

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PRESIDENTS' DAY

HON. STENY HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this long week-end millions of children will have a day off from school—and many of their parents will have a day off from work.

How many children, and how many of their parents will pause over this long weekend to reflect on the two great Presidents whose birthdays we will celebrate?

George Washington translated a fragile, untested document—our Constitution—into a working system of government in which no branch appropriated unto itself powers beyond what the framers of our Constitution envisaged.

Where George Washington could easily have chosen to be a monarch or a despot unaccountable to no one but himself, he, instead, devoted his twin terms as President to putting into practice the ideals of the American Revolution.

President Washington never lost sight of a basic tenant of the Revolution that Government's power ultimately resides in the people, and that public officials are the servants of the public.

Assuming office at a time of great peril and uncertainty, President Washington returned to Mount Vernon eight years later having proven through his example of restraint and leadership that the great American experiment had succeeded.

But unfortunately, seven decades later, our country was wracked by division, anger and, eventually, a bitter civil war. The American experiment was suddenly imperiled.

At times of great crisis, the American people have had the genius of entrusting the Nation's fate to great leaders.

Abraham Lincoln, by navigating our country through the crucible of civil war, preserved the nation and extended Washington's vision of the American experiment. By bringing those previously enslaved under the protection of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, Lincoln promoted the concept that for democratic government to truly succeed, all Americans must be able to participate. Just last week we underscored the significance of full citizen participation by commemorating the 35th anniversary of the ratification of the 24th Amendment to the Constitution, which finally put an end to the poll tax.

President Lincoln himself so eloquently described the American experiment as a "government of the people, by the people, for the people".

On this holiday weekend, I urge all Americans to reflect on the wisdom, courage and leadership of Presidents Washington and Lincoln.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM FRIEDLANDER, A GREAT LIVING CIN-CINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William Friedlander, a friend and community leader, who will be honored as a Great Living Cincinnatian on February 19, 1999 by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. He was selected based on his volunteer activities, business and civic accomplishments, awareness of the needs of others, and achievements that have brought favorable attention to the Cincinnati area. Bill has enriched the lives of all Greater Cincinnatians through his dedication, leadership, and love for our community.

Bill graduated from Walnut Hills High School and Amherst College. After serving 2 years in the Army, he attended Harvard Business School. He began his career at Bartlett & Company in 1957, rising to the position of Chairman. Bill is known for his tireless volunteer work and fundraising for local organizations. He served on the boards of Jewish Hospital and the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, where he served as both a board member and the Volunteer Director. During his very successful tenure at the Foundation, assets grew from \$40 million to \$140 million.

Bill has been especially active in the arts, serving as a board member for the Cincinnati Association for the Arts. He and his wife, Susan, also chaired the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's Second Century Fund, raising \$37 million—thought to be the largest amount ever raised for an arts organization in Greater Cincinnati. All of us in Cincinnati are grateful for his commitment to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 12, (H.R. 440), I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT IN PERIL

SPEECH OF

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today as an American of Irish descent and as

a Representative from Staten Island and Brooklyn, New York which is the home of many Irish Americans. I am very happy to see that the peace process in Ireland has progressed to the point we are at now—nearing the one year anniversary of the Good Friday agreement. It is a significant accomplishment that the violence has ended, that those who wish to further violence are not in power and are no longer winning their battle.

Last fall, I had the opportunity to travel to Ireland and to see the wonderful country from which my descendants came. I was able to meet with leaders from both sides and to witness for myself what the toll that violence has taken on this beautiful country. Now is a time to work together, to rebuild, to look towards a future with a peaceful Ireland. We must ensure that peace in Northern Ireland becomes a long-term, irreversible reality and the almost year old Good Friday agreement remains enforced.

In closing, I would like to commend Congressman WALSH from New York on his leadership on this issue and to thank him for giving me the opportunity to speak today.

APPRECIATION TO THE TRIDENT FOUNDATION

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 1999

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank the Colorado-based Trident Foundation for its tireless work in communities across the United States. The Trident Foundation is a network of highly skilled men and women from around the world, who come together as volunteers, bringing specialized equipment and the latest technology to offer water recovery support.

Recently, that commitment brought the group to Columbus, Georgia, to solve an unsuccessful three month search for the body of 14-year-old Kelvin Moreland. Kelvin, a resident of the Carpenter's Way Ranch, a Cataula home for boys who cannot live with their natural families, drowned while on a supervised outing.

The Trident Foundation's recovery of Kelvin's body provided the community needed closure with use of specialized sonar equipment and its team of volunteers from law enforcement agencies, fire departments, the medical profession, the U.S. Navy, and technical and scientific diving fields. Although their operations generally cost about \$50,000 a day, the group provides the services free of charge. In addition, services for the divers were provided by area companies.

Kelvin's body could not have been found and properly buried if not for the efforts of the Trident Foundation and local organizations. I commend their commitment and service to Columbus and other communities across our nation. Their work has allowed Columbus and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

the Carpenter's Way family to mourn, and Kelvin Moreland to rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO M.J. KLYN, A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Jeanne (M.J.) Klyn, a dear friend and community leader who will be honored as a Great Living Cincinnati on February 19, 1999 by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. She was selected for her exemplary community service, business and civic accomplishments, awareness of the needs of others, and achievements that have brought favorable attention to the Cincinnati area.

