

sincere hope that the Camden National Bank will continue its success in south Alabama for another 100 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF CARL L. WHATLEY, JR., 2006 ALABAMA STATE SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2006*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Carl Whatley, Jr., of Montgomery, Alabama. The United States Small Business Administration recently recognized Mr. Whatley, Founder and CEO of ProEthic Pharmaceuticals, Inc., as the Alabama State Small Business Person of the Year during Small Business Week 2006.

Mr. Whatley began his career in the industry by working as a salesman for major pharmaceutical firms. In 2001, after nineteen years of working for other companies, he founded Pro Ethic Pharmaceuticals, Inc. The business was created to focus on selling specialty pharmaceuticals that larger companies considered insignificant. Mr. Whatley's company has grown from five to 113 employees, expanding from one to 15 products that it now acquires, develops and markets in 31 states. ProEthic Pharmaceuticals has seen revenues rise from \$1.2 million in 2002 to \$25 million in 2005.

National Small Business Week recognizes outstanding small business owners for their personal achievements and contributions to our nation's economy. Mr. Whatley is a dedicated individual whose hard work warrants congratulations.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BARNEY WEHR

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Barney Wehr for his long and distinguished nursing career.

Barney has been a nurse for the past 35 years. Over the course of her career she has worked in the Operating Room, Post Anesthesia Care Unit and as a Labor and Delivery nurse. Barney has been working at Boulder City Hospital as an Endoscopy nurse for over 10 years.

During her tenure at Boulder City she greatly contributed to the start up and development of the GI Department. Barney also belongs to the Endoscopy RN Society and uses this professional affiliation to help keep the department current on the latest technology. She is admired by both her peers and patients, and regarded as knowledgeable and experienced. Barney is recognized within the Boulder City Community as one of the best nurses in the community. She is a true asset to Boulder City Hospital and the nursing profession.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Barney Wehr for her professional expertise and significant contributions to the art of nursing. I wish her the best in her future efforts.

ON AVIAN FLU

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I made the attached remarks regarding the Avian Flu on May 11, 2006.

You're on your own.

This has been the credo for the Administration's approach to health care and it summarizes their approach to Avian Flu. The Implementation Plan gives a little guidance to state and local governments and businesses and then wishes them luck.

First, there is the leadership vacuum. The plan calls for HHS to coordinate the medical response but calls for Homeland Security to coordinate federal operations and resources. A bipartisan report out of the Senate, released in April, found that the Department has lagged in fixing the problems that plagued its atrocious response to Hurricane Katrina. It found that major structural reforms were necessary and that little has changed in the Department so far. So we can expect Homeland Security to adopt a similar motto to the one they adopted last Summer: you're on your own.

What's more is that the plan has been called the mother of all unfunded mandates. While 7.1 billion dollars for avian flu preparedness is a step in the right direction, it is simply not enough. Dr. Irwin Redlener, director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, called the budget "completely unrealistic." A big part of the reason it is insufficient is that it has to make up for years of steady erosion of the public health infrastructure due to lack of funding. In fact, Dr. Redlener points out the need for 5 billion dollars just for "staffs, equipment and supplies, and general resiliency." Yet the vast majority of the Administration's funding is going toward the anti-viral and vaccine stockpile.

This plan, therefore, gives us inadequate leadership and inadequate funding, which leaves the clear impression that we truly will be on our own in a pandemic. And a crisis is precisely the time we need to look out for each other the most.

However, we can be assured that everyone is not left to their own devices.

On November 4, 2005 during a House Government Reform Committee hearing on Avian Flu Preparedness, HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt responded to my questioning by saying that he would not be issuing a compulsory license for the anti-viral drug, Tamiflu. He also declared that he was in negotiations with Roche, manufacturer of Tamiflu, over the cost of the drug being purchased for the national stockpile. On one hand, Secretary Leavitt has a Congressional mandate to stockpile enough Tamiflu for 25% of the nation. On the other hand, he withdrew the threat of compulsory licensing, even if Roche tries to price gouge. In so doing, Leavitt undercut his own negotiating power and effectively surrendered control of price to Roche.

On November 10, six days after the hearing, the New York Times reported that Roche announced what they would be charging developed countries for Tamiflu: 15 Euros, or about 19 dollars for a course of treatment. Wondering how the price negotiations between

HHS and Roche went, my office recently asked HHS what they were paying for Tamiflu for the stockpile. The asking price of 15 Euros, or 19 dollars. Even with the bulk purchasing power of 810 million pills, HHS did not bother to get a better deal than the asking price.

Let's you get the impression that this price is fair, allow me to point out that Roche did not sink a dime into research on the drug. They simply license it from its inventor, Gilead Sciences. That means there is no need to recoup research costs. Furthermore, we know it can be sold for a profit for much less. Cipla, a generics manufacturer in India, for example, is selling Tamiflu for only 12 dollars. That is 36 percent less than what the Federal Government is paying. If we paid Cipla's price instead of Roche's, we would save over a half a billion dollars. I bet local health agencies and hospitals could save a lot of lives with that kind of money. Think of what we could do with a half billion dollars—we could reduce the deficit, put teachers in classrooms, invest in renewable energy, provide health care to some of the uninsured, brace ourselves for the effects of climate change.

Those that stand to gain from inflated prices for pandemic pharmaceuticals are doing well. Roche's sales for the first quarter of 2006 are up 22 percent to 7.7 billion dollars. Gilead Sciences, the company that originally developed Tamiflu and continues to receive royalties on its sales, outperformed RBC Capital Markets estimate of 350 million dollars in Tamiflu Sales by 163 million dollars.

In essence, we are telling state and local governments that there's not enough money to fund things like medical personnel and equipment while we're giving away bags of money to the already incredibly profitable pharmaceutical industry. In other words, you're on your own, unless you're big Pharma.

CONGRATULATING CHARLES D. LEMMOND FOR 50 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE WILKES-BARRE LAW AND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2006*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Pennsylvania Sen. Charles Lemmond, who is observing 50 years of membership in the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association.

A lifelong resident of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, Senator Lemmond received a bachelor's degree from Harvard University, a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Wilkes University.

Prior to his election to the Senate of Pennsylvania in 1985, he served as an assistant and first assistant district attorney in Luzerne County and as a judge of the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas.

Long active in community and civic organizations, Senator Lemmond is a past potentate of Irem Temple and a 33rd degree Mason, a trustee of the Wyoming Conference of the United Methodist Church, a life member of the board of trustees of Wyoming Seminary and a