

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD HODES

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dr. Richard Hodes, a physician and former leader in the Florida legislature who used his multitude of personal and professional talents to improve Florida's health care system and make Florida a better place for all of us.

During Dick's 16 years of service in the Florida House of Representatives, he always sought opportunities to contribute as a champion of education and health reforms. As chairman of the House Health and Rehabilitation Services Committee, then Speaker pro tem and majority leader, Dick used his expertise as a physician and his prowess as a legislator, most notably, to help fashion Florida's Medicaid legislation and streamline the State's health, institutional, and welfare services in Florida.

Dick's work was not overlooked. In 1970 he was the recipient of the Florida Jaycees Good Government Award and the St. Petersburg Times nominated him four times as the Most Valuable Member of the House. Dick was even elected President of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Outside of the legislature, Dick's contributions to the medical community were countless. He operated his own private practice in Tampa for nearly 40 years and served as Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of South Florida's College of Medicine and former President of the Florida Medical Association, the Hillsborough County Medical Association and the Florida Society of Anesthesiologists. Local Hillsborough County residents benefitted from his insight every week for 20 years when they tuned into his program on WEDU television.

Dick was the model citizen: a tireless worker, a highly successful doctor and public servant dedicated to the people he served. He was soft spoken while holding firm, heartfelt views about the major issues he tackled. Dick is an inspiration for generations of leaders to come and he will be solely missed not just by his family and many, many friends, but by all of us.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2002 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG/BUNDESRAT EXCHANGE

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, since 1983, the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag and Bundesrat have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and interact on issues of mutual interest.

A staff delegation from the U.S. Congress will be selected to visit Germany during May 26 to June 8 of this year. During the 2 week exchange, the delegation will attend meetings

with Bundestag Members, Bundestag party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic, and media agencies. Participants also will be hosted by a Bundestag Member for a district visit.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States for 2 weeks in July. They will attend similar meetings here in Washington and visit the districts of Congressional Members. The U.S. delegation is expected to facilitate these meetings.

The Congress-Bundestag Exchange is highly regarded in Germany and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries. This exchange is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The U.S. delegation should consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag reciprocates by sending senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern to Germany and the United States such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, immigration, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues.

In addition, U.S. participants are expected to help plan and implement the program for the Bundestag staff members when they visit the United States. Participants are expected to assist in planning topical meetings in Washington, and are encouraged to host one or two Bundestag staffers in their Member's district in July, or to arrange for such a visit to another Member's district.

Participants are selected by a committee composed of personnel from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and past participants of the exchange.

Senators and Representatives who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a resume and cover letter in which they state their qualifications, the contributions they can make to a successful program and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated. Applications may be sent to Connie Veillette in Congressman REGULA's office, 2306 Rayburn House Building by noon on Friday, April 5.

HONORING LIFE OF DAVE THOMAS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, as a member who has actively sought to advance the adoption and foster care system, I would like to pay tribute to Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers. Throughout his life, Mr. Thomas displayed incredible dedication to not only his business endeavors, but also his advocacy for the cause of adoption.

In his efforts to encourage, improve, and increase public awareness of adoption and foster care programs, Mr. Thomas established both the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and the Dave Thomas Center for Adoption Law. His Foundation for Adoption worked jointly with national adoption organizations, individuals, and public and private agencies to raise awareness and provide support for children awaiting adoption, while his Center for Adoption Law helped to ease and facilitate the adoption process through education, advocacy, and research.

In addition to his foundations, Mr. Thomas was a constructive force in shaping corporate health policy to cover adoption expenses. Through his efforts, 75 percent of Fortune 1000 companies now offer adoption benefits to their employees. Mr. Thomas also served from 1990 until 2000 as the national spokesman for numerous White House adoption and foster care initiatives, and donated his speaking fees and profits from the sales of his books, "Dave's Way, Well Done!" and "Franchising for Dummies," to adoption causes.

As a testament to his devotion to the cause of adoption, Mr. Thomas received numerous awards, including the Angel in Adoption Award from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption and the 2001 Social Awareness Award from the U.S. Postal Service.

Through his entire span of advocacy for the cause of adoption, Mr. Thomas maintained his life and success ethics of honesty, hard work, self-reliance, and perseverance. May he always be remembered as a truly powerful example for every person who works toward a cause in which he or she believes.

HONORING HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER HAROLD COKER FOR HIS DEDICATION

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, as a Hamilton County Commissioner, a small businessman and community activist, Harold Coker has spend decades working to improve the school system, promote economic development and enhance the quality of life for all that live in Hamilton County.

Before being elected to the County Commission, Mr. Coker was a successful business owner and was elected President of the Antique Automobile Club of America. Because of his dedication to the industry, he was also elected president of the National Tire Dealers Association.

In 1982, when Mr. Coker was elected to the Hamilton County Commission, he went to work for efficient and more effective government and attacked abuse of power and corruption in local politics. He served as county commission chairman in 1985-86, 1995 and 1998-99 and throughout his service he has saved the taxpayers millions of dollars.

For over twenty years Commissioner Coker's goal has been to bring about progress and make Hamilton County a better place to live. Harold and his wife Lill became involved in making the streets of our community safe. They urged the use of seat belts and strongly advocated against driving under the influence