

for our government, for the institutions of democracy that make this country such a great place. Your responsibility, having completed this year as pages, is not to be elected to office, though there will be some of you that will be elected. I will guarantee somebody in this class that will be serving some day in the House of Representatives or the United States Senate, and others of you will serve in State legislatures and city councils and school boards, other kinds of equally important tasks in life. Your job is not to be elected and your job is not to make as much money as Bill Gates; very few of us could ever hope to accomplish that. But your job is to serve, to serve your community, your country, your family in the best way possible. You have been given a great opportunity, and I know that each and every one of you will make the very most of this opportunity.

So I hope that you will go out from here and help others understand what our government is about, and how wonderful it is, because these institutions of democracy, for all of their failings, is still the very best that we have been able to devise. You have done us a great service during this last year. Sometimes we do not even realize how the work of the House of Representatives depends on what you are doing every day, and it becomes a part of us, and yet you are so important to the operation of this House. So we will miss you. On Monday there will be a new batch of pages in here, and we will all be busy trying to orient them and get to know them. But we will miss you, and we hope that you will stay in touch with us and with others that you have gotten to know back here; and we look forward to the great service that you will be providing for your country in whatever capacity that might be, and there will be very many different kinds of things.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I will enter into the RECORD a list of all of the pages.

Max Abbott
Dominic Adams
Sarah Baca
Thomas Bazan
Christopher Bower
Geoffrey Brown
Diane Bruner
Michael Buck
Eric Cercone
Adam Cheatham
Christopher Clark
David Cook
Andrew D'Anna
Ashley Daugherty
Ashley Foster
Katherine Fortune
Kara Frank
Amy Gaddis
Adam Gellman
Dana Hall
Kristopher Hart
Laura Heaton
Androni Henry
Rebecca Hoffman
William Hooper
Jay Kanterman
James Kelley
Stevens Kelly

Susanna Khalil
Jule Kolbe
Julia Koplewski
David Kroontje and
Adam Kwaman
Ray LaHoud
Andrew Lerch
Yun Hsin (Amy) Leung
Brad Lyman
Alison Lowery
Renee Mack
Megan Marshburn
Jeffrey Mannion
Marcella Martinez
Lindsay Moon
Clinton Morris
Nancy Nicolas
Casey Osterkamp
Parker Payne
Ashley Percy
Christopher Perr
Jessica Porras
Tessa Powell
Lindsey Ransdell
Jennifer Reed
Moriah Reed
A.J. Rosenfeld
Chase Rowan
Danielle Ruse
David Schweinfurth
Samuel Sinkin
Megan Smith
Nouvelle Stubbs
Erin Sweeney
Christine Tancinco
Anika Tank
Margaret Theobald
Lindsay Thomson
Amber Walker
Lauren Weeth
Julie Wise and
Jessica Wood.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I would, in conclusion, also just like to mention my own page, as others have done, Adam Cheatham from Tucson. He has been a great page this last year and has become a great friend of mine, but each and every one of you have become great friends of mine. Some I have gotten to know, obviously, better than others. But I admire what you have done, we appreciate the service, we thank you for that, and we wish you Godspeed. Thank you.

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ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE
12, 2000

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO
FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER
FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 629(b) and upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader, the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment of the following member on the part of the House to the Federal Judicial Center Foundation for a 5-year term:

Mr. Benjamin Zelenko of Maryland.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER OF
FIRST FLIGHT CENTENNIAL FED-
ERAL ADVISORY BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, pursuant to section 12(b)(1) of the Centennial of Flight Commemoration Act (36 U.S.C. 143) and upon the recommendation of the minority leader, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following citizen on the part of the House to the First Flight Centennial Federal Advisory Board:

Ms. Mary Mathews of Ohio.

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, on April 12, I led an hour of debate on the topic of prescription drug coverage for senior citizens. I read three letters from around the state from seniors who shared their personal stories. On the 12th, I made a commitment to continue to read a different letter every week until the House enacts reform. This week I will read a letter from Julia Kanopsky of Livonia Michigan.

In conjunction with Mother's Day, the Older Women's League (OWL) published a report entitled, "Prescription for Change: Why women need a Medicare Drug Benefit." The report describes the special problems older women face in obtaining prescriptions.

More than one in three women on Medicare lack prescription drug coverage.

In 1997, 2.6 million women on Medicare spent more than \$1200 a year on their medications and another 2.4 million women spent between \$612 and \$1200 a year on pharmaceuticals therapies.

The high costs of prescription drugs are especially hard on older women, most of whom live on fixed incomes. More than half of women age 65 and over have personal annual incomes of less than \$10,000 a year and three out of four have incomes under \$15,000.

On average, women's overall out-of-pocket spending for prescription drugs is higher than

their male counterparts. In 1999, women on Medicare were projected to spend \$430 a year on medications, compared to \$380 for men.

Women are expected to make up a greater share (58 percent) of beneficiaries with high (\$500–\$999) or very high (\$1,000) annual out-of-pocket drug costs in 1999.

Women make up more than six in ten (61.4 percent) Medicare beneficiaries with hypertension and women with hypertension have higher overall out-of-pocket spending for prescription drugs (\$800) than men do (\$694).

OWL shares the disturbing fact that Medicare beneficiaries without drug coverage are less likely to receive drug therapies compared to those with coverage. In 1996, women without coverage used 24 percent fewer prescriptions than did women with coverage.

I agree with the conclusions in the OWL report that these numbers cry out for the inclusion of a prescription drug benefit in Medicare.

