

I am proud to have been a cosponsor of H.R. 2723. This was a bipartisan vote as it passed this House. I would hope our conferees, as they are named, would remember that this House sent that bill to the Senate with a strong majority. It was a bipartisan majority because it addressed the issues that dealt with managed care reform: an outside appeals process, obviously to eliminate the gag rule, also allowing where a reasonable person or a medical necessity could be included in there.

The most important, and I know this will be the toughest issue on the conference committee, was the accountability section in there. And, again, going on the experience that Texas has, it does not do any good not to have the ability to go to the courthouse. Because, ultimately, that makes the appeals process work.

In the State of Texas, in the last 3 years that we have had our bill, we have had actually about half the cases that are being taken to the outside appeals process are being found in favor of the patient. Even a little bit more, 51, 52 percent. But the important part is that the insurance companies then will let that person have that care that they need. And the ones who are losing, well, they have already laid out that they could not make a medical case even to the outside appeals, much less to go to the court. But without the threat of the courthouse there, if people do not have that right, then we do not have that appeals process.

And I think we will not have a lot of lawsuits filed. In fact, in Texas we have had, I think, no more than five; three by one attorney, I understand, in Fort Worth, Texas. So we have not had a groundswell of lawsuits.

I would hope our conferees would remember how strong this bill came out of the House and how it spent a whole day debating it. I know it is a hard issue, but for the people in our country, we need to make sure we stay as close to the House bill as we can. So I support this rule.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and would just simply say since this appears to be noncontroversial, I only heard one speaker across the aisle oppose the rule, and it would seem to me that that would be confounding to that speaker's goal, which is to move the process. That is what we are trying to do. So I see no justification for opposing this resolution, if we are trying to move the process forward, and I believe we all are trying to do that, because I agree we have had a great debate in the House about that; and we have come up with product, and it is now time to deal with the other body.

I would point out that the product we have come up with provides for both

patient protection and access for those 40-some million Americans who do not have the blessing of any kind of health insurance. And I think that that is a very strong menu for consideration at the conference.

I do think we have lived up to our promise to move the process forward, in my view in a very rapid way, given the way most things move around here.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYES). The Chair will appoint conferees tomorrow.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 491 of the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1098(c)), and upon the recommendation of the majority leader, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following member on the part of the House to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for a 3-year term to fill the existing vacancy thereon.

Ms. Judith Flink, Illinois.

There was no objection.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYES). 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.

DAY OF HONOR 2000 PROJECT

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to share my support for the Day of Honor 2000 Project, which will give long overdue recognition to the 1.2 million invisible African American World War II veterans.

During the Second World War, these valiant African American soldiers were waging a war on two fronts. They fought gallantly beside their comrades, saving the world from the evils of fascism while battling the bigotry and racism that was still prevalent in the United States military. These same African American war veterans continued their fight against racism at home by forming the grassroots of the civil rights movement.

In my State of Florida, we have the oldest veteran population in the Nation. Unfortunately for these veterans and veterans all across the country, the VA budget continues to be underfunded, causing them to be denied the health care and services they need and deserve.

As our aging veterans population declines, we need programs like the Day of Honor 2000 to remind us of the sacrifices African Americans made to protect their freedom they now enjoy.

I wish Dr. Smith and the other leaders of the Day of Honor 2000 Project the greatest success in portraying the honor and dignity displayed by our African American World War II veterans. These efforts and accomplishments have been ignored for far too long, and I look forward to sharing their achievement for the people today and for the generations to come.

SITUATION IN HAITI

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I had not intended tonight to bring this subject forward, but the situation in Haiti has become so egregious that I think it is necessary to have a series of statements to alert the American public to what has happened.

I feel very sad about the people in Haiti. It is a country that I think has great promise, and it is a country that wishes very much to join the commonwealth of democracies in this hemisphere. Unfortunately, all our hopes seem to have dissipated because of events that have taken place in that country in the past few years and an increasing trend towards self-destruction.

In fact, I daresay if there were a case study of a failed foreign policy of the Clinton administration, Haiti would probably be the first example. And I am sorry to report that.

I think the administration first lost sight of what went wrong in Haiti when they lost sight of the fact that the solution to democracy in any country is the people going about the business of looking after themselves, having accountability and reliance for their own activities on behalf of their community, their country, and putting forth their own social value message about what they stand for and what they want to be.

When another country comes in and tries to do that job or intercedes, and did we ever intercede in Haiti, we sent something like 20,000 troops down there initially armed but, fortunately, at the last minute turned into a non-armed invasion force, as opposed to an armed one, and we spent somewhere between \$2 billion and \$3 billion, that would be billions of dollars of taxpayers' money, in Haiti in the past few years.

All of that has come to a situation today where, sadly, we are looking at a country that has no legislature. The legislature has been suspended. It would be as if Congress were closed down in the United States of America and the Senators and the Representatives were not allowed to come to Washington and come to this building, the United States Capitol, and go about their business.

I know there are some that would perhaps jokingly say, well, not a bad idea from time to time, with some of the things that happen in Congress and some of the things we do. But the fact of the matter is Congress is a treasured institution and a vital part of our constitutional make-up in this country and a vital part of our Government.

