

otherwise held accountable to the Rule of Law, "We the People"—even those of us who serve "at the pleasure of the President"—should follow his lead and talk about forgiveness. In the meantime, other commanders might do well by following the lead of, and by telling their troops to follow the lead of, Archbishop John Carroll, whose "A Prayer for the Republic" seems as timely now as when penned by the founder of Georgetown University 200 years ago: "We Pray Thee, O God . . . assist with Thy holy spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of the United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness, and be eminently useful to Thy people over whom he presides; by encouraging the due respect for virtue and religion; by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy; and by restraining vice and immorality. Let the light of Thy divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress, . . ."

DALLAS LIVER TRANSPLANT PROGRAM

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I submit the attached materials to be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

DALLAS LIVER TRANSPLANT PROGRAM, BAYLOR UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER, CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER OF DALLAS, DALLAS, TX, September 22, 1998.

Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN JOHNSON: I am aware that the House recently passed H.R. 4250, the Patient Protection Act of 1998. I understand that the Patient's Bill of Rights Act, S. 2330, is currently under consideration as the companion bill.

Managed care is here to stay, but it has, as you are well aware, caused many significant problems. I have had personal, intimate experience with health care plans ever since they were first introduced into the Dallas health care market in the late 1980s. I support the provisions in the bill as it is currently worded. However, I find it very troublesome that the private insurance plans would not be required to emulate the same restrictions against financial incentives as the current Medicare rules provide. To allow a system that awards or penalizes physicians depending on how "cost effective" the care is they provide I believe is unethical. The simple thought of paying physicians extra if they do not provide health care is, in effect, repugnant to me. In addition, we must prevent the development of separate requirements for public and private health care sectors.

In my own particular field, that of transplantation, it is very obvious that transplant patients, i.e. recipients of kidneys, pancreas, livers, hearts, lungs and other organs, are so sick and have such serious disorders that they need to be cared for by specialists in their respective fields, both before and after the transplant. There are areas of the country where a specialist's care is not available. In those circumstances, the local physicians work very closely with the super-specialists at the transplant institutions. I think it is essential to allow chronically ill patients to have specialists designated as their primary care physicians.

On a separate vein, the basis for improvement of care and the safety of treatment we

can provide to patients is to allow the patients to participate in scientific, peer-reviewed, controlled trials. It is essential for medicine, and to have health care plans for-bid patient participation because of whatever reason they deem fit is unthinkable. They always want to participate and reap the benefits of any advances, especially if they can save a few dollars for themselves. However, they don't ever want to participate and help such developments along.

Finally, since I have seen health care being prevented and withheld by health care providers so many times, I believe it is imperative to allow patients to sue their carrier. The unconscionable way that many health care providers approach health care today is upsetting. One situation I bring to your attention is several years ago open of the biggest HMOs in the country had patients who were 20% more expensive to transplant than other patients. The reason was simply that the patients coming from this particular HMO were so much farther advanced and therefore more complex when they finally arrived for transplantation. The patients were simply prevented from having the transplants when they were in optimum condition, thus jeopardizing their lives. Clearly this was not the fault of the referring physicians or the physicians involved in the transplantation, but the HMOs corporate policy in trying to avoid the cost that would be incurred. Thus, the right to sue the carrier is absolutely essential to insure the patient's right to prevent withholding of care that is so widely prevalent today.

As always I appreciate your work in Congress and your involvement in the health care problems.

Yours most sincerely,

GORAN B. KLINTMALM, M.D.

Medical Director, Transplantation Services, Baylor University Medical Center—Dallas.

DEPARTMENT OF

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES,

Washington, DC, September 23, 1998.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. JOHNSON: Thank you for your letter regarding implementation of the surety bond requirement for home health agencies (HHAs) included in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. I regret the delay in this response.

In response to concerns raised by Members of Congress and the home health industry, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), in a rule published in the Federal Register on July 31, announced the indefinite suspension of the compliance date by which home health agencies must obtain a surety bond. As a result, home health agencies no longer have a date by which they must obtain a surety bond. The Congress has requested that the General Accounting Office conduct a study of the home health surety bond requirement, and upon completion of that study, HCFA will work in consultation with the Congress about the surety bond requirement. Following this review and consultation, the new date by which home health agencies must obtain bonds will be at least 60 days after HCFA publishes a revised rule requiring bonds, but will not be earlier than February 15, 1999.

I hope this information is helpful, and I appreciate your letter. A similar letter is being sent to the other members of the delegation who co-signed your letter.

Sincerely,

NANCY-ANN MIN DEPARLE,

Administrator.

