

TRIBUTE TO DAVID CASPER

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to David Casper, whose induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame was announced on February 2, his 50th birthday. Over his eleven years in the National Football League, Casper distinguished himself as one of the premier football players in history. Eighteen years after his retirement, his accomplishments and hard work will be recognized and commemorated upon receipt of this honor on August 3.

David John Casper was born in Bemidji, Minnesota, on February 2, 1952, to Dorothy and Edward Casper. His football career began during high school, where he led the Chilton Tigers to consecutive undefeated seasons in his junior and senior years.

In 1970, Notre Dame University immediately recognized David's ability and recruited him onto their football team as an incoming freshman. He quickly became Notre Dame's stand-out football star. In 1973, the All-American tight end led the Fighting Irish to an 11-0 season and a National Championship victory over Alabama's Crimson Tide. A leader on the field and in the classroom, David finished his senior year as team captain and a cum laude graduate.

In 1974, David debuted in the NFL with the Oakland Raiders. Over the next two years, he worked his way up to a spot in the starting lineup where he quickly established himself as one of the league's dominant tight ends, making 53 catches for 691 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Over the next seven seasons, David played for the Oakland Raiders, the Houston Oilers and the Minnesota Vikings. He returned to the Raiders, then relocated to Los Angeles, to retire from his football career in 1984.

After eleven seasons and the "Holy Roller" play against San Diego and the "Ghost to the Post" play beating the Baltimore Colts in a double overtime playoff game, David compiled 378 receptions for 5,216 yards and 52 touchdowns. He was essential to the Raiders' victory over the Vikings in Super Bowl XI. He was named All-Pro and All-AFC four consecutive seasons. He played in the Pro Bowl five consecutive years, was named a member of John Madden's 1970s team of the decade, and was recognized on the Silver Anniversary team as the best tight end in 25 years.

David's accomplishments are not limited solely to football. He has received numerous awards for his work as a financial planner, consultant and salesman.

David gained fame in the football world, but he has used his fame to better his community and the lives of the people in it. He founded the Dave Casper Celebrity Golf Tournament to support the Ronald McDonald House and greatly supports other charities that benefit children.

David's determination to succeed in all he has done has made him a true legend. He is probably most proud of his wonderful family—his wife Susan and children Keleigh, Carrie and Andy—but the world will forever remember the Hall of Fame football star who went down in the record books and in the memories of generations of football fans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAN GRIFFIN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to stand before you today and honor Dan Griffin for his contributions towards the betterment of his community. Dan was honored by the Grand Junction Lions Club, as the "Lion of the Year." He is deserving of this prestigious honor, and it is a privilege to applaud him for all his hard work and dedication.

Dan completed his undergraduate education at Stanford and went on to become a law student at the University of Colorado. He joined the U.S. Air Force, but was forced to retire due to a knee injury. Dan returned to Grand Junction and was employed by the firm of Younge, Hockensmith & Robb. He later became President of the Mesa City Bar Association, and served on the Board of Governor's of the Colorado Bar Association.

During the Lions Club ceremony, family spoke of Dan as a ". . . genuine, superb, wonderful individual." Dan received this award because he demonstrates unwavering support and dedication to the organization and the community. Dan's wisdom in law helped him serve area citizens, and address concerns people had about wills, trusts, and estates. Truly, Dan's expertise is cherished and appreciated by all whom he encounters.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a man of great character and conduct. It is a pleasure to honor him before this body of Congress and this nation. Thank you Dan for every contribution you have selflessly made to our community and I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

FOOD SAFETY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, food safety is serious business, and American consumers pay a high price for wholesome, pure food. The expense soars when the system fails, especially if failure results in illness, or worse, someone's death. Everyone pays mightily to maintain America's standing as the world's safest place to eat.

Just behind taxes and government regulation, food-safety precautions account for the biggest fixed cost of commercial food production. All of these costs pass through to consumers at the grocer's check stand. The higher prices also rob farmers and ranchers of hard-earned income, but food safety remains their chief objective, too.

No one profits from bad food, except for lawyers. In fact, Colorado's economy depends on safe agriculture products, and confident, healthy consumers. That's why we invest billions toward achieving both.

