

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN TOM
BLILEY

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am going to miss TOM BLILEY. He has been wonderful to work with—always a man of his word, always a gentleman, consistent and honorable in his philosophical approach to government.

We worked together as Chairman and Ranking Member of the old House District of Columbia Committee on a bipartisan basis, reflecting the joint agreement among liberal and the conservative ideas that there should be minimal interference in the internal, local affairs of a group of U.S. citizens who do not have all the rights and privileges of the rest of the nation.

This year, we have worked together to expose the outrageous behavior of some of the nation's largest pharmaceutical manufacturers in abusing Medicare, Medicaid, private insurers, and patients through falsified pricing data. The drug companies are huge contributors to both parties, but Chairman BLILEY has subpoenaed and exposed internal company documents that describe a conspiracy against the American people by companies like Glaxo, Pharmacia, and others. I know there was tremendous pressure not to expose these documents, but Chairman BLILEY did the right thing.

The Nation will miss, I will miss Chairman BLILEY's courtly, quiet presence, and I hope he will stay in contact with us in the years ahead.

HONORING THE CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS AND THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the California Conservation Corps and the California Department of Conservation.

The partnership between these agencies have spawned the Salmon Restoration Program. Since 1980 the Salmon Restoration Program has improved more than 1,000 stream miles, presented more than 65,000 hours of watershed curricula to tens of thousands of Californians, worked in hundreds of watersheds, and planted well over one million trees.

The California Conservation Corps and the California Department of Conservation are at the forefront of the science of stream salmonid habitat restoration. The Salmon Restoration Program is the largest and longest running project of its kind in the country.

Mr. Speaker, because salmon restoration is an issue of national importance, and because the Salmon Restoration Project has reduced the decline in salmon population, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge the outstanding efforts and twenty-year anniversary of California's Salmon Restoration Project.

BUILDING SKILLS FOR AMERICA

HON. TOM SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday September 20, 2000, more than 300 students from across the country converged to support the Skills USA-VICA's "Building Skills for America" campaign.

These students collected more than 200,000 signatures from business and industry in support of worker training. The enclosed letter, which was signed by forty members of Congress, recognizes the fine work of the students of Skills USA-VICA. I submit the following letter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, September 26, 2000.

SKILLS USA-VICA,
*P.O. Box 3000,
Leesburg, VA.*

DEAR STUDENTS: The undersigned Members of Congress applaud and congratulate your participation in the "Building Skills for America" campaign.

America is projected to have 50.6 million job openings between now and 2006, most of which will require highly developed skills. Unfortunately, employers across the country are experiencing difficulty finding enough qualified, skilled employees. This shortage is a threat to our strong economy and hampers the ability of American businesses to compete successfully.

Our nation can do more to promote careers in skilled occupations. Programs such as Skills USA-VICA's "Building Skills for America" demonstrate the strong support for vocational and technical education, as students were able to collect more than 200,000 signatures from business and industry that support worker training.

The "Building Skills for America" campaign is also important because it brings students together with the business and industry that will be their future employers. These partnerships provide students with the occupational and professional experience they need to succeed in the workplace, while at the same time increasing the pool from which industry can draw capable employees.

All of you who have participated in the "Building Skills for America" campaign should be proud of your accomplishment. We congratulate you for this impressive achievement, and look forward to working with you to ensure that we continue to build a strong and productive American workforce.

Sincerely,

Tom Sawyer, John Peterson, and 43 other
Members of Congress.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MORGAN
HAMM OF WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN,
ON HIS OLYMPIC PERFORMANCE

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 18 year-old Morgan Hamm of Waukesha, Wisconsin, on his accomplishments in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia. In August Morgan and his brother Paul became the second youngest

gymnasts to ever qualify for the United States' men's team. The Hamms are also the first set of twins in U.S. Olympic gymnastics history.

Morgan beat out stiff competition to earn an at-large berth onto the team. He returned from Sydney with a 7th place finish in the floor competition. In southeastern Wisconsin the excitement of the Olympics was heightened this year by the knowledge that we would have two home town heroes competing half way around the world.

