

thousands of deaths each year, mostly among the elderly. Fortunately, vaccination can prevent a person from becoming infected with influenza.

Influenza vaccines are developed each year because the flu virus naturally mutates and changes. This year's strain of flu vaccine has been a particularly difficult strain to produce for all manufacturers, and as a result, there are lower than normal yields. Although we expect there will be sufficient vaccines for this year, there has been a delay in releasing vaccines to the public.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended vaccinations first be given to individuals who are at particularly high risk for developing complications. This group includes individuals who are 65 years or older, people who suffer from chronic illnesses, individuals in nursing homes, children who are undergoing long-term aspirin therapy, and pregnant women.

Ninety percent of vaccines are distributed by private sector distributors for use by health care providers. This resolution urges these private sector distributors to follow the CDC's recommendations to ensure that those at highest risk for influenza complications be given priority in receiving their vaccine.

H. RES. —

Whereas influenza is a contagious viral infection that affects the respiratory tract;

Whereas people of any age can become infected with influenza;

Whereas, although most people who become infected with influenza recover within a few days, some people develop serious complications that can become life-threatening;

Whereas influenza causes thousands of deaths each year, mostly among the elderly;

Whereas vaccination can prevent a person from becoming infected with influenza;

Whereas the periodic mutation of the influenza virus requires the influenza vaccine to be annually updated to contain the most recent influenza virus strains;

Whereas a lower-than-expected yield of one of the components of this season's influenza vaccine has caused the distribution of the vaccine to be delayed;

Whereas the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are working closely with vaccine manufacturers to facilitate the availability of a safe and effective influenza vaccine for this influenza season;

Whereas temporary shortages of the influenza vaccine early in this influenza season may require decisions to be made regarding how to prioritize the use of the available vaccine;

Whereas the vaccine available early in this influenza season should be used to maximize the protection of people at a high risk of developing complications from an influenza infection;

Whereas the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the groups of people at a high

(1) people who are 65 and older;

(2) residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities that house people who have chronic medical conditions;

(3) people who have chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems, including asthma;

(4) people who have had required medical follow up or hospitalization during the past

year because of chronic metabolic disease, kidney dysfunction, blood disorders, or immunosuppression;

(5) children and teenagers who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy; and

(6) women who will be in the second or third trimester of pregnancy during the influenza season;

Whereas all influenza vaccine used in the United States is produced in the private sector, and 90 percent of that vaccine is distributed by private-sector distributors for use by health care providers;

Whereas reports have indicated that certain distributors of the influenza vaccine are taking advantage of the influenza vaccine shortage by raising their prices by as much as 500 percent;

Whereas distributors are first supplying those buyers willing to pay the highest price for the influenza vaccine, even when those buyers were the last to order;

Whereas, for example, although the Director of the California Department of Health Services contracted with a distributor in February to purchase influenza vaccine at a cost of \$17.99 per vial and has received only one third of the order, the Director of the Maine Division of Disease Control contracted with that same distributor in June and July to purchase influenza vaccine at a cost of \$39.00 per vial and received both shipments within two months; and

Whereas distributors are in a unique position to make vaccines available first to facilities serving people at a high risk of developing complications from an influenza infection, such as nursing homes, hospitals, and doctors offices: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the private-sector distributors of the influenza vaccine should make all reasonable efforts to ensure that, during any shortage of the influenza vaccine, priority is given to distributing the available vaccine to those groups of people identified by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as being at a high risk of developing complications from an influenza infection.

TRIBUTE TO SIDNEY YATES

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, on October 5, our country lost a great patriot, Sid Yates. Sid was my very dear friend, and a beloved federal representative, who preserved and protected our country's finest cultural resources and historical landmarks.

For nearly a half of a century, Sid served in the House of Representatives. I was fortunate enough to have served with him for more than 25 years. He was a true gentleman and distinguished politician who brought honor and dignity to the U.S. House of Representatives.

It was a very sad day when Sid announced he would not run for reelection. I know the House of Representatives meant a great deal to him, and it was very hard for Sid to leave a place that he loved. Personally, I missed him greatly. It always made my day when he returned to Capitol Hill for a visit. I was saddened by his passing and he will be greatly missed by those of us who worked beside him, and the nation as a whole.

Many people remember Sid as a tremendous advocate of the arts, but I will always remember him as a master of the art of politics. Sid loved serving as a deputy in the Democratic Whip organization. So much so that for well over twenty years, Sid served as a deputy whip, while championing the causes of the Democratic Party.

Not only was Sid a great politician, but he was also a genuine and caring person. He worked hard behind the scenes to help individual members shepherd their projects through the legislative process, but he was always certain to give the credit to others. Although a giant in the House, Sid would always make it a point to take of the little things without any kind of fanfare. For instance, every Thursday, after our Democratic Whip meetings, Sid would always make sure to bring back muffins or Danish to his staff. Although in the grand scheme of things this small token of thoughtfulness was probably lost on most Members, I believe it spoke volumes on the kind of person Sid Yates was.

While I will always remember Sid as a wonderful and caring person, I can't overlook how hard he worked to make our country a beautiful and cultural place to live. As Chairman of the coveted Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, he fought tirelessly to protect free expression of the arts, and to preserve funding for national parks, historical landmarks, and national seashores. He was a true believer in the benefits of the arts and historical landmarks.

My hometown of Boston had benefited greatly from his generosity and dedication to preserving historical landmarks. Over the years, Sid supported vital federal funding for Boston's Freedom Trail, a wonderful walking tour through the City of Boston that provides a historical review of the many famous Revolutionary War sites including the African Meeting House, Dorchester Heights, and the Old South Meeting House.

Thanks to Sid's work with the Freedom Trail, tourists can visit the famed Old North Church, where Paul Revere hung two lanterns warning citizens of Boston that the British were coming by sea; or Faneuil Hall, where colonists met to protect British rule; and many other revolutionary war sites.

As an appropriations committee cardinal, Sid was also helpful in providing funds to preserve Boston's 31 harbor islands, which are rich with historical and geological treasures. Because of Sid's support, visitors will soon be able to take a ferry to many of these remarkable islands, which have been inaccessible for years. Sid's commitment to the preservation of the harbor islands will provide plenty of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to Boston. The City of Boston is a better place to visit thanks to the kindness and wisdom of Sid Yates.

Just as the lanterns at Old North Church shone brightly to guide the patriots in their fight for independence, Sid Yates' commitment and dedication to the arts and humanities was a guiding light for all Americans. While his light has faded, his legacy will endure because of his devotion to preserving our country's historical landmarks and cultural resources. Just like Paul Revere, Sid Yates was a great patriot.