A TRIBUTE TO MARGARET ROBERTS AND CHAR CALLIES

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today a recent editorial from one of the finest weekly papers I know, the Desert Trail newspaper in Twentynine Palms, California. This editorial pays tribute to two remarkable women who have made, and continue to make a tremendous difference to the people of Twentynine Palms.

[The Desert Trail, Thursday, Sept. 10, 1998]

CONGRATS TO OUR CITY CLERKS

There are upsides and downsides to every situation, and the announcement this week that Deputy City Clerk Char Callies will succeed retiring City Clerk Margaret Roberts is no exception.

We all knew the day would come when Margaret would hang up her city of Twentynine Palms seal and head into "retirement" with her husband, Marine Sgt. Maj. Alex Roberts.

That day will officially come on Dec. 18, when Margaret closes the door on an 11-year career with the city, City Manager Jim Hart announced Wednesday.

"Margaret was the city's first full-time employee and she was instrumental in helping guide the new city after incorporation. We all owe Margaret a sense of gratitude for her efforts on behalf of the city," Hart said in announcing that her resignation had been accepted reluctantly by the City Council for the end of the year.

There's probably not anyone in this city who doesn't owe Margaret some debt of gratitude. For more than a decade she has represented the city of Twentynine Palms in a most gracious and straightforward fashion. It seems there's nothing she can't do, nothing and no one she cannot handle with aplomb.

She has guided council candidates, provided information and assistance of all kinds to just about everyone and their brother and been there to lend an ear when needed.

Margaret has never failed to provide The Desert Trail with information we've requested and never hesitated to pick up the phone and let us know when a story needed to be told.

We will all miss Margaret, even as we wish her well, when she and Alex head East to pursue the next part of their lives together.

That said, we don't think the City Council could have made a better choice to replace Margaret than Char Callies.

A longtime resident of Twentynine Palms, Char is personable, caring, efficient, strong, hard-working and no-nonsense, just like her predecessor.

"Char has been working hard over the past three years to gain the knowledge and experience the City Council felt was needed to become city clerk," Hart said in announcing her promotion. "She has done an outstanding job as the city manager's secretary and deputy city clerk and this promotion is a recognition of Char's efforts."

We wholeheartedly congratulate Char on her promotion and look forward to working with her come mid-December. It's nice to know that she'll be on the job when Margaret says goodbye.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in recognizing the incredible contributions and achievements of these fine women.

I know that the entire City of Twentynine Palms is proud of their fine work. It is only fitting that the House of Representatives pay tribute to them today.

### TRIBUTE TO LOU STOKES

#### HON. THOMAS C. SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to share the feelings of LOU STOKES' staff as they celebrate his legacy.

Much has been said on this floor about LOU's great accomplishments in this body, but I can think of no greater tribute than that the members of his staff—who have worked late into the night and early into the morning alongside their boss—would want to pay tribute to him in the record.

Lou has put in countless hours both in Cleveland and in Washington over the past 30 years, and his staff has been there with him, working to address the issues most important to him and to his constituents. His staff members have worked in Washington for legal aid, for improvement of public housing, for increased opportunities for the poor. They have worked in the district to address the needs of his constituents. They have all made it their goal to fight alongside LOU for the residents of his congressional district and for all Americans.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege today to place a tribute to the Honorable LOU STOKES into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on behalf of his loyal and dedicated staff.

#### STAFF PAYS TRIBUTE

Mr. Speaker, this great body has known giants. The halls of this chamber have resounded to the words of great men and women.

Mr. Speaker, we have been most fortunate to serve one such exceptional gentleman of the House: the gentleman from Ohio, Dean of the Ohio Delegation, the Honorable Louis Stokes. We ride his shoulders and see his vision. Nothing has escaped his penetrating discovery in 30 years.

He put some of us in the field to walk amongst the people and respond to their problems. He gave some of us the task of finding legislative solutions. All of us, at one time or another, knew the anguish of a constituent in pain and all of us, fortunately, on numerous occasions, celebrated the victories of their success. The word "failure" is not in Lou Stokes' vocabulary; the act of failing is unfathomable. No challenge has been too big. No person is too small.

Lou Stokes has been a stalwart defender of the Constitution and has spent his adult life fighting for the right of all people to live in dignity and in peace.

He has gone from dawn to dawn, all in a day's work. His staff are in amazement as his energy continues.

We have learned much from this man of humble beginnings. One can never give too much of one's time, compassion or energy to help one's fellow man. In fact, we must always go the "extra mile" and make sure we have done all that could be done to help someone in need.

Lou Stokes emanates pride in his roots and respect for all people. He fights for his principles and has taught us to be unwavering advocates.