Morgan's accomplishments are not confined to the gymnasium. Despite squeezing two daily practices in between his classes, he is an honor student at Waukesha South High School. After missing a full semester to tour with the Olympic team, Morgan still intends to graduate with the rest of his class next spring.

As much work as Morgan has put into reaching his goals, he could not have made it on his own. Competing with Paul pushed both twins to be their very best. The sacrifices of their parents, Sandy and Cecily, have provided the Hamms with the opportunity to excel.

The years of work with his brother, their sister Betsy and their coach, Stacy Maloney, has earned Morgan the right to compete with the best in the world. To reach the Olympic stature at such a young age and with relatively little experience in major events is truly amazing.

And so it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Morgan Hamm on all that he accomplished thus far, and wish him all the best in his Olympic endeavors still to come.

RAISING AWARENESS FOR
ANGELMAN'S SYNDROME

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss Angelman's Syndrome after a tragic circumstance in my district illustrated the need for greater awareness of this little known and often misunderstood disease.

Denise and Kyle Marx are parents of Nicholas, a ten-year-old boy with Angelman's Syndrome. Those familiar with special needs children know the demands, but also the tremendous blessings that Nicholas has bestowed on his family. Due to recent events, the need to better understand and treat this disorder has become obvious. Today, Nicolas is in a coma and has only a few months to live after being administered medication that caused an allergic reaction. This happened, in part, because those with Angelman's Syndrome are unable to communicate pain or discomfort and Nicolas was powerless to express the effects that the medication was having on his body. Today, I am asking Congress to make efforts to provide for research so that Angelman's Syndrome can be better understood and treated more effectively.

Angelman's Syndrome is a genetic disorder usually caused by a small deletion of molecules on the long arm of the fifteenth chromosome. In some rare cases, Angelman's can also be caused when a child inherits both long arms of the fifteenth chromosome from the father. The effects of this disease include speech impairment, with minimal or almost no

use of words, movement and balance disorder, including a stiff gait and tremulous movement of the limbs, behavioral uniqueness, including excitability, frequent laughter and smiling, flapping movements, and a short attention span. More than 80% of people with Angelman's Syndrome have a delayed or disproportionately slow growth in head circumference and seizures that begin around the age of three. Many other cases include symptoms such as hypopigmentation of the skin and eyes, sucking and swallowing disorders, wide mouth, hyperactive tendon reflexes, sensitivity to heat, and sleep disturbances.

One of the most difficult aspects of Angelman's Syndrome is that the disease is usually not recognized at birth. Diagnosis often does not occur until the child is between the ages of three and seven, when the characteristics become evident. Those with Angelman's Syndrome are born with a normal prenatal history and no major birth defects.

It was only 35 years ago that Dr. Harry Angelman, an English physician, diagnosed Angelman's Syndrome for the first time. The first reports of the disease in North America did not begin to appear until the 1980's. Until very recently, many doctors considered Angelman's Syndrome to be extremely rare and some even doubted its existence. Thankfully, through the Human Genome Project, we have been able to gain a better understanding of this disease. However, we still have a long way to go until we fully understand Angelman's Syndrome.

While we now know that Angelman's Syndrome affects anywhere between 1 in 10,000 and 1 in 30,000, we still have much to learn about the disease and its symptoms. Angelman's Syndrome is only diagnosed through genetic laboratory testing. However, it is often misdiagnosed and mistaken for autism. We need to work toward a better and more comprehensive understanding of the disease, its causes, and the best way to treat it. It is my hope that through research, we can come to understand and effectively treat Angelman's Syndrome and that the medical community will develop guidelines for treating patients with these conditions.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES FORSYTH—AN EXEMPLARY ACTIVIST

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying recognition to a true progressive activist, Jim Forsyth. As Jim continues to fight tirelessly for labor, the environment, housing, seniors, and civil rights, he is an ever-present voice speaking out wherever there is injustice or human need.

Jim was born on July 14, 1927, Bastille Day in Brooklyn, New York. After graduating from Williams College, where he joined the progressive movement, Jim came to California's Bay Area to work on the assembly line in General Motors. Jim and his late wife Fran were the dutiful parents of five children.