I will now read the letter from Julia Kanopsky:

I was so thrilled to find your address I was allowed to express myself on [the] high price of prescriptions. I am one of the least fortunate ones who does not have any . . . health care . . . [I have a] pension [and] when I pay for my three prescriptions for heart and blood pressure, and 2 for pain, pay for my Blue Cross, half of my check is used up and every time you get a refill on prescription drugs, the price differs. Blue Cross [also] goes up. I [have] talked to so many seniors like myself and it has us worried to death. I just wish the government would take an interest in different problems like this, to curb like prices. I eat two meals a day . . . any more hike in health cost, I'll have to go to one meal. [I get] a little Social Security raise, and then . . . property tax and utilities go up. I just can't win. Voice your opinion, Debbie! Maybe someone will listen. Thank you, Julia Kanopsky. P.S. I'm too old to get a job if I were younger, maybe [I would]. I could pick up a job to at least pay for prescriptions for Healthcare. I'm trying to maintain my home and being independent, these prices are scaring me.

The time is now to enact legislation that will reduce the price for prescription drugs for seniors and that will include a prescription drug benefit in the Medicare program.

HOUSE BIPARTISAN VOTE ON THE ESTATE TAX IS A VICTORY FOR TAXPAYERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, I want to celebrate today's victory on behalf of the taxpayers. That is the outstanding vote produced by this bipartisan Congress, 279 to 136. Sixty-five Democrats joined the Republican majority in signalling to America and to taxpayers everywhere that we think it is punitive when a person dies after working all their life to increase wealth, to increase opportunities for their family, that the government now becomes their partner; the government becomes, if you will, the primary recipient of all that person's hard work.

Growing up in this country, my parents told me, work hard, strive for the

greatest heights, and you will be richly rewarded for your efforts. America, home of entrepreneurs and opportunity everywhere, signals to people, come one, come all, from around the world to this great Nation. We are in fact a home of opportunity.

Many people agreed with us today, and thankfully many people, everyone from the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN), joined. The list is endless of people from virtually every State who joined in recognizing the egregious nature of the estate tax or death tax, as we call it.

The calls on the House floor, today, though would indicate otherwise. In fact, the minority portrayed this as simply a Republican bill rammed through this process with no debate and no consideration. Death taxes have been on the books since 1913, so I do not think we got to this point in time quickly. In fact, I think we have been waiting for this a long time.

I think the voters of the minority Democrat party in fact enjoyed the bill today and supported the bill today, and in fact, we are just within the threshold of a veto-proof number in this Chamber.

While we are on the subject of bipartisanship, I think it is important to not only compliment those, and the numbers and names can be found probably in many newspapers around the country, the 65 brave hearts that stood up and recognized the estate tax is patently unfair. But let us talk about the tactics being used by the minority party this week in fact as it relates to getting bills passed on behalf of the citizens of the country.

The front page of the Roll Call newspaper on the Hill said, "Wyden Lands in Hot Water." That is Senator WYDEN, a Democrat from Oregon. "Bipartisanship may cost the Oregonian a finance panel seat."

It goes on to say that, "Senator Ron Wyden may have won plaudits from the New York Times editorial page for trying to reach across party lines to craft a Medicare prescription drug reform plan, but the move infuriated many of his Democratic colleagues. Several Democrat sources says Wyden has now dashed any hope of landing one of the three coveted seats opening at the end of the year on the powerful Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over entitlement and tax policy."

That is amazing, that in a day when we have had dialogue about a lack of bipartisanship, we read that headline, that one of their own reached out to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Ways and Means, to try and craft a proposal that would actually pass, that would actually ensure prescription drug coverage for our seniors, prescription drug coverage that is vitally necessary for our seniors throughout America.

A brave soul, a Democratic Senator, decided it was more important to start

to reach out to help our constituents, rather than score political points.

It goes on to talk about how he gave Republicans ground to stand on, and what have you. Let me just suggest, Mr. Speaker, the problems we are facing in this country are great. The problems we are facing as it relates to policy are important. I applaud Senator WYDEN, and I know I am probably stretching by referring to people by name, but I want to thank him for at least reaching out to try and find some common ground.

We have a lot of issues. The Patients' Bill of Rights, I will alert many of my colleagues as a Republican, I am a proud sponsor and supporter of that bill. That does not bring my party any great happiness, because they don't like when some of us are off the reservation, but nevertheless, I support it.

Campaign finance reform is another issue I take a great deal of pride in supporting.

I think there are a number of issues we can resolve on this floor, in this Chamber, relative to the needs of Americans. But I do think it is good that this is a time when bipartisanship is finally starting to reach through the cacaphony, right now, again, 65 Democratic yea votes on the bill today to eliminate death taxes, and that now maybe we can move on to other important aspects of public policy.

Let us go ahead and try to bring the Patients' Bill of Rights to fruition. Let us try and bring prescription drug coverage to fruition. Let us meet on the educational needs of our children around America, rather than just talk about it for campaign purposes. Let us make certain that every American is benefited by the debate and the dialogue here on the floor, that ultimately it is not about who runs this place.

God forbid we have that kind of fight. Let us not worry about who is in charge next year. Let us do something on behalf of the people. We have a chance. We can do it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all Members to refrain from personal references to individual Senators.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TODAY'S VOTE ON THE ESTATE TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, might I take just a moment to add my appreciation and congratulations to this first class of Pages of the millennium. Clearly, the eloquence of the words said by my colleagues cannot be matched in the short period of time that I have to simply say thank you, thank you, thank you.