September 11, 2001

JOYCE MESKIS—A CHAMPION OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

HON. MARK UDALL OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joyce Meskis.

Owner of Denver’s famous Tattered Cover Bookstores, Joyce is an ardent supporter of reading and literacy and a strong defender of intellectual freedom. She has served as president of the Colorado Citizens Against Censorship, was a founder of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, and a leader in the National Coalition Against Censorship.

Her leadership in this area has been recognized by the receipt of the National Intellectual Freedom Award given by the National Council of Teachers of English.

A strong supporter of the freedoms that are guaranteed to all of us by the Constitution’s First Amendment, Joyce recognizes how these freedoms make our democracy great. She is an outstanding leader who has dedicated herself to ensuring that intellectual freedom and diversity will continue to enrich our lives and the lives of our children. Her contributions have been well summarized in the words of Carol Edmonds Sullivan, a professor at the University of Colorado who nominated Joyce for the National Intellectual Freedom Award: "Bookseller Joyce Meskis is nurturing democracy’s vital need for access to books, even unpopular ones."

Mr. Speaker, I am attaching an article on Joyce that recently ran in the Denver Post and ask my colleagues to join me in this tribute.

[From the Denver Post, September 2, 2001]

(By Carl Edmonds Sullivan)

Confronted a year ago by five police officers expecting to execute a search warrant for the purchasing records of one of her bookstore customers, Denver’s Tattered Cover owner Joyce Meskis refused access to the store’s files, on behalf of the First Amendment rights of her customers.

Later, she wrote her customers a “Dear Reader” letter, admitting that, “When you get served, or even threatened with a subpoena or search warrant, it’s pretty scary.” Meskis and her bookstore, which she purchased in 1974, have consistently protected the constitutional rights of customers.

“In Coming of Age in Samoa” to a teenager. Meskis said she has found, “When we have a controversial author, there's a far greater likelihood that offended customers will never return. Meskis also worries about the shrinking harbor for ideas outside the mainstream. In the closing of a “Dear Reader” letter to customers, Meskis makes this declaration: “I increasingly wonder how will we ever continue to be a viable bookstore presenting the variety of books and authors that, in their diversity, strengthen our democratic society.”

TRIBUTE TO JUDY EVANS

HON. ZOE LOFGREN OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2001

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Judy Evans, who for the past thirty years served as the Executive Director of Friends Outside National Organization. Judy Evans retired as of July 1, 2001.

Friends Outside National Organization provides mentoring programs and case management services in all 33 California state prisons. Under Judy Evans’ leadership Friends Outside National Organization has grown to a $3.9 million dollar agency with 139 employees. Over 9,000 children and 21,000 adults receive services at their prison visitor centers each month.

Judy was instrumental in developing an innovative family reunification partnership with the San Francisco Department of Human Services. Through this program, Friends Outside National staff members are able to facilitate successful reunifications between incarcerated parents and their children in conjunction with county social workers. These children are all in foster care or kinship placement. The goal is to assist the birth parent, whenever appropriate, to regain physical custody after release, with the ongoing support of social service professionals. This program directs resources to where they can be used most effectively: to the family.

Judy Evans has mentored a generation of social service professionals who continue the difficult work of counseling families caught up in the criminal justice system. Her example will serve as an inspiration, not only to them, but to all of us.

Previous to her Executive Director position at Friends Outside National, Judy served as the Santa Clara County chapter’s Executive Director for ten years, as well as its Director of Family Services for twelve years. Additionally, Judy has served the community through the YMCA, Correctional Institutions Chaplaincy, Justice System Advisory Board, The Women’s Fund and the Association of United Way Executives.

Judy has received awards of recognition by the Pathway Society, California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, California Department of Corrections and the Community Alliance Program for Ex-Offenders.

I, along with many others, thank her for her years of service to the State of California and to our District.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2001

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, President George W. Bush unveiled his principles for Medicare reform on July 12, 2001; and Whereas, under the program, Medicare beneficiaries would be able to purchase Medicare-endorsed prescription drug discount cards with access to lower cost drugs at the point of sale; and Whereas, the Program was conceived by a select group of pharmacy benefit management companies without the deliberation of the larger pharmacy community; and Whereas, Community pharmacies will bear the greatest financial burden for this Program to discount prescription drugs; and Whereas, drug manufactures account for nearly 80% of the cost of drugs sold in the U.S. but will bear very little of the financial burden created by this Program; and Whereas, The Program does not provide seniors with access to prescription drugs or the pharmacist’s professional services; and Whereas, seniors take more prescription drugs than any other population group in the U.S. and need the accessibility and expertise of their community pharmacist; and
Whereas, peer-reviewed research has demonstrated that discount programs have been proven not to be effective; and

Whereas, The Program is not insurance coverage nor will it provide drug coverage to those millions of seniors who cannot currently afford even inexpensive prescription drugs; and

