

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE BRUCE VENTO, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my colleague, Congressman Bruce F. Vento, who passed away on Tuesday, October 10, 2000, at the age of 60, after 23 years of dedicated service as the Representative from Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District.

Congressman Vento was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1977. Over the course of his 12 remarkable terms in office, Congressman Vento has taken a leadership role on environmental, housing and banking reform issues. As chairman of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands for over 10 years the Congressman was enormously successful in protecting hundreds of thousands of acreage from Minnesota to Alaska and American Samoa. Through his role as ranking member on the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, he has worked tirelessly to modernize our financial services industry while continuing to safeguard consumer privacy. Finally, as an active, vocal member of the Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee, Congressman Vento will always be remembered for his admirable fight to end homelessness in America. The most fitting tribute that we, his colleagues, can pay Congressman Vento is to follow in his footsteps and continue his commendable work on behalf of the environment, the homeless, and banking reform.

Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in remembering one of our own, the Honorable Bruce F. Vento. He will be sorely missed by myself and all members of this House. I also wish to take this opportunity to extend my deepest sympathy to his family and friends during this difficult time.

RYAN WHITE CARE ACT  
AMENDMENTS OF 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. KAREN McCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2000*

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support and as a co-sponsor of the Ryan White CARE Act, which is a life-saving piece of legislation. Persons with HIV/AIDS deserve the medical support services provided through the grants and programs included in this measure. Although the rate of HIV infection per year is decreasing in America, there are still over 40,000 new infections per year. We must continue our national efforts to prevent future transmissions and improve the quality of life for those living with AIDS.

To date, the Ryan White Care Act has helped provide the latest drug therapy to more

than 100,000 poor people, reduced AIDS mortality by seventy percent, and decreased mother-to-child transmission of HIV by seventy percent. It is clear that this legislation is successful, and I believe the measure before us strengthens our national assault on this disease.

My home state of Missouri received over \$15 million dollars for FY 1998 under the Ryan White CARE Act. These funds have helped those living with HIV or AIDS, through investments in medication and vital support services. The legislation before us today contains a provision on partner notification, which I believe is essential to decreasing the spread of HIV and reducing the transmission of all sexually transmitted diseases. I am concerned with the racial disparities in the incidence of HIV infection in Missouri, and specifically in Kansas City. This measure will hopefully make strides in reducing the incidence of HIV in both minority communities as well as among women and youth, who are especially vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in full support of passage of the Ryan White CARE Act. Our support sends a message that HIV/AIDS is a fully recognized public health problem, and has our commitment to protect all vulnerable persons from this devastating disease.

PIPELINE SAFETY IMPROVEMENT  
ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2000*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2438, the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act. Almost all Members agree that S. 2438 significantly increases government safety regulation in the safest sector of America's transportation industry. I commend the Senate for swiftly and overwhelmingly passing this legislation, making pipeline safety legislation up to the House.

I would like to begin with the safety record in the pipeline industry. According to Office of Pipeline Safety statistics, 76 unforgettable, tragic fatalities were reported for liquid and gas pipeline accidents from 1986 to 1999. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration statistics, 10,772 equally tragic fatalities resulted from accidents involving large trucks in 1997 and 1998 alone. One could easily say that the current pipeline transportation system, which transports explosive, hazardous materials, is hundreds of times safer than the transportation system that carries the large majority of America's economic output. However, everyone knows a "good" safety record is not enough. We must always keep working to improve the status quo.

Some of my colleagues will argue that this is an "industry bill" and is actually a fake. I respect their desire to appear independent, but I strongly disagree. Clearly the U.S. Senate, including many particularly independent Senators, feels that this bill significantly increases public safety. The bill strengthens reporting by a factor of 420. Spills over 2,100 gallons are reported now, spills over 5 gallons would be reported under S. 2438. The bill increases

daily fines by a factor of 20 (\$25K to \$500K). The pipeline industry is part of the fundamental energy base of our economy and has a strong safety record overall. It would be unwise and unjust to disproportionately attack an industry that is vital to the economy and significantly safer than the predominate mode of transportation.