The issue of improved food safety has once again found itself on the political front burner following the recent discovery of a contaminated batch of hamburger that slipped through the ConAgra Beef plant in Greeley. The incident caused the illness of at least 30 people.

The culprit in this case is E.coli 0157:H7. It can be lethal, though it wasn't this time. The bacterium is found in the intestines of most animals, including humans.

Cow feces probably came in contact with "trim" meat. These cuts were likely run through a grinder, shipped to a processor, blended with product from other slaughterhouses, sold at grocery stores, and prepared on a few dozen household countertops. Perfect nutrients and lots of surface area make ground beef an optimal growing medium for E.coli.

Hundreds of other pathogens could have initiated this latest round of debate. The Centers for Disease Control has identified more than 250 different food borne diseases that have caused an estimated 76 million illnesses in the United States resulting in 5,000 deaths and 325,000 hospitalizations. In virtually any other country the risk is worse, however poorly documented.

Impurities are inherent with all food consumption, especially perishable ones like meat, fish and poultry. A food-science expert at Colorado State University told me hamburger recalls average one per week across the country this time of year when the environmental conditions are most favorable to E.coli. This escapes the press for some reason.

Routinely, recalls are initiated immediately after a pathogen is confirmed, allowing producers to capture and gain control of the recalled product before it reaches consumers. ConAgra's recall was anything but typical. It came too late because federal inspectors waited nearly two weeks to alert the company that E.coli had been detected.

Once notified, ConAgra promptly voluntarily recalled all the contaminated beef, but the delay had already added millions to the company's cost of doing so, and sickened many. After admitting its delay was a mistake, the federal government then recommended to ConAgra an additional recall of millions of pounds of meat it had not tested at all.

The government's passive-aggressive behavior has aggravated consumers, along with beef producers who are now unsure about the U.S. Department of Agriculture's intentions, the status of recall protocols, and the future of red-meat production.

These ambiguities are far from trivial. The regulatory authority of the USDA is considerable. Running afoul of the massive bureaucracy exposes a meat packer to criminal prosecution, product seizure, retention, detention, and perhaps most effective of all, publicity.

Far more harsh and unforgiving than the toughest government sanction, the marketplace brutally punishes any business that puts contaminated product before a consumer. That's as it should be, and it works.

It was the market, for example, that handed a virtual corporate death sentence in 1997 to Nebraska-based Hudson Foods. Contamination prompted the company to issue the nation's largest recall of ground beef—25 million pounds. A few months later, the company was closed.

In our earnest quest to make food safer, there are a few things to keep in mind.

First, U.S. beef was, is, and will always be safe to eat. The quality gets better every day. Colorado ranchers lead the nation in the science of livestock production providing quality products that satisfy the high expectations of domestic and foreign consumers.

Second, producers rely on the USDA as much as consumers do. It's an important agency, and we all want to see it succeed. Anyone who cares about food safety should be prepared to help make USDA inspections a higher federal budget priority. The same goes for state inspectors.

The agency should be driven by sound science, not politics. Its Food Safety Inspection Service should be given the resources and precise guidelines to upgrade its testing so inspectors can more quickly pinpoint the sources of pathogens and react with consistency. They need more money for training, too.

Third, the industry should initiate implementation of pathogen-killing procedures.

Several well-researched measures are proven effective such as live-cattle management at feedlots, washing carcasses with steam or acidic sodium chlorite, and irradiation. America's top agriculture colleges, including CSU, have studied this to death. If the industry won't lead on this, government should.

Fourth, consumers are ultimately responsible for food safety. No amount of regulation and inspection will help anyone who ignores packaging dates, improperly handles meat, eats it raw, or worse, feeds undercooked product to their kids.

Fifth, there is no such thing as a "zero risk" standard for any perishable food.

This is an impossible goal, a hoax perpetrated by four principle groups of people—those who work for the government, plaintiffs' lawyers, developers who want to buy their neighbors' ranches and vegetarians offended by others who enjoy a good steak. There will never be a regulatory body large enough to inspect every cut of beef, stalk every distributor or police every kitchen.

Finally, if God didn't intend for us to eat animals, He wouldn't have made them out of meat. He also made us smart enough to figure out how to eat them both cheaply and safely.