Whereas, The Program promotes the under-utilization of generic drugs, heavy use of mail order, and limits senior citizens to the option of only one drug per therapeutic class;

Therefore be it resolved, that the National Pharmaceutical Association representing all of America’s minority pharmacists at its House of Delegates assembly during the 54th Annual Meeting July 20–24, 2001 in Cleveland, Ohio joins other national pharmacy associations in opposing the Prescription Drug Discount Card program as presently composed and urges the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, and other members of the Congress of Medicaid and Medicare Services to immediately revisit this flawed and potentially unconstitutional Program; and

Be it further resolved, that the Secretary of HHS appoint a blue ribbon committee consisting of all facets of the national pharmacy community to study this issue and make recommendations to solve America’s pressing issue of prescription drug coverage for those Americans over the age of 65; and finally

Be it resolved that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the President, Secretary of HHS, Administrators of CMS, and all the national pharmacy organizations.

THE BUDGET

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN
OF RHODE ISLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2001

Mr. Langevin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my frustration with the state of the budget.

As we all know, during August recess, the Congressional Budget Office announced that the federal government will tap $29 billion from the Medicare Trust Fund and $9 billion from the Social Security Trust Fund to pay for government operations in this year alone, and another $30 billion from Social Security and $170 billion from Medicare over the next five years. This grim scenario will occur without a $170 billion from Medicare over the next five years. This grim scenario will occur without a budget.

The catfish farmers in my district and across Arkansas is an important part of the economy of my congressional district that covers all of South Arkansas. Thirty-six states either produce or process farm-raised catfish, with Arkansas being the third largest producer in the nation. The catfish farmers in my district and across America are being hurt by the unfair practice of “so-called” catfish from Vietnam being dumped into our markets and sold as “farm-raised” catfish.

Last year, imports of Vietnamese catfish totaled 7 million pounds, more than triple the 2 million pounds imported in 1999 and more than 23 times the 575,000 pounds imported in 1999. In Vietnam, these so-called catfish, also known as “ba ba,” can be produced at a much lower cost due to cheap labor and less stringent environmental regulations. In fact, many of these fish are grown in floating cages in the Mekong River, exposing the fish to pollutants and other conditions. They are then dumped into American markets and often marketed as farm-raised catfish.

Vietnam says they are taking the necessary steps to fix the problem of mislabeling and dumping. However, this problem is not new and has been discussed with Vietnam for several years. We have yet to see any results to show that they are truly addressing this issue. America is a country founded on the principles of fairness and good faith, but Vietnam must still prove that their actions are, indeed, in good faith. They must stop the dumping of this so-called catfish into America’s markets and allow our catfish farmers to have the level playing field that they deserve. Therefore, I do not support extending trade relations to Vietnam at this time.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH HOFFMAN

HON. MARK UDALL
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elizabeth Hoffman, President of the University of Colorado. As Betsy enters her second year on the job, I can proudly say that CU is well on its way to fulfilling her vision of becoming one of the top three public research universities in the country.

During her first year in office, CU has set records in private gift giving, federal research income and state capital construction funding. One of these gifts, a $250 million donation, is the largest gift ever to a public university. This donation allowed for the creation of a CU institute that will help twenty million Americans with cognitive disabilities.

In addition to her drive to make CU a world class university, Betsy Hoffman knows that the University of Colorado is also a school for the people of Colorado. She travels tirelessly around the state to “bring CU back to the people of Colorado.” She has quickly gained the support of the people of our state in her endeavors. Governor Owens says, “She’s been very good at representing the university around the state. I give her an A plus.” She is also supported by state legislators on both sides of the aisle and by members of the Colorado congressional delegation.

Under Betsy’s leadership, I have no doubt that CU will become the world class university she is steering it toward. I am including an article about her that was recently published in the Denver Post. Mr. Speaker, I ask for my colleagues to join me in praising the work of a visionary and an educator.

[From the Denver Post, September 2, 2001]

HON. BETSY HOFFMAN
BETSY HOFFMAN'S FIRST YEAR BRINGS RECORD FUNDRAISING, LOFTY GOALS

By Dave Curtin

The glow of a 10-inch TV illuminates the darkened office of University of Colorado President Betsy Hoffman at 8:15 on a rainy Thursday morning. She’s trying to decide which of four infomercials she likes best to tout CU before 35 million football viewers.

One of these gifts, a $250 million donation, is the largest gift ever to a public university. This donation allowed for the creation of a CU institute that will help twenty million Americans with cognitive disabilities.

In addition to her drive to make CU a world class university, Betsy Hoffman knows that the University of Colorado is also a school for the people of Colorado. She travels tirelessly around the state to “bring CU back to the people of Colorado.” She has quickly gained the support of the people of our state in her endeavors. Governor Owens says, “She’s been very good at representing the university around the state. I give her an A plus.” She is also supported by state legislators on both sides of the aisle and by members of the Colorado congressional delegation.

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