

I know that the entire City of Twentynine Palms is proud of their fine work. It is only fitting that the House of Representatives pay tribute to them today.

### TRIBUTE TO LOU STOKES

#### HON. THOMAS C. SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to share the feelings of LOU STOKES' staff as they celebrate his legacy.

Much has been said on this floor about LOU's great accomplishments in this body, but I can think of no greater tribute than that the members of his staff—who have worked late into the night and early into the morning alongside their boss—would want to pay tribute to him in the record.

Lou has put in countless hours both in Cleveland and in Washington over the past 30 years, and his staff has been there with him, working to address the issues most important to him and to his constituents. His staff members have worked in Washington for legal aid, for improvement of public housing, for increased opportunities for the poor. They have worked in the district to address the needs of his constituents. They have all made it their goal to fight alongside LOU for the residents of his congressional district and for all Americans.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege today to place a tribute to the Honorable LOU STOKES into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on behalf of his loyal and dedicated staff.

#### STAFF PAYS TRIBUTE

Mr. Speaker, this great body has known giants. The halls of this chamber have resounded to the words of great men and women.

Mr. Speaker, we have been most fortunate to serve one such exceptional gentleman of the House: the gentleman from Ohio, Dean of the Ohio Delegation, the Honorable Louis Stokes. We ride his shoulders and see his vision. Nothing has escaped his penetrating discovery in 30 years.

He put some of us in the field to walk amongst the people and respond to their problems. He gave some of us the task of finding legislative solutions. All of us, at one time or another, knew the anguish of a constituent in pain and all of us, fortunately, on numerous occasions, celebrated the victories of their success. The word "failure" is not in Lou Stokes' vocabulary; the act of failing is unfathomable. No challenge has been too big. No person is too small.

Lou Stokes has been a stalwart defender of the Constitution and has spent his adult life fighting for the right of all people to live in dignity and in peace.

He has gone from dawn to dawn, all in a day's work. His staff are in amazement as his energy continues.

We have learned much from this man of humble beginnings. One can never give too much of one's time, compassion or energy to help one's fellow man. In fact, we must always go the "extra mile" and make sure we have done all that could be done to help someone in need.

Lou Stokes emanates pride in his roots and respect for all people. He fights for his principles and has taught us to be unwavering advocates.

The system may frustrate him, but never thwart him. For Lou Stokes knows how to

make change happen from within. He is tough, with a gentle heart. A task master who expects nothing more from others than he would give of himself, Lou Stokes reaches high, very high. In so doing, he makes all of us taller.

We have served Lou Stokes from varying lengths of time. We are the Stokes Team, a family. Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of the House, you are paying tribute to one of your favorite sons. As he has left an indelible mark on this institution, so has he left something with all of his staff. He has left us a challenge: always take the time to care, to take responsibility, to be involved, to reach back and reach out. Make today count so that tomorrow will be a better day for someone.

Mr. Speaker, we have been privileged to share this gentleman's vision. Thank you for this opportunity to pay tribute to a very special boss.

The Stokes legacy will continue as long as good prevails.

### HONORING ALEXANDER DUBCEK

#### HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, during the six months March–August 1968 the world witnessed a revolutionary drama which began in Bratislava, now the capital of Slovakia, and ended in Prague. The world's audience was fascinated especially by the leading player, a Slovak, Alexander Dubcek. Within that short time, Dubcek became a well-known symbol for his reform efforts in the totalitarian centralist Czechoslovakia in which Slovakia was treated as no more than a region. Dubcek's reforms became known as the "Prague Spring" although they would equally deserve the title "Dubcek Spring". His reforms involved the free speech, economic experimentation, open borders and open debate over the country's political future. Dubcek was faced by Stalinist with the same courage, as he had faced the Nazi fascists in the Slovak National Uprising in 1944 in which Alexander was wounded and his brother Julius was killed. It was not just by chance that the Spring 1968 started in Slovakia. In the first and last post World War II democratic elections in Czechoslovakia in 1946, the clear winner in Slovakia had been the Democratic Party, while in the larger Czech part of the country it had been the Communist Party that finally grabbed the overall power.

However, during the night of August 20–21, 1968 Dubcek's revolution was crushed by more than 600,000 troops with 7,000 tanks from the Warsaw Pact countries—Soviet Union, Bulgaria, East Germany, Hungary and Poland. For more than twenty years Dubcek remained under constant state security scrutiny. In spite of his ordeal, he always believed that people were essentially good and he never gave up hope. With the start of the Velvet Revolution in 1989, Dubcek reemerged at the Slovak National Uprising Square in Bratislava and Wenceslas Square in Prague, convincing thousands of demonstrators that their Revolution would succeed.

Few people know that Dubcek's parents came to settle in the United States. They lived in Chicago for more than five years in the sec-

ond decade of this century but returned to Slovakia shortly before Alexander's birth on November 27, 1921. Alexander literally had his very beginning in the U.S. It is also rather symbolic that the American University in Washington, DC, was among the first in the world to award Dubcek with an honorary Doctorate in April 1990, in the Spring immediately following the Velvet Revolution.

The moral and ideological impact of the "Dubcek Spring" spilled beyond the borders of his country, infiltrating the whole of the former Soviet Bloc. His message was that even the harshest dictatorship cannot prevent men of courage and honesty to reach far ahead of their time and keep their true conviction despite years of oppression. The Dubcek Spring started a process crowned by the fall of the Berlin Wall and the new democratic perspective for Central and Eastern Europe.

Alexander Dubcek and Vaclav Havel became known as the two symbols of the Velvet Revolution with great international prestige, opening the doors to the world for their respective Republics. By a fatal irony, on September 1, 1992, the day when the new Constitution of the Slovak Republic was adopted, Dubcek was gravely injured in a car accident and he died just a month before the independent Slovakia was born. Unfortunately, he died when he was the most needed by his mother country.

This year the 30th anniversary of the "Dubcek Spring" is commemorated in many countries of the world. The American University, jointly with the Embassy of the Slovak Republic, organized a series of events in which the guest of honor was Dr. Paul Dubcek, Alexander's son. I had the honor and pleasure of accompanying him through the U.S. Capitol and introducing him to such distinguished Congress Members as the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator JESSE HELMS, and the Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, Congressman BENJAMIN GILMAN. I had the opportunity to witness that the name of Dubcek still echoed in the ears of America's leaders.

It is my honor to recognize Alexander Dubcek and also symbolically pay tribute to hundreds of thousands of Slovak Americans who not only provided a key contribution to the American industrial revolution—working hard in coal mines, factories and steel mills of America's past. But also to the Slovak Americans who now lead American business, industry and science.

Alexander Dubcek, the man symbolizing what a giant contribution of a small country at the heart of Europe can provide to the rest of the world, definitely has his place among the great historic leaders of world democracy.

### OPTIONS FOR A MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced legislation that would provide a prescription drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries. The bill, if enacted, would close the most glaring deficiency in the Medicare program. With pharmaceuticals becoming an