

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR STAN
WEAVER

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 17, 2003

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor one of the great sons of Illinois, Senator Stan Weaver, who after selflessly donating forty-five years of his life to the State of Illinois is retiring from public service. In 1957, he began a twelve-year tenure as the mayor of my hometown of Urbana, IL. Weaver was later elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1968, where he served one term before his election to the Illinois Senate in 1970.

While Senator, Weaver served as chairman of the Senate Rules Committee and was a ranking member of the Senate Executive and Appropriations Committees as well as the Operations Commission. In 1997 he served in the newly created position of Senate Majority Leader after serving as assistant Senate Leader for twenty-two years. As a lawmaker, Stan's priorities have always been those of the people of the 52nd District, including quality of education, agriculture and economic development. He has proven to be a strong advocate for the University of Illinois and has helped it become one of the most prestigious examples of higher education in the nation.

Before entering public service, Stan Weaver graduated from Urbana public schools, attended Michigan State College, the University of Illinois, and graduated from the Indiana College of Mortuary Science. During World War II, Stan admirably served his country in the Army Air Force in the Southwest Pacific Theater.

In addition to his busy political career, Stan has found time to be a devoted father and grandfather to his son Blake, daughter Sherry, and to his two wonderful granddaughters, Lindsey and Jessica.

Besides being his community's state senator, Stan Weaver is heavily involved in several public organizations. He is the past president of the Illinois Municipal League, a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, member of the Mohammed Temple and of the International Chili Society. He also belongs to the Masonic Lodge, where he earned the rare distinction of 33rd Degree Mason because of his long-time dedicated service.

When Stan retires, his legacy to the State of Illinois will be one of quiet, effective leadership and commitment to the greater good. Whenever he rose to speak, people recognized his command of the issues, and colleagues from both political parties held him in the highest esteem. It has been my honor to know and serve with Senator Stan Weaver in the Illinois General Assembly. As the longest serving senator of his time, he will always be remembered as a powerful force in the Illinois Senate and his dedication to public service shall be sorely missed.

THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND
ST. PATRICKS DAY 2003

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 17, 2003

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this St. Patrick's Day on behalf of the Friends of Ireland in the United States Congress as we proudly reflect upon the ties that bind America and the island of Ireland.

We extend a warm welcome to the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, and to the political leaders from Ireland and Northern Ireland who have traveled to America to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with us. We would like to recognize and commend President Bush's commitment to the peace process and to the promotion of reconciliation in Northern Ireland. We would also like to recognize Ambassador Richard Haass for the important and constructive role he has played in the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement.

This year we mark the fifth anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, which holds the promise of ensuring a just and lasting peace in Northern Ireland and a stable and inclusive government for all the people of Northern Ireland. The Friends of Ireland stand firmly with those political leaders who are steadfastly working to ensure that the Good Friday Agreement will be fully implemented and that political institutions of Northern Ireland will be restored for once and for all.

Since the Good Friday agreement we are seeing a more stable economy in Northern Ireland. Unemployment is down dramatically in both communities, inward investment is up strongly, and Northern Ireland is one of the fastest growing economies in Europe.

We encourage all the parties to take the necessary steps for peace, and we look forward to the cessation of all paramilitary violence in Northern Ireland, the demilitarization of Northern Ireland, the growth of a police force that represents and protects all the people of Northern Ireland, and the enactment of justice and equality laws that serve all the people of Northern Ireland.

We commend this progress and encourage greater and mutually beneficial economic links between the island of Ireland and the United States. The 44 million Americans of Irish descent share these goals, and join us in wishing the people of the island of Ireland a happy St. Patrick's Day.

HELP EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE,
LOW-COST, TIMELY HEALTHCARE
(HEALTH) ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5, legislation to ensure that patients

have access to quality medical care by bringing balance to our medical liability system.

The purpose of the medical liability system is to provide a remedy for patients who have been harmed by negligent actions on the part of providers. But excessive litigation, legal action filed without legitimate cause, can lead to patient harm. Women who cannot find obstetricians for high risk pregnancies, and trauma patients who do not have access to appropriate medical care, suffer when doctors have been driven from practice due to high litigation expense. Doctors who must practice defensive medicine increase the cost of health care for everyone and put their patients through unnecessary procedures.