Mr. Speaker, for those concerned with pipeline inspection, I would like to remind them that S. 2438 will provide much needed momentum for the issuance of DOT mandatory testing requirements, and sets a deadline of December 31, 2001. The bill authorizes funds to develop and implement these regulations. If S. 2438 is passed and signed, every interstate pipeline operator will be required to submit a detailed, integrated safety program to the DOT. The bill also provides for research and development into new inspection techniques.

In summary, this bill provides higher standards, stiffer enforcement, and authorizes over \$170 million to make it possible. The bill is supported by the Secretary of Transportation, the U.S. Senate, and a large bipartisan group of my colleagues.

I sympathize with the opposition to this bill. However, in this diverse body, we must sometimes accept imperfect legislation without as much opportunity for input as we would like. I believe that this bill is a large step in the right direction on pipeline safety. I also believe that this bill does not place the blame for accidents on individual employees. Section 14, "Operator Assistance in Investigations", allows the DOT to direct the suspension of an employee that directly and substantially contributed to an accident. The employee may return to work if they are later cleared of blame or are retrained. The legislation does not state that an employee on the scene is culpable or an automatic suspect.

This is our last chance to improve public pipeline safety this year. Do not wait for further accidents to move on this issue. I urge all my colleagues to support the improvement of pipeline safety.

FAIR TAX TREATMENT FOR INSURANCE AGENTS' TERMINATION PAYMENTS ACT OF 2000

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2000*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a small business tax relief measure that will assist thousands of insurance agents throughout this country as they prepare for retirement.

Many exclusive insurance agents who leave or retire from their jobs receive what is known as a "termination payment" under a contractual agreement with their respective insurance companies. These payments are paid for intangible assets, including the agent's "book of business" and goodwill, and are usually spread out over a series of years.

Currently, there is confusion about the tax treatment of these termination payments, which has caused some IRS field agents to question the capital gains treatment of these payments. My bill, the "Fair Tax Treatment for Insurance Agents' Termination Payments Act

of 2000," will make it clear that these termination payments are for the sale or other disposition of intangible capital assets and therefore should be subject to capital gains treatment. A clarification of current law is needed to ensure the correct result and prevent unknowing IRS agents from subjecting innocent insurance agents around the country to attack and audit on an issue that has no basis for controversy.

I urge my colleagues to support my bill and work with me to clarify the law to ensure that insurance agent "termination payments" are subject to capital gains treatment for Federal income tax purposes.

TRIBUTE TO POLONIA SPORT CLUB, INC. ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2000*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the men and women of Polonia Sport Club, Inc., of Franklin, Wisconsin.

Polonia Sport Club was founded to provide an opportunity for recent Polish immigrants to the Milwaukee area to gather for social activities and sporting events—mainly soccer games—and keep alive and flourishing the traditions of their homeland. Today, Polonia Park, located on West Loomis Road just west of Highway 100 in the Milwaukee suburb of Franklin, boasts 23 beautiful acres of parkland and soccer fields, a shaded picnic area and a quaint traditional Polish chapel. The grounds are utilized by young and senior citizens alike, and range from ethnic Polish groups to youth and adult weekend soccer tournaments attracting players and their families from throughout the Midwest.

The members of Polonia Sport Club have truly witnessed a revival of its original intentions of soccer being a unifying outlet for immigrants to the Milwaukee area to the game's present-day emergence as the fastest growing youth participatory athletic event in the US.

My family and I have had the privilege of attending and hosting more than a few events at Polonia Park over the years and have always been impressed with the old-world charm of the park's grounds and hospitality offered by the park's managers.

On November 4, the founders, active members and guests of Polonia will celebrate the club's 50th anniversary with a banquet at the new Polish Center of Wisconsin. It is my distinct pleasure to recognize this event by bringing Polonia Sport Club's many attributes to the attention of the United States Congress.

To the members of Polonia Sport Club, I offer my sincere congratulations on your first 50 years and best wishes for the future. Sto lat.

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR FOR DORIS MILLER

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2000*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legisla-

tion that would allow the awarding of a Congressional Medal of Honor to Doris Miller. This recognition is long overdue to a man who served his country with distinction and who performed valiantly during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Doris Miller, born and raised in Waco, Texas, enlisted with the Navy as a Mess Attendant in 1939 at the age of 20. This was one of the few positions available at the time to black sailors in the country's segregated military. Within four months, he was assigned to the battleship U.S.S. West Virginia, stationed at Pearl Harbor.

