

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SPECIAL 80TH BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE
TO SYLVIA ENGEL**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, of the many things I've put into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, this one gives me the most pleasure. Today, on June 29, 2000, my mother is celebrating her 80th birthday.

My mother, Sylvia Engel, or SeRoy as everyone calls her, has always been the proverbial "live wire." When I was a little boy, she would take me to see her roller skate in the roller derby practices. She also is an accomplished actress, and would perform on stage in community and off-Broadway shows. I always say that my ability to speak in front of groups stems from watching my mother do the same, since I was a little boy. She was always very outgoing and to this day goes bowling every week, and until just a few years ago directed the singing and dancing shows at her condominium in Florida.

My mother has always been a very kind person, loving and caring to her family, one, who along with my father always taught me right from wrong, and stressed education as the key to elevating oneself in helping to gain a better future.

My mother and my father, Phil, had the benefit of 47 wonderful years of marriage together, where they worked hard and struggled to provide a good life for me and my sister, Dori. Today, my mother is grandmother to 11 children. Pat and I have given my mother 3 grandchildren: Julia, Jonathan and Philip, and Dori and Jordan have given my mother 8: David, Rachel, Yosef, Yacov, Naomi, Malky, Esty, and Ricky.

My mother was born in New York City as the second child of Eastern European Jewish immigrants, Yudis or Julia and Joe, who came to this country, like so many others, for a better life. Her mother, my grandmother, Julia, lived with us when I was growing up and raised my mother and her sister Bea and brother Irving, because she was widowed at an early age. My mother, who they tell me was a "tomboy" growing up, learned to be self-reliant and resilient at an early age, traits which she still manifests today.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell my mother how very much I love her and what a tremendous inspiration she is to me today and has been so my whole life. I hesitated entering this into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and giving her a surprise party, because she doesn't look her age, and doesn't want too many people to know. But having achieved this milestone is something of which to be proud, especially after two heart surgeries and a lifetime of giving herself to family, friends, and everyone with whom she's come into contact. With my

mother, one can certainly say she may be one year older than last year, but she'll never be old.

Congratulations, and Mazel Tov, mom. May you have many, many more years of life's pleasures, and may you continue to brighten the lives of all those you touch.

MEDICARE RX 2000 ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I want prescription drugs to be available and affordable, but this is not the way to do it. If something is overpriced, it's nonsense to have government step in and agree to pay that inflated price. That is not good stewardship of public money.

Congress should be holding hearings about price-fixing allegations, and about whether there is price-gouging of American patients, to subsidize overseas sales of prescription drugs. But if costs are exorbitant, it's wrong-headed to use tax dollars to pay those inflated prices. That will not bring the prices down.

Instead, there is a stampede to buy the votes of senior citizens, by spending enormous amounts of taxpayers' money on a new entitlement. I'm not joining that stampede to buy votes with taxpayers' money. I'm disappointed that fellow Republicans would abandon principles to buy votes with promises of a huge new government program. Yet the Democrat plan is worse; its cost is about double. Both sides are in a bidding war, and both are bidding with taxpayers' money.

The cost of the GOP plan is not "only" \$8 billion a year. The official projection says it soon will be \$28 billion a year and probably it will be even higher. It would be automatic spending, which would go on forever. This is how our national debt was created, and why it's so tough to balance the budget and pay down the debt.

Medicare is already in major financial trouble. You don't fix it by adding more spending, when it's already costing too much and delivering too little.

For example, if the foundation of your house is crumbling, you don't build a new third story. Instead, you fix the foundation before you consider adding on. That's what we should do with Medicare.

Medicare's government bureaucracy doesn't even pay hospitals (especially rural hospitals) the cost of the care they provide. That drives up medical costs for everyone who is not on Medicare. This is part of what we should fix first, before promising an new expensive benefit.

CELEBRATING THE HISTORY OF
THE MOTHER ROAD: BARSTOW
OPENS A ROUTE 66 MUSEUM**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, this will be a very special Independence Day in Barstow, California where we will celebrate the opening of a museum commemorating Route 66, the Mother Road that led millions of Americans west to the promise of unlimited dreams and horizons in the Golden State.

The opening of the museum on July 4 will provide a delightful reminder that the towns and cities of my district provided the hospitality and welcome to most of those Americans making the long drive West. Barstow was—and remains—a friendly oasis from the hours-long drive across the great Mojave Desert.

Visitors will have a chance to remember the exciting early days of driving America's highways with old photographs, road signs and a vintage 1926 Dodge touring sedan. The museum has visionary plans of returning Barstow to its status as a way station along the desert highways.

It is especially commendable that this museum will be an anchor for another older reminder of the history of Western travel: The Casa del Desierto Harvey House, a historic stop opened for travelers in 1911 on the Santa Fe Railway's trains to and from California. Thousands of train travelers each year stopped to marvel at this towering adobe palace and be served food by the famous Harvey Girls in its elegant dining rooms. This magnificent depot and hotel, which has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, has been fully restored and returned to use through the efforts of Barstow's civic leaders and volunteers.

The location of the Route 66 Museum in this historic railroad structure will provide modern travelers with a fascinating window into the past, and should make Barstow even more of a popular stopover along desert highways.

This new museum will add to the reputation of San Bernardino County as one of the top destinations for those who are fans of Route 66 history. It joins another fine museum in Victorville, another historic Mojave Desert way-station, and the San Bernardino Route 66 Rendezvous classic car festival, which draws 600,000 visitors each September in one of the nation's largest free-admission events.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Barstow and its citizens for renewing their city's rightful place as one of the welcoming points to California, and one of the highlights along Route 66, the Mother Road.

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