Many States have struggled to bring reforms to their liability systems. Indiana, fortunately, has not been one of them. Over 20 years ago, Indiana reformed its medical liability system. Today, patients are compensated quickly without endless litigation, doctors have reasonable malpractice insurance rates and the medical community provides quality care to Hoosier patients.

It is my understanding that under H.R. 5 Indiana will be able to retain the core aspects of its medical liability system. These include, the medical review panel requirement, the total compensation cap, and the limit on providers' liability. It is also my understanding that there is nothing in H.R. 5 that would prevent other States from adopting a medical liability system that includes such elements.

I urge the adoption of H.R. 5 to bring common sense back to our medical liability system.

HONORING DR. JERRY SHEN

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 17, 2003

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on February 28th the St. Louis area lost one of its leading physicians and a committed advocate of the sacredness of human life, Dr. Jerry Shen.

Dr. Shen was a Harvard-trained pediatrician, a pioneer in the field of adolescent medicine whose commitment to the young people of my great home state of Missouri was legendary. But that commitment had roots not in the Show-Me state but in Dr. Shen's native land of China.

When the Communists seized power in China, Dr. Shen and his family were on the last boat out and traveled on expired passports. He and his family had faith that God would take care of them, and in His great mercy, He did.

Dr. Shen was someone whose medical knowledge and Catholic faith animated his belief that human personhood should be protected from the moment of conception until natural death. He was instrumental in founding the Missouri Right-to-Life movement, which regularly has one of the largest delegations to

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the annual March for Life in January here in our nation's capital.

As a former board member of Missouri Right-to-Life, I knew the work of Dr. Shen well and admired it greatly.

Dr. Shen was a man of action. He admired Mother Theresa's work and told his family he was going to convince her to bring her Sisters of Charity to St. Louis to work with the poor. Many in the community were doubtful but Dr. Shen moved forward and today, the Sisters are in the City of St. Louis. In fact, a full row of the Sisters were at Dr. Shen's funeral mass.

Dr. Shen's funeral mass was about "Choosing Life," a text taken from Deuteronomy 30:5-12. Archbishop Justin Rigali of the Diocese of St. Louis quoted the Apostle Paul in referring to Dr. Shen, noting that he had "fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith."

There can be few higher epitaphs than that. Dr. Shen did, indeed, fight faithfully and well for the right to life that our Declaration of Independence affirms is intrinsic to all of us. For that, he deserves the thanks of a grateful nation. He certainly has mine.

NO CFCs FOR 25 YEARS

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 17, 2003

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate this Saint Patrick's Day and all that is green, I would like to point to another important "green" milestone associated with March 17. Twenty-five years ago, on March 17, 1978, the Environmental Protection Agency promulgated regulations prohibiting the further use of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) propellants from almost all aerosol products manufactured and sold in the United States. Even before that date, many U.S. manufacturers of aerosols voluntarily removed CFCs in response to environmental concerns linking CFCs to the depletion of the earth's protective ozone layer.

Today, CFCs are used in only very rare and special circumstances, such as for medical uses like asthma inhalers, and even many of these "essential uses" are switching to non-CFC alternatives. Under the Montreal Protocol, more than 160 countries joined the United States and agreed to cease production of CFCs except for medical products.

When environmental concerns over the impact of CFCs on the ozone first arose, producers undertook the extremely difficult and costly task of reformulating and retesting hundreds of products in order to assure that the new propellants would perform as well as CFC propellants had. But importantly, the U.S. aerosol industry not only complied with the 1978 regulation, it in fact led the way for the rest of the world.

Unfortunately though, public perception has not caught up with reality. Public opinion polls, taken as recently as last year, have found that nearly half of all consumers—48%—are still unaware of the 25-year-old regulations that prohibit the use of CFCs in aerosols. This has often led consumers, unaware that aerosols cause no harm to the Earth's protective ozone layer, to bypass today's environmentally safe aerosol products.

Research has shown that consumers are still being influenced by incorrect information regarding the environmental impact of aerosols and many are avoiding them as a result. This is unfortunate because there are a number of inherent benefits to be gained from the aerosol delivery system, such as the consistency of an aerosol spray which minimizes waste.