Jim is a member of several progressive groups and organizations. He is proud to have been a part of the pro-union group, the Plant

Closure Project. Jim is secretary of the South Hayward Parish and was in charge of food distribution at the Parish for ten years. He distributed food every Saturday morning and most Wednesday. He is currently secretary of the Congress for Seniors handling mailing and developing flyers—many times at his own expense. Jim also lends his expertise to the California Consumers Health Care Council and the Californians for Justice. In 1967, Jim founded the Progressive Hayward Democratic Club and is the current newsletter editor. His other memberships include the Starr King Universal Unitarian Church, the Federation of Retired Union Members, and Vote Health.

Jim has been a long-time opponent of war as a means of solving economic or social problems. He began by speaking out against the Korean War and continued with the Vietnam War when Jim, Fran, and their children marched in numerous protests.

In all of these groups and activities for elections and social change, Jim Forsyth works tirelessly, willingly, and with enthusiasm. He is proud of his work. This is his life and his recreation. He feels responsible for attempting to make the world a better place for working people.

Jim's friends and colleagues will honor his work on October 19, 2000 at a public ceremony. I join his friends and admirers in thanking him for his years of service and I am proud that he has been my friend for several years.

HONORING MILT AND BETTE DOBKIN, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Milt and Bette Dobkin, two extraordinary citizens of Humboldt County, CA, who have dedicated their lives to public service. They are being honored for their life-long contribution to one of the Nation's most precious rights—participation in the political system. Their actions on behalf of Representative Democracy are worthy of appreciation and recognition.

Bette Dobkin has taken on many roles throughout her years of service to the community. She has been an elementary school teacher, school board member, grand juror, and human rights, housing, and elections commissioner. She currently serves on the board of the Arcata Community Recycling Center and the North Coast Repertory Theater. In her career, she has brought distinction and honor to her profession. Bette has been selected as the "Realtor of the Year" by the Humboldt County Board of Realtors and selected as "Honorary Director for Life" by the California Association of Realtors.

Milt Dobkin has been a recognized leader of higher education in our community for many years. He served as the Vice President of Academic Affairs at Humboldt State University for 14 years before retiring. He is Professor Emeritus of Communication Studies and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Emeritus. Milt has served on many local board, including the

Humboldt Arts Council, Dell'Arte, Redwood Arts Council, and Humboldt Child Care Council. He is currently an elected member of the Redwoods Community College District Board of Trustees, Chairman of the Retired Public Employees Association and ably serves the California Faculty Association.

Both Milt and Bette Dobkin are being recognized this year for their outstanding contribution to the political process by the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee as the "Democrats of the Year, 2000."

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Milt and Bette Dobkin for their unwavering commitment and compassion, and for their contribution to the ideals and traditions that have made America great.

TRIBUTE TO WORKING WARDROBES

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker: Today, I rise to pay tribute to one of Orange County's outstanding community service groups, Working Wardrobes. Working Wardrobes is dedicated to assisting survivors of domestic violence achieve self-sufficiency in their lives.

Working Wardrobes began in 1990 when six Orange County business women decided to initiate a program which would help victims of domestic violence regain their dignity, integrity and self-respect. Over 60,000 women in Orange County are severely beaten each year as a result of domestic violence. This cycle of domestic violence also affects children who are 1,000 times more likely to become abusers themselves.

Through programs such as Career/Life Skills Workshops and Annual "Days of Self-Esteem", survivors are given the extra edge they need to be successful in their search for a career and the confidence needed to make changes in their lives.

Colleagues, please join with me today in recognizing Working Wardrobes for excellence in providing victims of domestic violence with educational programs that have given them a new beginning in life.

CELEBRATING TAFT, CALIFORNIA, 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my friends and constituents in the community of Taft, California in celebrating Taft's 90th birthday. On November 7th, Taft will be 90 years old and the town has come together to celebrate that fact as part of this year's Oildorado Days celebration, entitled "Blowout 2000". It is a proud celebration of the community's history and ties to the California oil industry.

Taft is an oil town, pure and simple. From the time of oil's discovery in the area in the 1860s, the area around this small western Kern County community has been the focus of