It is in Haiti, too. It is meant to be in any country. They have got to have a legislative branch, a voice for the people, people's voices clearly expressed by representatives of one form or another. Now that has been closed in Haiti.

Equally important in any shared power in a democracy is a judiciary system of some type. And I am sorry to report that a judiciary system which was always feeble and quite weakened and subject to some corruption because there was not much pay involved in being a member of the judiciary in Haiti is even more enfeebled than it was before. It is a system that is broken down. It is not even dysfunctional. It is nonfunctional.

Sadly, a critical part of that judicial system would be the law enforcement system that people rely on in Haiti for law and order. That would now be the police force, the HNP. I am very sorry to report that the HNP recently lost its minister, who was, I gather, forced out of the country of Haiti for political reasons and because he was not kowtowing to the wishes of the behind-the-scene de facto dictator of that country.

So, consequently, we have a very thin reed to lean on when we talk about law enforcement, which is the Haitian National Police. We understand that the incidence of drug use and the incidence of drug smuggling and drug trafficking has expanded very considerably and that, in fact, Haitian citizens and visitors, we have many Haitian Americans who spend time in both the United States and in Haiti, are reporting alarmingly and increasingly that there is not sufficient protection and law and order in Haiti for them to go about any reasonable business, particularly after dark. And certainly if they are involved in any political expression, that is very dangerous.

I am sorry to say there has been a continuing incidence in increased levels of political assassination, intimidation, and harassment, so much so that a former senator from Haiti has come to this country and I recently visited with him and he explained to me some

of the very serious problems that are ongoing there, which confirm many of the other reports we are getting from citizens, visitors, business people and so forth that the corruption has become so bad it is very hard to get a loan to do any type of business in Haiti. So even if they want to help out and provide jobs and quality of life, the opportunity is not there.

This is a subject that I will visit again this week in other 5-minute special orders.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. C.J. BROOKS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an American citizen of humble origin who developed himself into a scholar, a great preacher, an inspirational leader, a person who was a developer of people, as well as a builder of institutions.

The Reverend Dr. C.J. Brooks was born in Monticello, Arkansas, on February 1, 1934. Being an only child and living in rural America, he developed a great relationship with his dog and other creatures of the animal world.

As young Cleodus grew up in a Christian home, he developed an early interest in preaching and often practiced on his dog and the other animals who followed him around.

Cleodus attended the Drew County High School at the age of 17, realized that he wanted to spend the rest of his life preaching and teaching the gospel. He was licensed and ordained that same year.

After high school, he attended the Morris Booker Memorial College in Dermott, Arkansas, which is about two blocks from my father's home and where my father continues to work, although he is 88 years old, and he never misses a day from going there to do his volunteer work.

He also attended the Arkansas Baptist College in Little Rock, the University of Heidelberg, in Heidelberg, Germany, where he served in the Air Force from 1954 to 1957.

Upon his return, Reverend Brooks attended Arkansas A.M. & N College in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, where he earned his bachelor of arts degree and graduated in 1961.

I might add that Cleodus and I were classmates and he was the president of our freshman class.

Before coming to the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago, Reverend Brooks held pastorates at the Sunset Baptist Church in Texarkana, Texas; Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Warren, Arkansas; Rosehill Baptist Church, Dermott, Arkansas; and the New Hope Baptist Church, at Chicasaw Plantation in McGhee, Arkansas.

In addition to leading and guiding the Shiloh Baptist Church from 1969 to his death in 1999, Reverend Brooks was an instructor for the Illinois Baptist General State Congress of Christian Education, instructor for the Greater New Era District Baptist Association, Parliamentarian of the parent body of the Illinois Baptist State Convention from 1990 to 1999, and treasurer of the Greater New Era District Association.

During his 30-year tenure at Shiloh Baptist Church in Chicago, Reverend Brooks developed a reputation for being an astute and creative leader. Under his tutelage, the church moved into a new facility, paid off all of its mortgages, developed the Board of Christian Education Ministries, instituted a full service missionary department, a weekly food and clothing ministry, a young people's department, and he personally served as mentor to many young persons, several of whom followed him into the ministry.

On March 25, 1991, the Shiloh Baptist Church Board of Christian Education conferred upon him the Doctor of Divinity Honorary Degree.

Yes, C.J. Brooks, born in rural Arkansas, went from the back roads to the high roads, became a tremendous scholar, great teacher, one of the first leaders that I ever knew, the leader of our freshman class in college, and he continued to lead the rest of his life.

C.J., it was a pleasure knowing you. You have done yourself and your family extremely well. I say may you rest in peace and may the memory of your being always rest with your wife, Carrie, and the members of your church.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, tonight we need to talk about pizza, not just any pizza, but pepperoni pizza. I mean the hot, juicy, fresh-from-the-oven, thick Friday-night, after-the-football-game pepperoni pizza.

Because if you are like millions of Americans and you engage in that habit on weekends and other nights, you probably have great comfort in knowing that that pepperoni pizza was inspected by the United States Department of Agriculture to make sure that the pepperonis on that pizza were fresh, clean, and pure. I am glad that they do that, because food inspection is safe.

Now, if you have a vegetarian in the family and that person wants just the cheese pizza, USDA cannot inspect that one. That pizza is a special pizza.

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That pizza is inspected by the Food and Drug Administration. Now, you