

After Rucker's death, which may have been caused by lack of communication with State firefighters, Jeff advocated for better systems to prevent such tragedies in the future. "Rarely a day goes by when we don't think of him (Steve)," he says.

One of Jeff's proudest accomplishments is the development of a new operating culture called "Novato Way" which asks district personnel to go out of their way to provide superior customer service, from rescuing cats to passing the hat for a resident in need of a boost. The department gives back to the community in many ways and enjoys broad support in return.

Jeff holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration, is a State Certified Fire Chief, and has completed his Chief Fire Officer Designation by the International Association of Fire Chiefs. He also helped Fireman's Fund Insurance Company craft its Fireman's Fund Heritage program which awards millions of dollars in grants to fire departments and fire and burn prevention organizations across the country each year. Jeff continues his involvement, serving on the Heritage Advisory Committee, along with other national leaders in the fire service, to provide strategic guidance for the program.

Mr. Speaker, Jeff Meston says he plans to travel in retirement—and write a fire science textbook. His experience will make the textbook an important resource, and his deep appreciation for the job our firefighters do will make it invaluable. Jeff is definitely one of my heroes.

INTRODUCING A CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE
INDEPENDENCE OF THE COURTS
OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce a Concurrent Resolution recognizing the independence of the courts of the United States, which I authored in response to recent "court-stripping" bills such as the Pledge Protection Act and the Marriage Protection Act of 2004. These bills threaten the foundation of American government by stifling productive discussion of social issues and undermining our system of checks and balances.

As explained in the resolution, the function of the Judiciary is to review the constitutionality of laws. It is thus undemocratic and blatantly partisan to use a procedural trick to protect certain legislation from being questioned in court. Not only does this indirectly violate the Constitution by devaluing the Judicial Branch, it also renders the entire document meaningless since constitutionality is no longer a standard by which all laws must be judged.

Moreover, as courts become functionally irrelevant when faced with certain Acts of Congress, minorities have no recourse and cannot challenge oppressive laws. The view endorsed by "court-stripping"—that a legislative vote constitutes the whole of American democracy—is myopic because it ignores that the Constitution guarantees certain rights to all, regardless of the whims of the majority. These

rights must be protected by the Judiciary. I am sure my colleagues agree with me that the popular choice is not always the right one, and that a Congressional majority is not the arbiter of universal truth.

Discrepancies between Acts of Congress and the Constitution can always exist, so a body is necessary to adjudicate conflicts between the two sets of laws. Because courts fill this vital role and maintain American democracy, I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI SOLOMON
SCHIFF OF MIAMI

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rabbi Solomon Schiff who, after more than 40 years of public service, interfaith cooperation and community achievement will be retiring from his leadership positions with the Greater Miami Jewish Federation.

By any standard, Rabbi Schiff has had a remarkable career. He has served as Executive Vice President of the Rabbinical Association of Greater Miami for 42 years and as Director of Chaplaincy for the Greater Miami Jewish Federation.

He has served as Chairman of the Dade County Community Relations Board, as President of the National Association of Jewish Chaplains and as Director of Chaplaincy for Mount Sinai Medical Center.

Throughout his career, Rabbi Schiff has been honored for his dedication and community leadership. He has been awarded the Distinguished Community Leadership Service Award from the National Conference of Community and Justice and the Peacemaker Award from St. Thomas University. Rabbi Schiff received these awards for his efforts to develop an open dialogue between the Christian and Jewish communities in the Miami area. Rabbi Schiff was recognized as the "2005 Man of the Year" by the Men's Club of Douglas Gardens and has received a Special Recognition from the Founders of the Miami Jewish Home and Hospital for the Aged at Douglas Gardens.

Rabbi Schiff also has made great contributions to the community through his service. He was appointed by President George H.W. Bush in 1992 to serve on the "We Will Rebuild Committee." This committee helped restore the areas in South Florida that were severely damaged by Hurricane Andrew. Lawton Chiles, the late Governor of Florida, appointed Rabbi Schiff to serve on a task force to study the problem of homelessness in Miami. Thanks to that task force, two new homeless assistance centers were created in Miami-Dade County. More recently, Florida Governor Jeb Bush appointed him to the Governor's Faith-Based Advisory Board.

Rabbi Schiff also has served as a guest chaplain for the United States Senate in July of 1999 and for the United States House of Representatives on several occasions.

We pay tribute to him for his service and thank his wife, Shirley, his three grown sons, Elliot, Jeffrey and Steven, and their seven grandchildren for sharing him with a grateful

community. Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Schiff has set a high standard of service for us all. I wish him happiness and success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM OSKAR
GOGGINS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Oskar Goggins for the kindness and influence he showed the world during his 43 years here.