Shaving cream, hair spray, spray paint, bug spray, fragrant body sprays, spray starch, and aerosol air fresheners, just to mention a few, are all aerosol products. And like all aerosol products, these do not contain CFCs. In addition to being CFC free, most aerosol packages are made of steel which, when empty, are also recyclable in many communities.

The companies in the aerosol industry have worked hard to produce products that are efficacious and environmentally sound. In other words, they work, and they don't harm the Earth's protective ozone layer. The more than 100,000 Americans directly employed in the aerosol industry are proud of their companies and their products, and rightly so.

March 17 will always be a day when we associate the color green with St. Patrick's Day, but it should also be a date that reminds us that U.S.-produced aerosols have been CFC free and environmentally friendly since 1978.

A VETERAN'S OPINION

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 17, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues a letter to the editor that was printed in The Manchester Enterprise, of Manchester, Michigan, written by one of my constituents, Larry Byrne, a Vietnam veteran.

"To the editor:

'Manchester Area People for Peace,' . . . if not for using the Manchester name in your group's cause, I'd never taken the time to write this article.

I know as a Marine Corps Sergeant serving two hours of duty in Vietnam, my views may be slightly different from those that are active in the 'people for peace' camp. I do hope you realize this doesn't mean the rest of us that enjoy living in our peaceful community would rather live elsewhere, just because we don't share your views on this serious matter.

Peace is a state of mind that the majority of Americans have the right and privilege to share. We should never take it for granted nor believe that it didn't come at a very high cost. Hundreds of thousands of men and women gave their lives so that we could live in peace.

Our country has made its mistakes throughout its history when it comes to war. Maybe we should have helped remove a crazed paperhanger much earlier than we did, but as Pearl Harbor was bombed they talked peace.

Maybe we should have not been drawn into the Vietnam 'crisis.' I was sent to Vietnam after some 35,000 Americans gave their lives doing what their country requested of them. I was only 19 at the time and I'll never forget discussing with other Marines the hurt and anger we'd feel when we would read the Stars & Stripes newspaper. Articles and pictures showing our fellow Americans protesting back home only seemed to demoralize us and

strengthen our enemy. This brings us to current events. Does anyone really believe Iraq's hostile government or any terrorist organizations would not let us live in peace if not for the threat of war? Therefore, it seems this great nation of ours with all its flaws has been give the role of 'peacekeeper.' To those of you don't like this position for our country, I ask . . . to whom do we give it? Germany would have gladly taken the role of 60 years ago, but now they just want to direct the leaders.

Japan, like Germany, somewhat graciously relinquished the role and decided to build better cars.

Canada—just joking, eh?

From France, a newspaper ad: 'French military rifle for sale. Never fired, dropped once.'

United Nations? Please, the UN has proven totally ineffective with the Iraq situation.

On the other hand, what if nobody did anything? I don't know if isolationism could work in our small world today, but if we were all willing to give up a lot, who knows?

A new song came out called, "Have you Forgotten." I suggest as you're walking on the bridge with your peace signs you listen to it. Who knows, you may learn something. By the way, don't try this in Tieneman Square.

Personally and perhaps most of us that served in our country's military, especially in Vietnam, would appreciate you not using our town's name of Manchester to promote your ideas. Again, I respect your rights and privileges to do so, but don't draft me by name association to be a participant in your point of view.

Da Nang, 1969 or Manchester 2003—strong believes don't change . . . you're hurting us and helping them."

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Byrne for writing this letter.

TRIBUTE TO THE MORRIS HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 17, 2003

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to congratulate the member of the Morris Robotics Team from Morris High School in the South Bronx for their remarkable work and achievements.

Three years ago, thanks to Gary Israel, a history teacher, and a \$5,000 award from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the school started a robotics team. Mr. Israel campaigned to raise \$25,000 from local sponsors, encouraged skeptical parents and faculty, and gathered a team of 15 students who built a robot named Bulldog. This robot placed 3rd out of 38 at the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) regional competition in New York, demonstrating the robot's agility and basketball skills, as well as its creators' teamwork. The Morris team worked with graduate students from Columbia University's School of Engineering to construct the robot, combining the technical knowledge of the engineers with the mechanical abilities of the teenagers.

Morris High School has received support from many sponsors, such as: the Columbia University School of Engineering, the Fu Foundation and Applied Science, NASA, the