CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

June 13, 2000

NEW JERSEY DEVILS ARE NEW JERSEY’S ANGELS

(Mr. ROTHSCHILD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHSCHILD. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to announce today the New Jersey Devils as the 2000 Stanley Cup champions. The Devils play a brand of hockey that typifies New Jersey. They are tough competitors led by their captain and playoff MVP, Scott Stevens, whose hard-nosed play shut down the best offensive players in the game. In the finals, they were the underdogs against the defending champions, and we in New Jersey love an underdog.

With a stone wall for a goal tender in Martin Brodeur, the offensive firepower of Jason Arnott, Patrick Elias and Peter Sykora, and a quartet of rookies, including the first Hispanic American player drafted in the first round, Scott Gomez, the Devils fought late into the game to bring the Cup back to East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, the New Jersey Devils are the Stanley Cup champions once again. In the hearts of New Jerseyans, in bringing this Stanley Cup back to New Jersey, these Devils are our angels.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, Republicans believe that no senior citizen or disabled American should be forced to choose between buying food or buying the prescription drugs necessary to keep them alive. Prescription drugs have become a major component of quality health care in America, and they have saved and improved many lives. But these miracles frequently come with a substantial price tag, one that many Medicare recipients on fixed incomes cannot afford without insurance.

Republicans believe the way to solve this dilemma is to create a fair and responsibly priced drug plan that is affordable, available, and voluntary for all Medicare beneficiaries.

It is the right and moral thing to do. By making prescription drug coverage accessible to everyone, Republicans want to make sure that no senior citizen or disabled American falls through the cracks.

CONGRATULATING NEW JERSEY DEVILS ON WINNING STANLEY CUP

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, early Sunday morning, throughout New Jersey, one could hear screams of joy coming from thousands of houses, diners, and bars. Jason Arnott had just scored the shot heard around the Garden State.

After last night, we have some levity and relaxation. I think it is good in the House this morning.

I rise to congratulate the Devils. This is a prize that has been given to the best hockey team in the world. This year, we will have our very own New Jersey Devils inscribed upon it for the second time in 5 years.

Over the past season, the Devils, who practice at beautiful South Mountain Arena in West Orange, have taken New Jersey fans on a roller coaster season we will soon not forget.

We have watched the break-out seasons of potential rookie of the year and, as Congressman Rothman mentioned, the first Hispanic national hockey league star. Scott Gomez, as well as the short-handed goal prowess of former Wolverine John Madden.

No player he faced or hit will forget the awe-inspiring and inspirational play of Captain Scott Stevens, which earned him the coveted Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff most valuable player.

It is a great happy day for New Jersey, for the Devils, and again, after last night, a point of relaxation for the Congress. We deserve it.

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND MONSIGNOR THOMAS WELLS

(Mrs. MORELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, the Reverend Monsignor Thomas Wells, 56, of Germantown, Maryland, pastor of Mother Seton Catholic Parish in Germantown, died Thursday, June 8, in the parish rectory. He was the victim of an apparent break in and killed after a violent and bloody struggle with the intruder.

This morning, at 11 o’clock, a funeral mass will be celebrated by Cardinal James A. Hickey at the Sacred Heart Church, which is one of the churches that Monsignor Wells served. What can I say about a man who was in his prime, who was a shepherd to a community, whether they belonged to his faith or not.

I talked to some of the congregants who made statements, such as, “He was only the pastor at Mother Seton for about a year and a half, but he touched so many people in the 2,000-member congregation, just as he touched those in other parishes that he served.”

He had served in 5 parishes within the last 3 decades in the State of Maryland. The churches where he served over the past 30 years are filled in recent years with people who loved the priest for whom they now pray. They are overwhelmed by grief.

He encouraged a lot of the young people. He inspired all who knew him. He was warm, friendly. He had a tremendous sense of humor. He always gave very exciting sermons, motivating people to be the best and to do the most for others.

One can see that the light of God was within him. He was a very holy man, not just by his position in the church as monsignor, but by the way he helped people.

Articles in the paper pointed out story after story of how he reached out and helped the community. The community grieves for him. He preached a lot about love. He remembered that Thornton Wilder wrote, “there is a land of the living and a land of the dead, and the bridge between, love, the only survival and the only meaning.”

Monsignor Wells will live on in love.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ASLEEP ON THE JOB WHEN IT COMES TO HIGH-TECH JOB CREATION

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House...