional standards. She started the Golden Backpack Program which currently feeds 242 children in 3 area schools by providing packs of food for the children to take home on weekends.

In addition to Peggy Halderman's dedicated efforts to feed hungry local children, as a professional chef she volunteers and supervises members of the Golden Rotary Club as they provide monthly luncheons at one of the two subsidized housing complexes located in Golden.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Peggy Halderman for her recognition by the West Chamber of Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

STATEMENT REGARDING H. RES.

867

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, after careful consideration of House Resolution 867, I joined 22 other Members of Congress in voting "Present" on November 3rd. This resolution denounces the "Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict," also known as the "Goldstone Report," and calls on the President to oppose any further consideration of the report.

While I agree that the Goldstone Report is biased, in my view, the harsh tone employed by both this resolution and the U.N. does nothing productive for the ultimate goal of peaceful reconciliation, and this entire discussion suffers as a result. There are some conclusions in the Goldstone Report itself worthy of our consideration and H. Res. 867 does all parties a disservice by ignoring that fact.

This Resolution contained inaccuracies and was rushed to the floor without Congressional hearings. Investigations should be conducted before such harsh criticisms are leveled. Israel itself, a positive example of democracy in the Middle East, has previously conducted internal investigations of its military operations that were both transparent and constructive.

I have always been a strong supporter of Israel, which has long been one of our most loyal allies. I believe that we must lead in the effort of bringing peace to the Middle East, but at the same time, we must ultimately allow the Israeli people, who are committed to democratic rule, to determine their own course.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING OF DR. BERT SUTTON

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Bert Sutton, a Northwest Florida leader who passed away on November 12, 2009. Dr. Sutton spent his life serving our community, and I am proud to honor his lifetime of dedication and service.

Dr. E.W. "Bert" Sutton was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and grew up in Port St. Joe, Florida. After graduating from the University of Alabama and then Tulane Medical School, Bert opened his first practice in 1960 in Santa Rosa County, Florida. In 1979, Bert was appointed Director of the Santa Rosa County Health Department, where he served for over 24 years until his retirement in 2003. He oversaw public health in the county for more than two decades.

In addition to his day-to-day duties at the Department of Health, Dr. Sutton was instrumental in the opening of the Rehabilitation Institute of West Florida in 1978, now a part of the West Florida Hospital System. The institute serves people recovering from accidents and those suffering from neurological or orthopedic conditions. He also helped found the Rehabilitation Foundation of Northwest Florida which provides financial support for disabled people to receive physical therapy and prosthetics. In 2001, Dr. Sutton helped establish the Santa Rosa Community Clinic providing medical services to the poor and uninsured. He always put service to others first, and he will be missed by all of us in Northwest Florida.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the life of Dr. Bert Sutton. With close to 50 years of faithful service to Northwest Florida, Bert will be forever remembered as a part of the fabric of our community. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his wife, Fran, children, Karen, Sherman, Steven, Patsy, Erin, Stacy, and Tracey, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and entire extended family as we remember and honor the life of Bert Sutton.