On the fateful day of December 7, 1941, Doris Miller was collecting laundry when Japanese aircraft attacked. The ship's commanding officer, Captain Mervyn Bennion, had been hit in the stomach by shrapnel. Doris Miller dragged his captain to a place of greater safety. Then, without any prior training, Miller manned a machine gun on the ship's deck. He shot down at least two of the 29 Japanese planes that were lost by the attackers that day, and Miller may have hit up to four others.

Doris Miller continued to serve his country in the Navy during World War II. However, in 1943, he and 654 shipmates were killed in the line of duty when the Japanese sank the aircraft carrier U.S.S. *Liscome Bay* near the Gilbert Islands.

Unfortunately, like other African Americans who served in the military during World War II, Doris Miller's acts of valor have never been fully recognized, and some of the awards that were bestowed upon him were only given grudgingly. Initially, Doris Miller's actions were not publicized until three months after the Pearl Harbor attack. Then, he was only given a letter of citation by the Secretary of the Navy—the lowest of awards for duty. Doris Miller was finally awarded the Navy Cross, but only after a public campaign by civil rights organizations brought about critical attention in the press. However, Doris Miller was not decorated with the nation's highest honor—the Congressional Medal of Honor. In fact, no African American who served in World War II received the Congressional Medal of Honor until seven Army veterans were given the award in 1997.

The legislation that I introduce today would waive the time limitation specified in current law for the awarding of military decorations in order to allow the posthumous award of the Congressional Medal of Honor to Doris Miller for his heroic actions during World War II, so that a long-awaited honor may finally be bestowed upon this deserving individual.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS' BASKETBALL PROGRAM

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2000*

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, back in June, the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth men's and women's basketball teams embarked on a twelve-day trip to Portugal in order to participate in the 10th Annual Amadora International Basketball Tournament 2000. Two years earlier, University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth had hosted the Por-

tuguese National Junior Team, and as a result the Portuguese Basketball Federation invited both the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth teams to compete in this year's tournament. Both teams competed well, with the men's basketball team finishing in second place. This type of athletic event further highlights the strong cultural ties between the Greater New Bedford/Dartmouth Area and Portugal. Men's basketball coach Brian Baptiste, Women's basketball coach, Lynn Sheedy and the Athletic Director Robert Mullen should be commended for their efforts in encouraging this type of exchange which brought pride to Southeastern Massachusetts and allowed young men and women to experience, first hand, a culture that is so prevalent in this area.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDDYSTONE FIRE COMPANY NO. 1

**HON. CURT WELDON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2000*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to congratulate the Eddystone Fire Company No. 1 for 100 years of dedicated service to the residents of Eddystone, Pennsylvania.

The Eddystone Fire Company, chartered on January 29, 1900, was actually organized in 1895. Some thirty-six men gathered one January evening in 1895, in the old lighthouse hall in Eddystone Village. By the time they went home the volunteer fire company had been founded. The original by-laws were adopted February 14, 1895 and the first officers were elected.

The first piece of fire apparatus, which consisted mainly of fire hose on a hand-drawn reel, was purchased shortly after the group was organized. It was housed in the old Town Hall building, on the corner of Saville Avenue and 12th Street. As new pieces of equipment were purchased during the years they too were housed in this building.

Early in 1954, a new firehouse was built in the old Town Hall. When it was completed, the fire apparatus was moved to its new quarters, and the old Town Hall was torn down to make way for the new borough hall.

The firefighters of Eddystone Fire Company No. 1 have an impressive record when it comes to fire fighting. The company has fought such spectacular blazes as the Boyer Lumber Yard fire, the Eddystone Ammunition Plant explosion, the Remington Hotel fire, Tollins Furniture store blaze, the Baldwin Paint Shop fire, the Eddystone High School fire and more recently the Sun Oil truck explosion and fire.

The fire company is a volunteer organization and is on 24-hour call for fire, ambulance and water rescue search and recovery services. Aside from a modest appropriation from the borough, the fire company is supported through the efforts of its members and the Ladies Auxiliary. The ambulance service is made up of men and women who are thoroughly trained in first aid and now includes emergency medical technicians. These services are available to all residents of the borough.

Today the Eddystone Fire Company is a member of the Ridley Township Fire Board, a