

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PRESCRIPTION DRUG FAIRNESS FOR SENIORS ACT—SUBMITTING RULE FOR DISCHARGE PETITION

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, this is an important day. Soon I will have been a Representative for the people of Mississippi's 4th Congressional District for a year. Issues great and small have been debated. Our budget, F-22's, water and transportation projects, foreign operations expenditures are all some of the issues that have been grappled with.

Our nation continues to reap economic benefits that can not be matched. We are a people moving forward. But, can we truly move forward if we are leaving some behind?

Can we turn our backs on our elderly, the very people who stood face to face with a Great Depression and the trials and tribulations of war?

Lucille Bruce is from Clinton, MS. She lives on a fixed income and pays in excess of \$200 each month for prescription medicine. Ms. Bruce says that without her daughter she would have no money to live. She wonders how many Senior Americans there are who don't have the type of family support she receives.

Well, Ms. Bruce, sadly there are millions. And it is past time for their American family to step forward with the care, support and respect they are owed.

H.R. 664, the Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act was introduced earlier this year by my friend and colleague, TOM ALLEN of Maine. This legislation will substantially lower the costs of what senior citizens pay for prescription drugs.

Seniors pay much more for prescription drugs as the drug companies' "favored customers" such as the federal government and large HMOs. This legislation will allow pharmacies to purchase drugs for Medicare beneficiaries at the same rate as the government and large HMO's so our grandparents and parents will be "favored customers" as well. This is only right.

Our senior citizens should never be forced to choose between buying food or buying medicine. They should not have to decide between paying the electric bill or paying for the medicine that keeps them healthy.

Yet, in America today, many seniors are put into that very position. This is a shame.

And, it is also a shame this bill has not been brought forward for real consideration. It is a shame to ignore the cost of prescription drugs that our senior citizens are burdened with.

Today, I will offer a resolution to bring H.R. 664 to the floor for a vote. If no action is taken within 7 days I will file a discharge petition to take my resolution from the Rules Committee

and bring H.R. 664 directly to the floor for a vote.

Seven days. Just imagine seven days in the life of our senior citizens who are struggling to pay bills and enjoy a decent standard of living here at the end of the American Century.

I choose to stand with our senior citizens. I choose to fight for the values and principles that I know we all hold close.

Let's move H.R. 664 forward today. For our seniors, for us all.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY BELL, AN OUTSTANDING AMERICAN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a truly outstanding American, Henry M. Bell, Jr., of Tyler, Texas, whose death on August 24, 1999, leaves behind a remarkable legacy of accomplishment—and leaves us with memories of a truly great man who was devoted to his family and community, who spent his life in service to others, and who was beloved by all who knew him. Mr. Speaker, Henry Bell was an exemplary man and a good friend of mine, and it is an honor for me to pay tribute to him in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for all to read.

Henry Bell was one of Tyler's city fathers. As the Tyler Morning Telegraph stated, "Mr. Bell exemplified the spirit of community service, lending his time and talents to his church and numerous civic and professional organizations." Tyler's flourishing medical community, institutions of higher education, and economic infrastructure owe much of their foundation and success to the vision and efforts of Henry Bell.

Mr. Bell's civic involvement reflects his devotion to his community. He was instrumental in the growth and development of the East Texas Medical Center, where at the time of his death he served as chairman of the board for the East Texas Medical Center Regional Healthcare System and the ETMC Foundation. He also was a member of Texas Healthcare Trustees. In addition, he was just as committed to the development of higher education opportunities in Tyler. He was an ardent proponent for the University of Texas at Tyler, where he served on its Development Board.

Mr. Bell's involvement also helped create thousands of jobs for East Texans at area factories that he helped bring to Tyler. He was a key player in the former Tyler Industrial Foundation, through which he helped bring to Tyler the General Electric air-conditioning factory, now operated by the Trane Company; the Bryant Heater Company, now Carrier Corporation; and the Kelly-Springfield tire factory. For his efforts, in 1971 he received the T.B. Butler

Award, which recognizes the most outstanding citizen of the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce.

In every facet of Tyler's civic and professional life, Henry Bell's impact can be felt. Beginning in 1948, he devoted his career to Citizens First National Bank of Tyler (now Regions Bank), where he served in several executive roles, including president and chairman of the board. He retired as senior chairman in 1993.

He served as president or board chairman for the Chamber of Commerce, Texas Rose Festival Association, United Way of Greater Tyler, American Red Cross, Smith County Heart Association, Better Business Bureau, Tyler Petroleum Club and Willow Brook Country Club. He served as a board member for the University of Texas Health Center, Salvation Army, Junior Achievement, Texas Chest Foundation and Texas College, which awarded him an honorary degree. He also served as past chairman and board member of the Teachers Retirement System of Texas.

He was a senior warden at Christ Episcopal Church and past board member of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas and the Bishop Quin Foundation. He was a member of the Henry Bell Lodge No. 1371, AF&AM, and member of the Sharon Temple and Scottish Rite Bodies.

The awards and accolades that Henry Bell received are numerous, but as his friends will testify, he accepted them with a spirit of humility that was his trademark. As one longtime friend noted, "From his early adult years he approached every subject on the basis of what good could come out of it for Tyler." Another friend and civic leader called him "the quintessential Southern gentleman" and part of a generation that had a tremendous influence on the growth and development of the city.

A descendent of one of Tyler's founding families, he was born January 23, 1928, in Tyler to Henry M. Bell Sr. and Elizabeth Loftin Bell. He received a B.S. degree in industrial administration, having attended The Citadel in Charleston, S.C., and Yale University in New Haven, Conn.

Preceded in death by his loving wife of 47 years, Nell, who died in February, 1999, Mr. Bell is survived by two sons and a daughter-in-law, Henry M. Bell III and Allen and Cindy Bell; mother, Elizabeth; granddaughters, Lendy, Audrey and D'Ann Bell; great-grandson, Christian Bell; sister, Dorothy Finn; and several nieces and nephews.

Henry Bell was a great man, an outstanding citizen, and one whose influence will be felt for generations to come. He was more than that to me—he was a close and wonderful friend—one that cannot be replaced—but can be long remembered. So as we adjourn today, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying our last respects to one of Tyler's great leaders and my good friend, Henry Bell, Jr., who will be missed by all those who knew him.

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