

JOSEPH CURSEEN, JR. AND THOMAS MORRIS, JR., PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION CENTER

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of HR 3287, a bill that would rename the U.S. Postal Service's Brentwood Processing and Distribution Center in Washington, D.C., as the Joseph Curseen, Jr. and Thomas Morris, Jr. Processing and Distribution Center.

Joseph Curseen, Jr., and Thomas Morris, Jr., were two of four U.S. Postal Service employees who contracted inhalation anthrax while working at the Brentwood Processing and Distribution Center in Northeast Washington last fall. It is believed that they were exposed while sorting contaminated letters sent to congressional offices. The anthrax attacks temporarily suspended some mail delivery, closed numerous Congressional offices and mail processing facilities, while health officials tested and decontaminated equipment, offices and facilities.

It has been almost a year since the anthrax mailings and we are not any closer to finding the person who sent anthrax contaminated letters through the mail. Last year, I met with postal workers from my district. They are proud to work for the postal service but are concerned for their safety. They assured me that neither rain, snow, nor anthrax laced letters would keep them from delivering the mail. However, with that renewed pledge and resolve, they wanted my assurance that the government cared about them. I have the highest admiration for the postal workers who have continued to go to work in this time of uncertainty. Congress must pledge to continue funding for anthrax research. For years the military has been preparing for a chemical weapon attack, specifically from the biological agent anthrax. Some military personnel have been vaccinated for anthrax. Perhaps we should consider vaccinating postal employees along with EPA scientists, lab technicians and others who conceivably could be the first points of contact.

Washington's principal mail-processing center has been closed since Oct. 21. However, I am pleased that preliminary samples from the test fumigation of the quarantined Brentwood postal facility indicate no traces of anthrax spores.

Although their coworkers were successfully treated for anthrax, Morris and Curseen were misdiagnosed and died on Oct. 21 and 22, respectively. The sacrifice they innocently gave to this country will live on in the renaming of the Brentwood processing center.

HONORING STORAGE TEK,
COMPANY OF THE YEAR

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor StorageTek, a Colorado technology

firm recently named as the "Company of the Year" by ColoradoBiz Magazine.

StorageTek is headquartered in Louisville, Colorado, with more than 7,800 employees in fifty countries worldwide. Founded in 1969, this company specializes in a broad range of digital storage and data security equipment. Their customers include industry leaders and government agencies such as the Department of Defense, Central Intelligence Agency, and the Congress.

ColoradoBiz Magazine bestowed its award for StorageTek's success in business, marketing innovation, operational efficiency, and community responsibility. For instance, the company astonishingly improved customer order processing time by twenty-five percent, while reducing facility space by fifty percent and inventory on hand by \$100 million. StorageTek's business model improved efficiency and customer service.

Moreover, StorageTek's leadership within the community also warranted this recognition. Since its founding in 1991, the StorageTek Foundation has donated more than nine million dollars to charitable causes with emphasis on education, health, human services, and art. The Foundation also encourages and rewards employee volunteers through the Volunteers in Partnership with the Community (VIP.COM), which rewards organizations designated by employees with a monetary gift when employees volunteer for 100 hours or more.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate StorageTek for receiving "Company of the Year" award, and commend them for being a role model in business and in the community.

REVISED REMARKS FROM CONGRESSMAN CHET EDWARDS,
JULY 26, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

SPEAKING ON THE RULE FOR H.R. 4965

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose late-term abortions, but I believe, like many Americans, that when the health of the mother is at risk, that is a decision that should be made by a woman and her doctor and not by politicians in Washington, D.C.

I am sad to say that this rule is shameful and this bill is a false promise. I do find it interesting that those supporting this rule and this bill keep quoting the American Medical Association. I do not know if they just did not want to hear it or if they refuse to accept it. The organization they are quoting opposes this legislation.

Why do I say this rule is shameful? First, it ensures that when this bill passes today, were it then to become law, it would never have the impact of law or save one baby because the Supreme Court has made it absolutely clear, not just once but five times that the law must have a health exemption when the mother's health is at risk.

So maybe Ralph Reed was right when he said this issue is a political silver bullet. Unfortunately, from a policy standpoint, this bill will not save one baby.

The proponents of this bill and this rule are forcing a false promise upon the American

people, a promise that will not help one child. This rule is shameful because it denies Members of this House a vote of conscience. I respect your conscience. I respect your right to express your conscience. You have no right on an issue of this magnitude, of such deep conscience for so many Members, no one in this House has that right to deny us the right to a vote, to a vote for an amendment that the Supreme Court would then interpret as making this bill constitutional.

I tried to offer an amendment to the Committee on Rules. It was similar to a bill I helped pass in 1987 in Texas that outlaws not one late-term abortion procedure, but outlaws all late-term abortion procedures except for a constitutionally required exception where a mother's health is at risk. For 15 years, the constitutionality of that Texas law has not been challenged. I would note that during the time that President Bush was then Governor of Texas, there was no effective effort or to my knowledge even serious legislative effort made to change that law. It was constitutional and it has worked.

Supreme Court Justice O'Connor has made it very clear, that if you do not have a health exemption in this bill, it will not ever have the impact of becoming law. Let me quote her from the court *Stenberg v. Carhart* case of June 28 of 2000:

"First, the Nebraska statute is inconsistent because it lacks an exception for those instances when the banned procedure is necessary to preserve the health of the mother."

In case that is not clear enough for the supporters of this rule and this unconstitutional bill, she then goes on to outline all that a legislative body has to do to make such a bill constitutional. Just add the words "where it is necessary, in appropriate medical judgment, for the preservation of the life or health of the mother." That would be the only circumstance for an exception.

The people who should be upset at this bill should be pro-life Americans all across this country who have been misled by this unconstitutional bill into thinking it is going to save one child. Had this rule allowed us to vote on a constitutionally acceptable amendment for a health exception, we actually could do some good. What a shame.

SPEAKING ON PASSAGE OF H.R. 4965

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, Coreen Costello was a pro-life Republican and mother of three when her pregnancy turned tragically fatal for her child. Her doctors preserved Mrs. Costello's fertility with a procedure being outlawed in this bill. She then became pregnant again and gave birth to her fourth child.

Listen to this loving mother's words. "Because of this procedure, I now have something my heart ached for, a new baby, a boy named Tucker. He is our family's joy, and I thank God for him."

Mr. Speaker, no Member of this House has the right to substitute his or her judgment for that of a physician and a mother faced with a rare but tragic situation where a pregnancy is failing, a child has no chance of living outside of the mother's womb, and the goal is to save a mother's fertility or health. No Member has that right, not one.

If there is one late-term abortion in America for frivolous reasons, that is one too many, regardless of the procedure used. I am strongly opposed to late-term abortions. But I believe when the health of the mother is at risk, that