Billy was born at St Mary's Hospital in San Francisco, CA on Sunday, May 10, 1963—on Mother's Day. He was the first child of Patrick & Ute Goggins, both very well-known and respected individuals in the Bay Area and beyond.

From the hospital he was carried right into a civil rights demonstration in Golden Gate Park. Billy took his first trip to Ireland at 4 years old to meet his family relatives in the west of Ireland in County Mayo. Annual family trips by car to Montana & Dakota included reunions in the Bear's Paw Mountains, hi-balling on the Iron Road, the old Great Northern Railway and running brave with Chippewa, Cree, Blackfoot and Sioux Indian friends. The Goggins' adventured on two-month road trips to Baja and the Pacific Coast of Mexico where mother Ute painted, and sisters Cathy & Aimee followed in Bill's energetic footsteps. Billy toiled in family vineyards in Germany with equally embracing relatives. These things were the soul of his education.

Over the years Bill played soccer, drew cartoons, tutored younger students from Mill Valley and Marin City, played volleyball at Stinson Beach, surfed in Bolinas, and much much more. He graduated from Tamalpais High School as a National Merit Scholar and Salutatorian.

Summer jobs were at Bancroft-Whitney legal publishers, San Francisco and Wausau Paper Mill, Wisconsin. He worked at numerous restaurants including the Book Depot Cafe and Avenue Grill in Mill Valley, and Embarko in San Francisco. He also volunteered at St. Anthony Dining Room in the Tenderloin, providing free meals for the homeless.

Bill attended Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and San Francisco State University, Departments of Communication and Philosophy. He began his vital journalism career with Frisko Kids, KALW radio, and then moved on to the old SF Weekly.

Former SF Weekly editor and colleague Andrew O'Hehir remembers, "Of course he worked harder than anyone and became essential, and in three years moved from all-purpose intern to copy editor to running the Arts & Entertainment section. I can't remember exactly when he became the go-to guy for headline copy, but I'd say that by the time he'd been there a year, he was writing half the heads in the paper."

Bill thrived at Wired for 10 years. He started as a freelance copy editor and rose to become deputy editor. Bill served as a special link between the digital industry's pace-setting magazine in the center of San Francisco's media gulch and an eager, educated national and international readership. His colleagues admired him tremendously.

"Bill was that rarest of things: a true original," says Chris Anderson, the magazine's editor in chief. "He was brilliant, witty and culturally omnivorous, all of which combined in his signature headlines. They usually worked on at least three levels of meaning, from some remixed cultural reference to at least one pun. In many ways his winking style and clever turns of phrase became Wired house style for nearly a decade, and to look at our covers and headlines over those years is to hear Bill's voice again."

Bill's voice also made its mark through the alternative dot-com generation's website Suck.com where he wrote under the name 'Bartelby'. Bill recently enjoyed writing and editing with the new magazine *Todo*, and they remember him not just as a logophile, a wordsmith, a gifted editor, a true friend; but also as "one who tirelessly pursues perfection, fraternity and goodness."

A real linguist (German, Spanish and Bill-English) and traveler—Bill visited Tunisia, the Philippines, Bahamas, Mexico, Canada, and all over the United States and Europe. He was a dual citizen of the U.S. and Ireland. Bill was a citizen of the world.

Bill was a San Franciscan through and through. He openly embraced and explored all of the city's neighborhoods. He was an avid supporter of the arts, with active memberships to many museums and regular attendance at the symphony, opera, ballet, varied theatres and clubs.

Bill participated with his family and compatriots in the antiwar demonstrations from the Vietnam era to Iraq of today.

My daughter, Amy Critchett, had the good fortune to be a friend with and to work with Bill at *Wired* for many years. "Bill Goggins made work seem like work—because it was and he was so incredibly good at what he did—but with him around there was always a twist of irony and a splash of curly-haired, smiling-cheeked sunshine not far away," according to Amy. "Get ready to laugh all you up there."

Bill inexplicably collapsed and passed away suddenly during mile 24 of the San Francisco Marathon Benefit for Cancer on Sunday, July 30, 2006. He was in fit condition and many knew him as a wonderful, companionable runner, reconciled, strong and happy.

An outpouring of hundreds from around the globe, representing family, friends, colleagues, public officials on local, state and national levels, ambassadors, the Irish and British governments, the Democratic party, and diverse cultural non-profit organizations attended a memorial mass held at our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and a life celebration at the Outdoor Art Club in Mill Valley on August 4, 2006. Billy was a deeply-loved member of a very close family. He supported all of them individually and together—helping hang his mother Ute's art shows, assisting his father Pat with community outreach via organizations such as the Irish Forum, Irish Mexican Association, and Irish Literary and Historical Society to name a few, being the proud uncle to sister Cathy's two children, Lina Rose and Dominic Chester, and showing up for sister Aimee's various work events or helping edit her writing.

