

principal opponents of our campaign finance policies, the opportunity to argue his position before the ACLU's 83-member National Board. After hours of debate and discussion, Neuborne completely failed to shift the ACLU Board to his view. Many Board members in fact argued that Neuborne's position was in direct conflict with the First Amendment rights that form the foundation of our democracy. Ultimately, the one Board member who had offered a motion to radically alter our long-standing policy withdrew it rather than allowing it to come to a vote.

Yet our former ACLU colleagues persist, offering sweeping proposals that would constitute a wholesale breach of First Amendment rights and that ignore the real-world impact of limits on speech. They speak approvingly of efforts to impose "reasonable limits on campaign spending" without saying specifically what such regulations would do. But when we look at those consequences it becomes clear that current campaign finance measures would do immeasurable damage to political speech. The devil as the cliché goes, is in the details.

A key provision of both McCain-Feingold and Shays-Meehan would, for example, establish limits that effectively bar any individual or organization from explicitly criticizing a public official—perhaps the single most important type of free speech in our democracy—when the official is up for re-election within 60 days. If that kind of law had governed the recent New York City mayoral election, it would have effectively barred the ACLU (and other non-partisan groups) from criticizing incumbent Mayor Giuliani by name on the subject of police brutality in the wake of the horrific Abner Louima incident precisely during the pre-election period when such criticism is most audible. That prohibition would have gagged us even though the ACLU has never endorsed or opposed any candidate for elective office and is barred by our non-partisan structure from doing so. Similarly, anti-choice groups like the National Right to Life Committee would be effectively barred from criticizing candidates who support reproductive freedom. Yet such criticism of public officials is exactly what the First Amendment was intended to protect.

In contrast, there are many reform measures the ACLU supports that would protect and increase political speech. These include instituting public financing, improving certain disclosure requirements, establishing vouchers for discount broadcast and print electoral ads, reinstating a tax credit for political contributions, extending the franking privilege to qualified candidates and requiring accountability of and providing resources to the Federal Elections Commission. None of those proposed reforms would run afoul of the First Amendment.

Still, our former ACLU colleagues press proposals that would inevitably limit political speech. We continue to shake our heads, wondering how such measures can be regarded as "reforms" by anyone who is genuinely committed to the First Amendment.

REP. BELFANTI RECOGNIZED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 1998

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague and close friend, State Representative Robert E. Belfanti, Jr. Bob will be honored by the Susquehanna Valley Boy Scouts Council at the

Council's July 7 American Distinguished Citizen Dinner. I am pleased and proud to be able to participate in this prestigious event.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Belfanti represents parts of my congressional district in Northumberland County, Montour County, and Columbia County. I have been proud to work with him on numerous occasions since I was first elected in 1984. I consider him a close personal friend.

Born in 1948 to Robert and Rose Belfanti, Bob attended local schools in Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania, in what is part of the District he now represents. He was active in Scouting and became an Eagle Scout in 1961. He graduated high school in 1966 and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps the following July. Bob served in Vietnam and was decorated six times. Following his tour of duty in Vietnam, Bob attended the University of North Carolina on a special Inservice Program. In 1971, Bob received an honorable discharge from the Corps but remained active in a Reserve unit for another two years.

In 1972, Bob began electrician school and graduated as a journeyman in 1975. He operated his own contracting company prior to his election to the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1980.

Active in numerous local organizations, Representative Belfanti is a member of the AmVets, N.E. Economic Development Council, Lions, Knights of Columbus, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, UNICO, and various Scouting organizations. Bob was listed in Who's Who in American Politics, received the Outstanding Young Men of America Award, National Young Democrat Award, and the National Leadership Award.

Bob's legislative efforts have ranged from employment issues to the environment. He has helped his district move beyond its coal mining heritage and toward the 21st century with millions in grant money for everything from technology to sewage treatment.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Belfanti is a proven leader, an able legislator, and a concerned citizen. I am proud to join with his wife Cece, his sons, his friends, and the community in paying tribute to his outstanding career and his dedication to his community. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to bring Bob's many accomplishments to the attention of my colleagues and I wish my good friend continued success, good health, and prosperity.

HONORING NEAL BROXMEYER

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 1998

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues in the House of Representatives the story of a man whose life, which ended all too soon in 1996 at age 43, was dedicated to the pursuit of truth.

Neal Howard Broxmeyer searched for truth with a great intensity. He was long immersed in spiritual work which brought tremendous peace. A beloved and respected leader of the School of Practical Philosophy, he played a major role in establishing its Abraham Lincoln School for Boys and Girls on the upper east side in Manhattan. His 9-year-old son is a student there, and is very proud of the role his Dad played. Indeed, it was one of Neal's pre-

vious dreams to see the school flourish and grow.

Neal's devotion to his family was exemplary. He naturally included within his family the many people whose lives intersected with his. In that sense, Neal's family included his associates and colleagues at Fairfield Properties, where he was a partner. His brothers have said that he was an excellent businessman, known for his honesty and his integrity. He was seen as the "heart and soul" of his business, and he was referred to as the "light of the office."

Neal Broxmeyer was a man who always looked beyond his own needs. He led his life in keeping with the maxim: Set no limits in service, and encouraged others to do the same. He was always available to others. He cherished the community in which he lived and was very happy to be part of the community association. He led the way in establishing the security patrol in the community, and always said "How could I not take it on?"

Neal was a simple man who was extraordinary. Always there, steady and balanced; never looking for faults in others, but instead finding the goodness in everyone. Everything and everyone who benefited from his attention, concern, insight, wisdom, counsel, and warmth understands that there was "absence of claim." Although not rigid, Neal was highly disciplined. His life, though very short, was filled with a quality beyond most. Nothing, it seems, was wasted.

Neal is survived by his loving family: His beloved wife Susan; their children, Dara, Jennifer, and David; by his parents, Muriel and Joseph; and by his brothers Mark and Gary.

June 23, 1998 will mark the inauguration of the Neal Broxmeyer Scholarship Fund. This fund will help to keep alive the memory and vision of this extraordinary man. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and distinct honor to bring the brief life of Neal Howard Broxmeyer to the attention of my colleagues and hope they will join me in paying tribute to an outstanding human being.

IN SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL
FUNDING AND AWARENESS
ABOUT POLYCYSTIC KIDNEY DISEASE

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the Polycystic Kidney Research Foundation held a conference here on June 19–21. Four hundred patients, physicians, and researchers gathered to review the latest developments in research for a treatment and cure. Supporters visited members of the House and Senate to ask for a commitment to increased funding at the National Institutes of Health in research for this disease which affects 600,000 Americans. Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) is the most common life-threatening genetic disease and costs \$1.5 billion yearly in Medicare funding. Scientists are hopeful that with increased funding in research the disease can be treated or cured within the next five years.

Attached is an article which describes recent gains we've made in combatting PKD and how important continued research will be