

H. CON. RES. 323, EXPRESSING CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL HEALTH CARE DECISIONS DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 323, expressing Congressional support for the goals and ideals of National Health Care Decisions Day. I would first like to thank my distinguished colleague PHIL GINGREY of Georgia for introducing this important piece of legislation. This legislation recognizes an important initiative to encourage patients to express their wishes regarding healthcare and for providers and facilities to respect those wishes, whatever they may be.

National Health Care Decisions Day is designed to raise public awareness for the need to plan ahead for health care decisions related to end-of-life care and medical decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for themselves and to encourage the specific use of advance directives to communicate these important decisions. The Federal Patient Self-Determination Act requires that all Medicare-participating healthcare facilities inquire about and provide information to patients on Advance Directives; it also requires these facilities to provide community education on Advance Directives (42 C.F.R. §489.102). All healthcare facilities are required to: provide information about health care decision-making rights; ask all patients if they have an advance directive; educate their staff and community about advance directives; not discriminate against patients based on an advance directive status.

It is estimated that only a minority of Americans have executed advance directives, including those who are terminally ill or living with life-threatening or life-limiting illnesses. Advance directives offer individuals the opportunity to discuss with loved ones in advance of a health care crisis and decide what measures would be appropriate for them when it comes to end-of-life care. The preparation of an advance directive would advise family members, health care providers, and other persons as to how an individual would want to be treated with respect to health care. Forty-two percent of Americans have had a friend or relative suffer from a terminal illness or coma in the last 5 years and for a majority of these people and 23 percent of the general public, the issue of withholding life sustaining treatment came up. An overwhelming majority of the public supports laws that give patients the right to decide whether they want to be kept alive through medical treatment. By more than eight-to-one (84 percent–10 percent), the public approves of laws that let terminally ill patients make decisions about whether to be kept alive through medical treatment. One of the most striking changes between 1990 and 2005 is the growth in the number of people who say they have a living will—up 17 points, from 12 percent in 1990 to 29 percent now.

Patients and families are often not fully informed of the relevant risks and potential benefits of artificial nutrition and hydration (ANH).

In addition, financial incentives and regulatory concerns promote the use of ANH in a manner that may be inconsistent with medical evidence and with the preferences of patients and their families. Because ANH is associated with uncertain benefits and substantial risks, it is essential to ensure that decisions about its use are consistent with the patient's medical condition, prognosis, and goals for care. Therefore, decisions about ANH require careful consideration of its risks and potential benefits.

Establishing National Health Care Decisions Day will encourage health care facilities and professionals as well as chaplains, attorneys, and others to participate in a collective, nationwide effort to provide clear, concise, and consistent information to the public about health care decision-making, particularly advance directives. As a result of National Health Care Decisions Day, recognized on April 16, 2008, more Americans will have conversations about their health care decision, more Americans will execute advance directives to make their wishes known, and fewer families and health care providers will have to struggle with making difficult health care decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TEYRAN "TY" PATTERSON

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 23, 2008*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Teyran "Ty" Patterson, an American hero, who recently passed away on May 30, 2007, in the line of duty as Texas Game Warden for Johnston County.

Ty was born on November 18, 1978, to Joe and ViAnn Patterson in the City of Seguin in Texas. He was a devout Christian and lived the values of his faith through his work as a Texas Game Warden. Ty was a 1998 graduate of Seguin High School and earned a criminal justice degree in 2004 from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos.

After graduating from Southwest Texas State University, Ty began work as a Texas Game Warden. He was committed to law enforcement and to the community by providing public service. Ty was a young, ambitious, caring man—no one was a stranger to him. On May 30, 2007, Ty answered the call of duty, without regard to his personal safety or well-being, to assist his fellow officers and a family in their hour of need. It was during this call that he lost his life.

Ty is survived by his parents, Joe and ViAnn Patterson, his sister, Crystal Patterson, his brothers Joe Patterson, Jr. and Demetrius Hall, and his grandmothers Thelma Smith and Katie Smith. He will be greatly missed by his family and by those who had the great fortune to know Teyran "Ty" Patterson.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Mr. Teyran "Ty" Patterson, and I thank you for this time.

EARTH DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, as Americans mark Earth Day, they can also mark the new direction Congress has begun to reverse the failed energy policies of the past, committing instead to clean, and renewable energy for the future. It may have taken the president almost 8 years to acknowledge global warming, but this is a problem that Congress did not wait to address.

Congress passed the historic and bipartisan Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to begin to reduce American dependence on foreign oil, respond to the global warming crisis, grow our economy, and lower energy costs. The Act will save 5.3 billion metric tons in energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 2008–2030 and reduce oil consumption by 2.4 million barrels a day—almost a 25 percent reduction over today's usage.

The Congress has taken the steps the current Administration has failed to take. It pleases me that on this Earth Day in 2008 we can acknowledge and celebrate the positive direction we are taking in addressing our energy use, climate change, and its impact on our economy.

TRIBUTE TO JOE SHELL

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 23, 2008*

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague from California, Congressman JIM COSTA, to honor Joseph Claude Shell, a longtime Bakersfield political and community leader, who passed away on Monday, April 7, 2008, at the age of 89.

Joe was born in La Conner, Washington in 1918 and moved with his family to San Diego at the age of 2. Joe attended the University of Southern California and played 3 years of varsity football, which included two trips to the Rose Bowl, and being the captain of the undefeated 1939 team. While Joe was studying law at USC, he served his country during World War II as a civilian flight instructor (having learned to fly at the age of 14) for the U.S. Army Air Corps at Cal Aero and Lancaster from 1942–1943, and eventually joined the Navy in 1944 serving as a senior pilot in the air transport service.

After the war, Joe lived in Los Angeles and worked in the Kern County oil fields as an independent oil producer and drilled many of the wells around Bakersfield. In 1953, Joe won election to the California State Assembly, representing the 58th District, which covered the Wilshire district of Los Angeles. A major political figure in California politics, he served for a decade in the State legislature, 4 of those years as the Assembly Republican Leader, fighting for free enterprise, low taxes, and limited government. During his time in the Assembly, Joe authored the State Scholarship Act, which gave thousands of young people