Bill believed in justice, peace and humanity. He connected with people everywhere he went. No one and nothing escaped his keen eye and warm words. His sense of community was broad and all-encompassing. Bill was a man of grace. He chipped in for everyone.

He had old-fashioned manners, was a staunch listener and he gave of himself enormously. His roughish grin, sparkle in his eye and love of discussion and opinion will live on with us forever.

Mr. Speaker, Bill had enormous integrity and loyalty, and taught us all how to be total human beings. To be fearless, to be bold, to be true to yourself. To be both gracious and outspoken. To pursue what matters in life and cherish each other. Bill knew all of these things and helped us be them too. Bill lived his life and made all of us proud. He will be deeply missed by many.

INTRODUCING THE REMOTE MONITORING ACCESS ACT OF 2006

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, we in this country, unfortunately, don't always do what's good for us. The benefits of a regular check up are well known, but for one reason or another millions of Americans will only visit their physician when they think something is serious enough that they feel they have no choice.

I can only imagine how the reluctance to visit a doctor is exacerbated for the millions of people in the United States with chronic conditions—such as diabetes, congestive heart failure and arrhythmia—who need to see their physicians on a regular basis. The situation is even worse for seniors who have difficulties moving around or lack the means or resources to make frequent trips to the doctor.

Government statistics show that maintaining mobility is a serious challenge for many seniors: Over 20 percent of people 65 and older have difficulty going outside the home; approximately 17 percent of men and 28 percent of women find it very difficult or are unable to walk just three city blocks; every 10 years after reaching the age of 65 the odds of losing mobility double.

People who live in rural areas can face serious health care consequences because of the lack of easily accessible services. One out of every five Americans lives in rural areas; however, only one out of every 10 physicians practices in rural areas. Forty percent of our rural population lives in a medically underserved area, with access to care an average of 30 miles away.

I'm proud to stand here as a lead sponsor of the Remote Monitoring Access Act of 2006 because I believe this legislation will promote technologies that have the potential to transform how health care providers and their patients—particularly seniors with chronic conditions—communicate and manage their conditions.

Remote monitoring technologies collect, analyze and transmit vital patient information to health care providers hundreds of miles away, allowing physicians to manage a patient's condition in a more consistent and real-time fashion. This technology can not only improve the quality of care given to patients, it also reduces the need for frequent visits to the doctor's office, costly emergency room visits, and unnecessary hospitalizations.

Remote monitoring technologies allow patients to be in constant contact with their doc-

tors without leaving the comfort of their homes. For seniors who find travel difficult or hard to afford, this will provide welcome relief. Beyond improving quality of life, remote monitoring technologies also improve quality of care, as physicians will be able to more closely monitor their patients and, by receiving more up-to-date information, detect and treat their patients' conditions earlier.

Remote monitoring technologies will bring 21st century health care to every individual regardless of their location, mobility, or age. The expertise of physicians and specialists and the resources of health care institutions will no longer be limited by geographic location but can be harnessed to help many more patients.

Currently, Medicare payments are primarily provided for face-to-face meetings between physicians and patients. The current system offers no incentives for physicians to adopt remote monitoring technologies even though they may provide better clinical information and save physicians time.

In addition, the payments often do not pay for the clinician time involved in non-face-to-face interactions that are necessary for interpreting and responding to data received via remote monitoring technologies.

Consequently, the Medicare payments may not adequately reflect the value of patient management services involving remote monitoring technologies.

The Remote Monitoring Access Act of 2006 will fix this gap in the Medicare payment system. This bipartisan legislation would provide reimbursement under the Medicare physician fee schedule for remote patient management services used to manage specific medical conditions such as diabetes, cardiac arrhythmia, congestive heart failure and sleep apnea, as well as any other condition the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines appropriate.

This bill also requires the HHS Secretary to develop standards of care and quality for the remote management services provided for each medical condition covered.

Cardiac arrhythmia, or abnormal heart rhythm, is just one of the chronic conditions that can be better managed through remote monitoring technologies. Cardiac arrhythmias affect more than five million people nationwide, and result in more than 1.2 million hospitalizations and 400,000 deaths each year in the United States atrial fibrillation, the most common form of cardiac arrhythmia, is also a leading indicator of stroke, with about 15 percent (or 105,000) of strokes occurring in people with atrial fibrillation.

The Remote Patient Monitoring Act will promote greater adoption and use of remote monitoring technologies so that patients suffering from cardiac arrhythmias, with their physicians, will be able to better manage this chronic condition.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Representative ESHOO, Representative HAYWORTH, and Representative TANNER, for joining with me to support this important legislation. I look forward to working with other Members of the House to ensure passage of this measure which will help millions of patients in the United States have better access to the latest medical technology and information.