

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING DR. PATRICK KERRIGAN ON THE OCCASION OF BEING NAMED "MAN OF THE YEAR" BY WILKES-BARRE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2008*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Dr. Patrick J. Kerrigan, D.O., of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, who was named 2008 "Man of the Year" by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Greater Wilkes-Barre.

Dr. Kerrigan's contribution to the field of medicine in northeastern Pennsylvania has been truly impressive. Since 1986, he has been engaged in the private practice of family medicine in Wilkes-Barre. He is a provider of geriatric medical care at several nursing homes in the greater Wilkes-Barre area. He is also active in sports medicine, having served as team physician at the little league, high school and college levels.

Dr. Kerrigan has also been active in medical education with the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. For 2 years, he served as a member of the board of directors for the Luzerne County Medical Society. Dr. Kerrigan has also lectured extensively over the years at nursing homes, institutions of higher learning and before the general public on topics that included AIDS, managed care, common orthopedic injuries, heart disease, preventive medicine and physician career choices.

Dr. Kerrigan was appointed medical director of the Heritage House, a skilled nursing facility, in 2003. In 2006, he became medical director of Erwine's Home Hospice Group. Dr. Kerrigan was named president-elect of the medical staff of the Wyoming Valley Health Care System in January, 2007, where he also serves as chairman of the medical executive committee and as a member of the board of directors.

In 2006, Dr. Kerrigan was awarded the "Key to the City of Wilkes-Barre" for 20 years of community service.

Dr. Kerrigan is a member of the Luzerne County, Pennsylvania and American Medical Societies. He is also a member of St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church where he served as a lector. He is also a former member of the board of directors of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Greater Wilkes-Barre.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Kerrigan on this auspicious occasion. Dr. Kerrigan's determination and commitment to benefit his home town is entirely evident in the vast contributions he has made over the years to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens. His selection as "Man of the Year" is a well deserved honor.

COMMEMORATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABOLITION OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

### HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2008*

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 200th anniversary of U.S. abolition of the slave trade, which marked a historic turning point in our Nation's history.

On March 2, 1807, President Thomas Jefferson signed a bill, which became effective January 1, 1808, abolishing the transatlantic slave trade. The issue of slavery had long been a contentious issue that divided Americans, with those in favor of abolition and those against struggling to reach a compromise. The abolition of the transatlantic slave trade was one step in the quest to end slavery, but the path to full social, political, and economic equality for African Americans would be a long upward battle that would not be reached for over 100 years.

While our forefather's move to formally end the U.S. participation in the transatlantic slave trade was a giant leap toward racial equality, the "color line," as W.E.B. Dubois has called it, still divides America. Even though it has been over a hundred years since the Emancipation Proclamation, the remnants of slavery still exist in the black community, and in America as a whole.

African Americans in the underclass of our cities and the rural areas of the South continue to battle challenges including a dearth of affordable housing, unemployment and a lack of educational attainment. These problems continue to shake the foundations of the black community. African American men and women still bring home smaller paychecks than their white counterparts, African American children still suffer from a lack of qualified teachers and educational resources when compared with their privileged white peers and African American neighborhoods are still under siege from street violence and urban crowding. These problems are not only representative of the pervasive social and economic injustice between the races; these problems are tearing at the threads of the American social fabric.

Despite these challenges, African Americans have made considerable progress. With advancements such as the 14th and 15th Amendments, the Voting Rights and Civil Rights Acts, African Americans began to participate more fully in American life. Since the hard-fought accomplishments of the 20th century, African Americans are now participating in the political, economic, and cultural life of America more than ever before. The commemoration of the bicentennial of the U.S. abolition of the slave trade will allow us to take time to reflect on how far America has come in reaching its dream of racial equality, but it

should also serve as a reminder that as a nation we still have work to do before we can finally erase the color line that divides us.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS PATRICK BECK RECIPIENT OF THE 2008 DONALD WRIGHT AWARD

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2008*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Patrick Beck upon receiving the prestigious Donald Wright Award for distinguished service to the community from the Pasadena Bar Association.

Mr. Beck is a founding partner of Thon, Beck & Vanni, formerly known as Thon & Beck, a highly rated and respected law firm in Pasadena, California, that is celebrating thirty years of existence. Thon, Beck & Vanni specializes in representing seriously injured tort victims.

A member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, Tom is enthusiastically involved in all aspects of his profession. He is a past president of the Pasadena Bar Association, a former board of trustee member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, and was on the Los Angeles Superior Court Bench and Committee. He is a former president of the Irish American Bar Association and is a founding member of the Cowboy Lawyers Association.

Mr. Beck's professional accomplishments include being a three-time nominee for Los Angeles Trial Lawyers Association's (now known as Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles) Trial Lawyer of the Year, and his recent election as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Tom is an active participant in many community organizations. Some of his past volunteer affiliations include the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association, Loyola Marymount University Alumni Association board of directors, and coaching for Little League, YMCA Basketball and the American Youth Soccer Organization. In 2006, he received the Lasallian Volunteer of the Year Award from LaSalle High School in Pasadena.

Currently, Tom is the chairman of the Methodist Hospital of Southern California Foundation Board, chairman of the Executive Committee of the St. Thomas More Society of Los Angeles, a mentor/benefactor of San Miguel Catholic School, and a member of Helps International.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Thomas Patrick Beck upon receiving the Pasadena Bar Association's 2008 Donald Wright Award and wish him continued success.

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