CONGRATULATING

GLAXOSMITHKLINE FOR ITS EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. FATTAH. I rise today to mark an historic milestone on the road to the elimination of a devastating disease of the developing world, lymphatic filariasis.

The global eradication of a disease has been accomplished only once in history, with the elimination of naturally occurring smallpox.

Public health officials are eager to replicate that success. Yet despite the huge advances in our understanding of diseases and their mechanisms, international experts believe that there are still very few major diseases that can be deemed eradicable by existing technology. The World Health Organization (WHO) is currently targeting seven diseases or disorders for elimination or eradication. They are: Guinea worm (dracunculiasis), polio, leprosy, neonatal tetanus, Chagas disease, iodine deficiency disorders, and lymphatic filariasis. Today, I rise to focus on the parasitic disease lymphatic filariasis, or LF.

LF is an ancient scourge that has disabled and disfigured people for thousands of years. Transmitted by mosquitoes, LF is caused by thread-like worms that infect the human lymphatic system, leading to permanent damage to the lymphatic and renal systems. LF gives rise to a condition known as elephantiasis which leads to the development of grotesque, chronic swelling of the legs, genitals and breasts, leading to lifelong social and physical disabilities. LF is mostly found in the tropical developing world, where it further exacerbates poverty by physically incapacitating people during what should be the most productive years of their lives. Lost productivity caused by the disease costs billions of dollars across the world each year. LF also puts a tremendous strain on healthcare systems in the developing world. In addition to its economic impact, LF inflicts heavy psycho-social consequences on the individuals who are affected. LF affects around 120 million people, with more than one billion people at risk of infection.

In 1998, the WHO and the pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) announced a worldwide collaboration to fight LF. This partnership has now become a global alliance of 35 private and public institutions along with the Ministries of Health in LF endemic countries, all committed to eliminating lymphatic filariasis.

GlaxoSmithKline has its US headquarters in my district in Philadelphia, and over 6,000 Pennsylvanians work for GSK in the search for cures and treatments to disease. GSK makes an anti-parasitic drug called albendazole that is useful in the fight against LF. GSK has committed to donating as many tablets as needed to eliminate lymphatic filariasis. The World Health Organization estimates that GSK will donate up to six billion doses of albendazole before the program is complete, making the GSK albendazole donation program the largest pharmaceutical donation in history.

Today, I am proud to announce that GlaxoSmithKline has produced the one hundred-millionth donated tablet of albendazole for the Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Pro-

gram. This is a milestone achievement in a long road, and I commend GlaxoSmithKline for its commitment to world health. Whether it's in improving access to needed health services, providing affordable vaccines and HIV treatments, or dedicating resources to worthy projects in Pennsylvania, GlaxoSmithKline has shown time and time again its dedication to improving lives locally and globally. I commend GlaxoSmithKline for its success to date in the Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Program, and I wish GSK, the World Health Organization and the rest of their partners every success in the completion of their task.

RECOGNIZING MR. T.J. TAYLOR
FOR HIS SERVICE TO BRADFORD

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. T.J. Taylor, whose long record of public service has earned him the title of "Tennessee's Outstanding Older Worker of the Year."

T.J. Taylor has worked with the Bradford Special School District for half a century. He has driven a school bus for the district for 50 years and has served as maintenance supervisor for the past 25 years. His work and presence have helped him gain the love and respect of his co-workers as well as the school district's students, who know him as "Mr. T.J."

Honesty, dedication, the ability to work with others, and being on the job daily are all attributes Mr. T.J. has said are important for a worker of any age but especially for an older worker. His success on the job has proven over the years that he possesses these qualities and knows how best to use them to benefit the people around him. School officials say his dedication and skill have saved the small school district thousands of dollars every year.

At 71 years old, Mr. T.J. says he has no plans to retire anytime soon but will continue to work as long as his health will allow him. It is that distinguished service that has earned him this title of "Tennessee's Outstanding Older Worker of the Year," which he calls his proudest moment.

Mr. Speaker, as we seek to recognize those leaders who make our communities better places to live, I point to the distinguished service of Mr. T.J. Taylor. I ask that you and our colleagues applaud him for his strong, long-time commitment and congratulate him on being named "Tennessee's Outstanding Older Worker of the Year."