M.J. grew up in Illinois and attended Northwestern University. She was successful in banking, retailing and advertising in Cleveland, and was named the first female vice president of the University of Cincinnati. Among her duties was to work with the state legislature on funding and other issues. During her 23 years with the University of Cincinnati, she played a pivotal role in bringing the university into the state system and helped obtain more than \$2 billion for important capital projects. Among M.J.'s accomplishments were obtaining funds for the Shoemaker Center and the Barrett Cancer Center. She also led the drive to obtain the designation of the U.S. College of Engineering as one of ten NASA Federal Research Centers.

M.J. also served for 20 years on the Board of the Greater Cincinnati Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and earned its first Spirit of Cincinnati Chairman's Award. Women in Communications honored her with its Movers and Shakers Award. M.J. makes friends wherever she goes, and I feel lucky to be among them. All of us in Cincinnati are grateful for her leadership, service, and commitment to our Greater Cincinnati community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 13 (H.R. 439), I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ACT AMENDMENTS

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Mr. LATHAM for introducing this important legislation and Chairman COMBEST for bringing it to the floor today. As has been well

documented, our pork producers have been devastated by record-low prices for their products over the past year. While live hog prices have fallen dramatically, consumer prices are virtually unchanged. Somebody is getting rich at the expense of our farmers. Pork producers need better and more up-to-date information on prices to ensure that they are being treated fairly, and I hope the investigation into pork prices prompted by this legislation will go a long way towards protecting their interests.

For too long, the processing and distribution of swine has been concentrated in too few hands. This concentration could be dangerous for our farmers, and I urge the Senate to move quickly to pass this important legislation. Too many small farmers and their families in North Carolina depend on swine production for their livelihood for us not to take action now. This investigation is a small but important step in the right direction and I urge the House to adopt this important bill today.

REJECT THE LEGAL "END AROUND" ON GUN MAKERS

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 1999

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the tobacco lawsuits, many in our nation's legal profession have fallen into the wrong-headed idea that courts, rather than legislatures, should decide all public policy issues. Nowhere is this more notable than in the lawsuits recently filed by several cities against the firearms industry.

Mr. Speaker, even many publications that support restrictive gun control laws have spoken out against this trend. The Schenectady *Daily Gazette*, a newspaper that serves many of my constituents in upstate New York, blames violence on the lack of gun laws. I strongly disagree with that view—in fact, our nation has tens of thousands of gun laws at every level of government, and the laws in New York state are particularly strict.

However, I do agree with the *Daily Gazette's* conclusion that the lawsuits are "hugely misguided" and nothing but an "absurd money grab" designed to make a scapegoat of a highly regulated industry that manufactures a lawful product. Mr. Speaker, I urge the nation's courts and legislatures to reject these ridiculous lawsuits, and I insert the *Daily Gazette* editorial for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the *Daily Gazette*, Nov. 5, 1998]

DON'T SUE GUN MAKERS

New Orleans is a great destination for music lovers and gourmets, but it's also a good place to get shot. In fact, until a law-and-order mayor took office there four years ago, it had the dubious distinction of being "the murder capital of the United States." Now the city has filed a huge—and hugely misguided—lawsuit against 15 gun manufacturers. Numerous other large cities reportedly want to join the suit. Unbelievable.

A cousin to the numerous lawsuits pending against the tobacco industry, the suit attempts to make manufacturers a scapegoat for products that are wholly lawful and used primarily for their intended purpose. (Granted, guns aren't supposed to be used to commit murder, but there's little ambiguity

about their primary function as weapons for killing and maiming, whether for hunting or self-defense.)

The lawsuit focuses on the product liability angle, claiming that because gun makers fail to use enough safety devices, their weapons are "unreasonably dangerous." This might be arguable if most gun deaths were accidental—if typical lines like "I didn't know it was loaded," or "It just went off" were true. But in New Orleans—as in most cities—the killings are intentional. And most adults who handle guns know to take at least a little care to guard against accidents.

Are the gun makers to blame when some drug dealer steals a pistol and wastes his rival with it? Not unless they're handing out the weapons, or glamorizing this sort of behavior with advertising, etc. And if some kid gets his hands on his parents' gun and accidentally blows his friend away, aren't the parents really at fault for not doing a better job securing the weapon?

Where cigarette manufacturers can be accused of promoting irresponsible usage, gun makers almost never advertise—at least not handguns. And where the cigarette's primary function is to provide smokers with pleasure—with illness an unfortunate consequence—guns are inherently lethal.

So let's stop this absurd money grab. Gun makers may not be completely devoid of responsibility for this country's gun problem, but a government that allows guns to be made and people to buy and possess them seems a lot more culpable.

STATES' INITIATIVE

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 1999

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced H.J. Res. 29. I have sponsored this legislation with Congressmen KOLBE, GOODE, STUMP, GILLMOR, METCALF, SHADEGG, and MANZULLO. This constitutional amendment symbolizes what in Virginia we call the States' Initiative.

When the Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution in Philadelphia in 1787, they drew upon life's experiences and history to perfect the ideas and ideals the Constitution embraces. After they finished writing the Constitution, the Founding Fathers were wise enough to know they could not foresee the future. As a result, Article V provides for a mechanism to amend the Constitution.

We all know the Constitution is not perfect, even after 27 amendments. The Constitution has, although, protected the individual liberties all Americans have enjoyed for over 200 years.

As the proud holder of the seat first held by James Madison, my first objective is to never do any harm to the Constitution. However, the Founding Fathers acknowledged a need to amend the Constitution. The States' Initiative is a direct descendant of Madison's writings.

In Federalist paper 43, James Madison wrote,

... useful alterations will be suggested by experience. The Constitution moreover equally enables the general and the state governments to originate the amendment of errors as they may be pointed out by the experience on one side or on the other.

At present, Article V provides for two ways to amend the Constitution.