

the past few weeks, two major pipeline spills have occurred.

On February 5, an oil pipeline spilled approximately 70,000 gallons of crude oil into a lake in the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge near Philadelphia. The refuge incorporates the largest freshwater tidal marsh in the State and is habitat to two endangered species.

On January 27, approximately 500,000 gallons of oil leaked from a pipeline near Winchester, Kentucky. Officials are unsure how much of the oil will make its way into the Kentucky River, the main drinking water source for Lexington and other towns.

Thankfully, neither of these spills were ignited, like the spill which occurred in my district last June. The accident in my district resulted in three deaths, millions of dollars in property damage. How many more spills do we need to have before we act to improve our system of pipeline safety?

Recently, I introduced H.R. 3558, the Safe Pipelines Act of 2000. My bipartisan bill, which has been sponsored by the entire Washington State House delegation, will enact much needed reforms to our Federal pipeline regulations, and will give the States a role in pipeline regulation, which they currently lack.

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Under my bill, pipelines will be required to be inspected both internally and with hydrostatic tests. Pipelines with a history of leaks will be specially targeted for more strenuous testing. All pipeline operators will be tested for qualifications and certified by the Department of Transportation.

The results of pipeline tests and inspections will be made available to the public and a nationwide map of all pipeline locations will be placed on the Internet where every citizen can easily access it. All pipeline ruptures and spills of more than 40 gallons will be reported to the Federal Office of Pipeline Safety and States will be able to set up their own pipeline safety programs for interstate pipelines, provided that the States have the resources and expertise necessary to carry out the programs and that State standards are at least as stringent as Federal standards.

In addition, the bill requires studies on a variety of technologies that may improve safety such as external leak detection systems and double-walled pipelines. I urge my colleagues to join with me in support of this bipartisan legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WALTER CRYAN UPON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. WEYGAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stress my congratulations and sincere thanks to a good friend, Walter

Cryan, who is retiring from a 35-year career in broadcast journalism. Walter will be deeply missed. This great man, whom we have watched as anchor on Channel 12 for the last 35 years, will be missed because we know that the kind of journalism that he represents is not the norm today.

Walter Cryan heard the call of the media at a very early age. As a child growing up in Cambridge and Lowell, Massachusetts, a young Walter was enraptured by the world of radio and displayed a particular love for the Lone Ranger. At this time he was also exposed to journalistic greats such as Walter Winchell and Edward R. Murrow, who would undoubtedly influence his later career, though at the time he actually preferred the world of sports-casting.

With dreams of becoming a baseball announcer, Walter enrolled in the Leland Powers School of Radio and Television in Boston and later transferred to Boston University. After being drafted in the Army in 1952, Walter was stationed in Germany where he served as a broadcaster for the Armed Services Network.

Upon his return to the United States, Walter completed his communications degree and embarked upon a career that would eventually make him one of the most respected journalists in our State. After spending several years with a Massachusetts radio station, Walter made a decision that would shape the remainder of his life. With his wife's encouragement, he took a chance, and a pay cut, to move to Rhode Island in 1965 to pursue a position at WPRO Radio, which also happened to own Channel 12, a television station.

One year later, he was tapped as station anchor on the 11 p.m. news; and in 1967, he was tapped to be the 6 p.m. anchor, where he would remain for the next 33 years. With his straightforward reporting style and his dignified presence, he quickly developed into a Rhode Island favorite amongst all viewers.

Mr. Speaker, Rhode Island is not a large State; with a population of only a million people within about 1,200 square miles, the entire State has only one local affiliate for each of the network stations. And for this reason, though, our local nightly news anchors are particularly well known and recognized just as Peter Jennings, Tom Brokaw, and Dan Rather.

From his anchor desk, Walter Cryan has succeeded admirably in becoming a reliable and respected source of news in our State. His sincere demeanor and his warm personality contribute to his ability to relate to the viewers at home, which inspires a great deal of trust in all who watch this wonderful anchorman.

In times of prosperity and turmoil, of joy and despair, Walter has remained a steady presence at the anchor desk of Channel 12 news.

In 1996, the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences recognized Walter's

service to the southeastern New England area by inducting him into the Silver Circle, a prestigious award given only to those who have served more than 25 years in the broadcasting industry.

One of Walter's greatest assets that he brings to his work is his great sense of perspective. The arrival of cable television and the Internet have caused the network ratings, especially in news broadcasts, to decline over recent years. In an attempt to attract more viewers, many network news programs have added more sensational reporting and entertainment type of news, a style very different from the days of Edward R. Murrow or Walter's youth.

Walter held a place for himself in the news media wonderland by maintaining his professional demeanor and his no-nonsense style of reporting. He carved a unique niche in Rhode Island media by displaying a remarkable understanding of why certain events occur and how they impact the public.

As a person, he has witnessed riots and war, deaths of public figures, economic booms and busts, countless elections and moments essential to our State's history. He has been always able to explain not only the news, but truly their significance to the people.

But there is also another side of Walter Cryan, a side that is certainly more sincere and dedicated and really shows the warm side of Walter Cryan. Walter has highlighted the cause of a facility, an institution known as Meeting Street Center, a Providence organization that assists special needs handicapped children. For the last 22 years, Walter has been an active advocate and a vocal advocate of this organization and he annually hosts their fund-raising telethon which has raised over \$4 million during his time.

During his telethons, he highlights extraordinary advances of the children at Meeting Street Center, how they have moved forward, the things they have done. Rhode Islanders have witnessed, live on TV sometimes, the first steps and the lives of these remarkable children.

Mr. Speaker, I end by saying that Walter Cryan has not only been a tremendous journalist for our State, a person who represents sensitivity and determination to his profession, but he has been a great family man dedicated to our community, to public service in the finest of ways. He is a great guy, and we are going to miss him dearly.

THE KEEP OUR PROMISES TO AMERICA'S MILITARY RETIREES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that is of great importance to me and I hope to my colleagues: The health and well-being of the brave men and women who