The system may frustrate him, but never thwart him. For Lou Stokes knows how to

make change happen from within. He is tough, with a gentle heart. A task master who expects nothing more from others than he would give of himself, Lou Stokes reaches high, very high. In so doing, he makes all of us taller.

We have served Lou Stokes from varying lengths of time. We are the Stokes Team, a family. Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of the House, you are paying tribute to one of your favorite sons. As he has left an indelible mark on this institution, so has he left something with all of his staff. He has left us a challenge: always take the time to care, to take responsibility, to be involved, to reach back and reach out. Make today count so that tomorrow will be a better day for someone.

Mr. Speaker, we have been privileged to share this gentleman's vision. Thank you for this opportunity to pay tribute to a very special boss.

The Stokes legacy will continue as long as good prevails.

### HONORING ALEXANDER DUBCEK

#### HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, during the six months March–August 1968 the world witnessed a revolutionary drama which began in Bratislava, now the capital of Slovakia, and ended in Prague. The world's audience was fascinated especially by the leading player, a Slovak, Alexander Dubcek. Within that short time, Dubcek became a well-known symbol for his reform efforts in the totalitarian centralist Czechoslovakia in which Slovakia was treated as no more than a region. Dubcek's reforms became known as the "Prague Spring" although they would equally deserve the title "Dubcek Spring". His reforms involved the free speech, economic experimentation, open borders and open debate over the country's political future. Dubcek was faced by Stalinist with the same courage, as he had faced the Nazi fascists in the Slovak National Uprising in 1944 in which Alexander was wounded and his brother Julius was killed. It was not just by chance that the Spring 1968 started in Slovakia. In the first and last post World War II democratic elections in Czechoslovakia in 1946, the clear winner in Slovakia had been the Democratic Party, while in the larger Czech part of the country it had been the Communist Party that finally grabbed the overall power.

However, during the night of August 20–21, 1968 Dubcek's revolution was crushed by more than 600,000 troops with 7,000 tanks from the Warsaw Pact countries—Soviet Union, Bulgaria, East Germany, Hungary and Poland. For more than twenty years Dubcek remained under constant state security scrutiny. In spite of his ordeal, he always believed that people were essentially good and he never gave up hope. With the start of the Velvet Revolution in 1989, Dubcek reemerged at the Slovak National Uprising Square in Bratislava and Wenceslas Square in Prague, convincing thousands of demonstrators that their Revolution would succeed.

Few people know that Dubcek's parents came to settle in the United States. They lived in Chicago for more than five years in the sec-

ond decade of this century but returned to Slovakia shortly before Alexander's birth on November 27, 1921. Alexander literally had his very beginning in the U.S. It is also rather symbolic that the American University in Washington, DC, was among the first in the world to award Dubcek with an honorary Doctorate in April 1990, in the Spring immediately following the Velvet Revolution.

The moral and ideological impact of the "Dubcek Spring" spilled beyond the borders of his country, infiltrating the whole of the former Soviet Bloc. His message was that even the harshest dictatorship cannot prevent men of courage and honesty to reach far ahead of their time and keep their true conviction despite years of oppression. The Dubcek Spring started a process crowned by the fall of the Berlin Wall and the new democratic perspective for Central and Eastern Europe.

Alexander Dubcek and Vaclav Havel became known as the two symbols of the Velvet Revolution with great international prestige, opening the doors to the world for their respective Republics. By a fatal irony, on September 1, 1992, the day when the new Constitution of the Slovak Republic was adopted, Dubcek was gravely injured in a car accident and he died just a month before the independent Slovakia was born. Unfortunately, he died when he was the most needed by his mother country.

This year the 30th anniversary of the "Dubcek Spring" is commemorated in many countries of the world. The American University, jointly with the Embassy of the Slovak Republic, organized a series of events in which the guest of honor was Dr. Paul Dubcek, Alexander's son. I had the honor and pleasure of accompanying him through the U.S. Capitol and introducing him to such distinguished Congress Members as the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator JESSE HELMS, and the Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, Congressman BENJAMIN GILMAN. I had the opportunity to witness that the name of Dubcek still echoed in the ears of America's leaders.

It is my honor to recognize Alexander Dubcek and also symbolically pay tribute to hundreds of thousands of Slovak Americans who not only provided a key contribution to the American industrial revolution—working hard in coal mines, factories and steel mills of America's past. But also to the Slovak Americans who now lead American business, industry and science.

Alexander Dubcek, the man symbolizing what a giant contribution of a small country at the heart of Europe can provide to the rest of the world, definitely has his place among the great historic leaders of world democracy.

### OPTIONS FOR A MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced legislation that would provide a prescription drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries. The bill, if enacted, would close the most glaring deficiency in the Medicare program. With pharmaceuticals becoming an