

Are but the colors of your heart . . .
 All in this your life's design!
 Reminds us all, how against all odds your
 courage climbed . . .
 As against the darkest of all evil's you so
 shined . . .
 All in your Seal of Honor burning bright . . .
 To win that day, that night!
 Shining, all in your most sacrificial light
 . . .
 Burning bold, burning bright . . . blessing all
 of us here this night!
 For Joshua, how so you lived and died . . .
 Brings such tears, even to The Angels eyes!
 As so surely, it was but Heaven Joshua you'd
 find!
 As we gaze upon this Masterpiece, all in the
 life you so left behind!
 Mount Up Seal . . . Your new battle has
 begun . . .
 It's your new war to be won!
 All as an Angel in The Army of Our Lord, my
 son!
 Now with wings of courage full . . .
 A thing of beauty . . .
 A work of art . . .
 Joshua, my most magnificent of all sons . . .
 You are Thou Art!
 Amen . . .

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
 THE PATIENT ADVOCATE ACT

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, access to quality, affordable health care is critical to the well being of our citizens. With 46 million uninsured, including 9 million children, and many more underinsured, we must focus on strengthening our existing system as we continue to work to assure that quality health care is available to all. The Patient Advocate Act will assist patients, particularly those with a chronic illness, in successfully meeting the challenges brought on by their illness.

Patients battling a life-threatening illness are generally ill-equipped to negotiate with insurance companies, hospitals and other medical providers. Advocates will be available to assist with job retention and other debt crisis matters, while the patients are dealing with the reality of their illness at the same time. The limited network of existing patient advocate programs have proven their value and cost effectiveness. It is in the best interest of the patient to have someone available to advocate on their behalf while suffering from chronic illness.

Madam Speaker, the Patient Advocate Act would establish a demonstration grant program for State, local, tribal and non-profit entities to develop and operate patient advocate programs. The programs will assist patients in resolving health insurance, job retention, debt crisis and other problems related to the patients' diagnosis and illness. Specific services include negotiating pre-authorization claims, expediting the appeals process on contested claims, resolving billing errors and other bill issues, resolving debt crises, brokering resources to supplement limits to insurance, gaining access to services for the uninsured, and addressing other problems related to the

patient's illness, at no cost to the patient. The grants will be made available to existing and new patient advocacy programs.

Madam Speaker, to ensure that patients facing serious illness are able to effectively address the major issues that confront them during their illness, it is vitally important that they have access to professional case management services. The Patient Advocate Act will provide communities with the ability to establish patient advocate programs to assist patients as they negotiate the challenges of serious illness. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY HOWELL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Jerry Howell, organist at the Maxwell Church of the Brethren and Loring United Methodist Church of Maxwell, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his church and community.

For the past 50 years, Jerry has contributed his time and talents to his church community. He began piano lessons at the age of 11. In 1958, the organist at Santiago Methodist Church in rural Mitchellville retired, and at the age of 14, Jerry was called up to the organ bench. In 1989, Jerry and his wife Opal transferred their church membership to Loring United Methodist Church in rural Maxwell, Iowa. The organist at Loring retired, and Jerry was back on the organ bench. For the past 10 years, he was the organist for both Loring and Maxwell Church of the Brethren.

It is estimated that in the past 50 years, Jerry has played for 2,700 Sunday morning services, 120 funerals and 25 weddings. Unfortunately, Jerry's career has been cut short with his diagnosis of age-related macular degeneration that has caused blurry vision that makes reading and playing the music difficult. Although he no longer plays the organ at church, the memories of Jerry's musical contributions live on, and he continues to be an active member of his community.

Beyond retiring from his service at church, Jerry also retired from his job as an accounting technician at the Iowa Department of Transportation a year and a half ago, and he has taken the opportunity to travel around the country while his vision remains strong enough. I consider it an honor to represent Jerry Howell in the United States Congress, and I wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement as he continues to serve his community and travel around the country.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
 RON LEWIS ON THE OCCASION
 OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable RON LEWIS for his service to the people of Kentucky and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman LEWIS has represented the 2nd Congressional District of the state of Kentucky for the past 14 years.

RON was born and raised in South Shore, Kentucky. He graduated from McKell High School and worked his way through Morehead State University before transferring to the University of Kentucky, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in history and political science. Following graduation, he worked as a salesman and then taught at a business college in Louisiana. He returned to Morehead State and earned a Master of Arts in Higher Education and then attended Southern Baptist Seminary and became an ordained Baptist minister.

RON has long been an ardent supporter of our national defense. In 2005, he and the entire Kentucky delegation successfully fought the closing of Fort Knox, one of our nation's premier military installations employing nearly 9,000 personnel. Due in large part to RON's leadership during this most recent round of base realignment, Fort Knox was designated to remain open and to keep the majority of our nation's gold reserves.

From his post on the powerful Ways and Means Committee, RON has been a champion for farmers in his heartland district. He sponsored the Rural Communities Investment Act, which provides tax incentives to make interest income on farm real estate and certain rural housing loans exempt from federal taxation. He has also worked to develop alternative fuels made from crops grown in his district, sponsoring legislation to promote increased use of ethanol and biodiesel, made from corn and soybeans.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family, his wife, Kay; his two children, Ronald Brent and Allison Faye; and his many friends and colleagues join me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States of America.

RON will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.