

JOHN CHAFEE, having previously announced his plans to retire in the year 2000, we knew we would be missing his outstanding leadership. I join with my colleagues in extending our condolences and prayers to JOHN's widow Virginia and to his family and the many who admired JOHN CHAFEE's service to his nation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for the better part of four decades, JOHN H. CHAFEE has served the State of Rhode Island with distinction and honor. As State Representative, Governor, Secretary of the Navy and United States Senator, JOHN CHAFEE has set an unprecedented level of service having an impact on both his state and the nation. His absence will leave a void not only in Rhode Island but on the nation as a whole.

When the United States entered World War II, he left Yale to enlist in the Marine Corps, and then served in the original invasion force at Guadalcanal. He was recalled to active duty in 1951, and commanded a rifle company in Korea.

He served six years in the Rhode Island House of Representatives, where he was elected Minority Leader. Running for Governor in 1962, CHAFEE was elected by 398 votes. He was then reelected in 1964 and 1966—both times by the largest margin in the State's history. In January 1969, he was appointed Secretary of the Navy and served in that post for three-and-a-half years.

JOHN CHAFEE's Senate career began in 1976. He was reelected to a fourth term in 1994, with sixty-five percent of the vote, and is the only Republican to be elected to the U.S. Senate from Rhode Island in the past 68 years.

Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, the Senator was a leading voice in crafting Clean Air Act of 1990 which strengthened pollution emissions legislation, and a bill to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act. Senator CHAFEE is a longtime advocate for wetland conservation and open space preservation, and has been the recipient of every major environmental award.

A senior member of the Finance Committee, Senator CHAFEE has worked successfully to expand health care coverage for women and children, and to improve community services for persons with disabilities. In 1990, Senator CHAFEE spearheaded the Republican Health Care Task Force and became a prominent figure in the national health reform debate. He went on to lead the bipartisan effort to craft a comprehensive health care reform proposal in 1994.

The Senator has received awards and endorsements from such organizations as The National Federation of Independent Business, The American Nurses Association, The League of Conservation Voters, The Sierra Club, Handgun Control Inc., Planned Parenthood, Citizens Against Government Waste, and the National PTA.

Senator JOHN CHAFEE has approached his remarkable career with the single premise to operate through consensus and cooperation wherever possible in order to get the business of the people done. A Republican operating in a heavily Democratic state, Senator CHAFEE understood that partisanship had no place in politics. Today, I express my sincere sympathy to Senator CHAFEE's family, friends and the

great people of Rhode Island. America has lost a unique native son and a hero for us all to remember.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues and all Rhode Islanders in mourning the untimely death of Senator CHAFEE.

The Senator was a principled voice who was able to work with both sides of the aisle on the issues close to his heart. He left a lasting imprint in our nation's laws—playing a key role in some of the most important legislation passed by Congress over the last three decades, especially in the areas of health care and the environment.

He proved that a sustained dedication to one's ideals through politics can make a real and lasting difference to our communities and our country. His retirement would have left a void in Congress; his untimely death leaves a void in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing and working with a true statesman and citizen.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in expressing my deepest sympathy to Virginia Chafee and all the members of her family on the loss of her beloved husband, our esteemed colleague Senator JOHN H. CHAFEE.

Last night our nation lost a great American. JOHN CHAFEE saw combat service in both World War II and the Korean War. He served with distinction in the Rhode Island House of Representatives, as Governor of the State of Rhode Island, and as Secretary of the Navy. For the past 23 years, JOHN CHAFEE has served in the U.S. Senate where he was universally respected for his integrity, civility, and deeply held convictions.

Senator CHAFEE's contributions to our nation are many. His legacy includes a cleaner environment, better health care, and a model of true bipartisanship from which we can all learn.

I join in giving thanks for his life.

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 344.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1987, FAIR ACCESS TO INDEMNITY AND REIMBURSEMENT ACT

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report

(Rept. No. 106-414) on the resolution (H. Res. 342) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1987) to allow the recovery of attorneys' fees and costs by certain employers and labor organizations who are prevailing parties in proceedings brought against them by the National Labor Relations Board or by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WILSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I joined the President and Health and Human Services Secretary Shalala today at the White House to call on Congress to approve a prescription drug benefit in Medicare. We also called on private health plans to continue providing coverage for medicine that doctors prescribe.

The problem is twofold. Millions of Americans, young and old, cannot afford the high costs of prescription drugs. And the majority in Congress refuse to lift a finger to reduce these prices and help protect public health.

Unlike other industrialized nations, the U.S. does not regulate drug prices. So drug companies charge us the highest prices of any nation by multiples of two and three and even four times what citizens in other countries pay.

Within the United States, drug companies are charging the highest prices to those with the least bargaining power, the elderly and those without health insurance. Drug companies are diverting also huge sums of money, money that comes from inflated drug prices, into advertising.

From a market perspective, drug companies are doing everything they should be doing. We cannot blame drug companies for maximizing their profits. They make more money than any other industry in America. That is their job. Nor can we blame the President and many of us in Congress for taking steps to protect seniors and the uninsured and to address the ramifications of what drug companies are doing to the disadvantaged. That is our job.

I have introduced an initiative that would bring down prices without taking away the industry's incentive to act like an industry. My bill promotes good old-fashioned American competition.