

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OBSERVING NATIONAL HOSPICE
MONTH

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, November is National Hospice Month. I rise today to praise the efforts of the associated Hospice programs and the care that they provide to hundreds of thousands of terminally ill patients each year. In the First District of Florida, Hospice of Northwest Florida will celebrate its 15th year of service and will help meet the medical, emotional, and spiritual needs of over 2000 patients this year.

Since the modern Hospice movement began in the early 1970s to mainly care for those with terminal cancer, millions of patients and their families have benefitted from hospice care's unique and compassionate role in America. Hospices have continued to expand and last year alone, hospices served over 300,000 terminally ill people. Ninety percent of all patient care was provided for patients at home.

I recently came across some fascinating numbers on just how important Hospice care has become in America. In 1998, hospices cared for patients in one-in-three-cancer-related deaths and AIDS-related deaths in America. There are about 3,000 Hospices in the U.S., two-thirds of which are Medicare certified. 98% of Hospice programs accept persons with AIDS.

Perhaps the most impressive statistic of all is the tremendous contribution volunteers make to hospice care. In fact, approximately 70,000 people from all walks of life, volunteer with hospice programs, providing over 5 million hours of direct care and services each year. It is these men and women that deserve the lion's share of recognition for the success of hospice care in America.

Mr. Speaker, an increase in public awareness and understanding of Hospice care will better serve the families of our communities who are faced with a life limiting illness. Therefore, I invite all of my colleagues to join the hundreds of cities, counties, and states in observing the month of November as National Hospice Month. We will actively encourage the support of friends, neighbors, family, and fellow citizens in associated Hospice activities and programs now and throughout the year.

TRIBUTE TO ROY AND GEORGETTE
ENGLER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary contributions that Roy and Georgette Engler made over the course of their lives to benefit mentally disabled children in Northwest Ohio. Their story poignantly recounts the love and patience that characterized one family's heroic struggle with mental retardation. Though both passed away in the 1970's, their legacy lives on in the form of Sunshine Inc. of Northwest Ohio, a first-rate facility that provides assistance to hundreds of developmentally disabled individuals and their families. Loved and cherished by many, Roy and Georgette are remembered as selfless humanitarians who sought to help those shunned by the rest of society. Their efforts are truly worthy of recognition and praise. On behalf of Ohio's lawmakers and citizens, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring these two wonderful people.

Roy and Georgette Engler did not have an easy life. Both were high school drop-outs who struggled to make ends meet. Roy worked 12-hour shifts, 7 days a week as a railroad telegraph operator while Georgette, just 16 when she married, helped out at her parents' bar, grille, and country store. The situation became substantially more difficult, though, when it became apparent that all five of their children (two girls and three boys) were mentally retarded. Teachers told the Englers that their 2nd grade daughters would have to leave school because they were simply too slow. The boys, moreover, were less capable than their sisters, even having trouble relating with each other. The situation was bleak. Roy confided in a friend, "No one will ever understand what it is like to sit around the table at meal time and look at your children and know that they will never be independent."

The Engler's visited several institutions but realized it would be best to keep the children at home, where they would be loved and properly cared for. The magnitude of this responsibility took its toll, though. Roy was forced to work night shifts at the telegraph office and take odd jobs in the morning. He was hospitalized seven times for depression and stress. Georgette was thus forced to remain at home, day after day, caring for the five children. She contemplated suicide, though she fortunately never acted on these impulses. The total commitment to their children was robbing them of life. The Engler's had long since abandoned their hopes and dreams, resigning themselves to the fact that they would have to care for their children the rest of their lives. As the children reached their twenties, though, Roy and

Georgette realized that they needed to ensure acceptable care for their children when they passed on.

The Engler's knew from experience that institutions were an unacceptable choice. They believed their children, as well as other mentally disabled youths, would benefit from an organization that placed an emphasis on individual care, love and simple pleasures. Roy and Georgette started Sunshine Inc. in 1949 and 50 years later it serves hundreds of developmentally challenged individuals with a budget of over \$13 million. Moreover, Sunshine manages 14 group homes, operates a summer day camp and supervises adults that live on their own. The Superintendent of the Lucas County Board of Mental Retardation says they are among the best facilities in Ohio.

John Milton wrote "freely we serve, because we freely love." This is thoroughly exemplified by the actions of Roy and Georgette Engler. Through their unselfish dedication, mankind has advanced and come to understand more about the range of crippling illnesses and brain disorders that afflict millions of people. Let us hope medical science in this generation will unlock the mysteries of human development, but until then, let us be forever grateful for the lifetime of sacrifice Roy and Georgette dedicated through love and uncommon valor. I would also like to extend a warm thanks to Tahree Lane of the Toledo Blade for writing such a wonderful article that brought this touching story to my attention.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DAVID
PITCAIRN

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who dedicated a significant part of his life to the service of our great nation. David Vincent Pitcairn, a devoted husband and father, distinguished himself as a man who repeatedly put the well being of his family and friends before that of his own. Sadly, Mr. Pitcairn passed away on October 19, 1999.

Born in New Haven, Connecticut in 1947, Dave entered the United States Army at an early age and quickly established himself as an exemplary soldier. Sergeant David Pitcairn distinguished himself with the first platoon, B Company, 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division near Saigon, Vietnam. Serving as both platoon leader and machine gunner for his platoon, his leadership, extraordinary bravery and repeated exposure to enemy fire served as an inspiration to the entire company. It bears mentioning that while in Vietnam, Dave earned numerous medals and commendations which included: the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantry Badge,

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.