

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR STAN  
WEAVER

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 17, 2003*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor one of the great sons of Illinois, Senator Stan Weaver, who after selflessly donating forty-five years of his life to the State of Illinois is retiring from public service. In 1957, he began a twelve-year tenure as the mayor of my hometown of Urbana, IL. Weaver was later elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1968, where he served one term before his election to the Illinois Senate in 1970.

While Senator, Weaver served as chairman of the Senate Rules Committee and was a ranking member of the Senate Executive and Appropriations Committees as well as the Operations Commission. In 1997 he served in the newly created position of Senate Majority Leader after serving as assistant Senate Leader for twenty-two years. As a lawmaker, Stan's priorities have always been those of the people of the 52nd District, including quality of education, agriculture and economic development. He has proven to be a strong advocate for the University of Illinois and has helped it become one of the most prestigious examples of higher education in the nation.

Before entering public service, Stan Weaver graduated from Urbana public schools, attended Michigan State College, the University of Illinois, and graduated from the Indiana College of Mortuary Science. During World War II, Stan admirably served his country in the Army Air Force in the Southwest Pacific Theater.

In addition to his busy political career, Stan has found time to be a devoted father and grandfather to his son Blake, daughter Sherry, and to his two wonderful granddaughters, Lindsey and Jessica.

Besides being his community's state senator, Stan Weaver is heavily involved in several public organizations. He is the past president of the Illinois Municipal League, a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, member of the Mohammed Temple and of the International Chili Society. He also belongs to the Masonic Lodge, where he earned the rare distinction of 33rd Degree Mason because of his long-time dedicated service.

When Stan retires, his legacy to the State of Illinois will be one of quiet, effective leadership and commitment to the greater good. Whenever he rose to speak, people recognized his command of the issues, and colleagues from both political parties held him in the highest esteem. It has been my honor to know and serve with Senator Stan Weaver in the Illinois General Assembly. As the longest serving senator of his time, he will always be remembered as a powerful force in the Illinois Senate and his dedication to public service shall be sorely missed.

THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND  
ST. PATRICKS DAY 2003

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 17, 2003*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this St. Patrick's Day on behalf of the Friends of Ireland in the United States Congress as we proudly reflect upon the ties that bind America and the island of Ireland.

We extend a warm welcome to the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, and to the political leaders from Ireland and Northern Ireland who have traveled to America to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with us. We would like to recognize and commend President Bush's commitment to the peace process and to the promotion of reconciliation in Northern Ireland. We would also like to recognize Ambassador Richard Haass for the important and constructive role he has played in the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement.

This year we mark the fifth anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, which holds the promise of ensuring a just and lasting peace in Northern Ireland and a stable and inclusive government for all the people of Northern Ireland. The Friends of Ireland stand firmly with those political leaders who are steadfastly working to ensure that the Good Friday Agreement will be fully implemented and that political institutions of Northern Ireland will be restored for once and for all.

Since the Good Friday agreement we are seeing a more stable economy in Northern Ireland. Unemployment is down dramatically in both communities, inward investment is up strongly, and Northern Ireland is one of the fastest growing economies in Europe.

We encourage all the parties to take the necessary steps for peace, and we look forward to the cessation of all paramilitary violence in Northern Ireland, the demilitarization of Northern Ireland, the growth of a police force that represents and protects all the people of Northern Ireland, and the enactment of justice and equality laws that serve all the people of Northern Ireland.

We commend this progress and encourage greater and mutually beneficial economic links between the island of Ireland and the United States. The 44 million Americans of Irish descent share these goals, and join us in wishing the people of the island of Ireland a happy St. Patrick's Day.

HELP EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE,  
LOW-COST, TIMELY HEALTHCARE  
(HEALTH) ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVE BUYER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5, legislation to ensure that patients

have access to quality medical care by bringing balance to our medical liability system.

The purpose of the medical liability system is to provide a remedy for patients who have been harmed by negligent actions on the part of providers. But excessive litigation, legal action filed without legitimate cause, can lead to patient harm. Women who cannot find obstetricians for high risk pregnancies, and trauma patients who do not have access to appropriate medical care, suffer when doctors have been driven from practice due to high litigation expense. Doctors who must practice defensive medicine increase the cost of health care for everyone and put their patients through unnecessary procedures.

Many States have struggled to bring reforms to their liability systems. Indiana, fortunately, has not been one of them. Over 20 years ago, Indiana reformed its medical liability system. Today, patients are compensated quickly without endless litigation, doctors have reasonable malpractice insurance rates and the medical community provides quality care to Hoosier patients.

It is my understanding that under H.R. 5 Indiana will be able to retain the core aspects of its medical liability system. These include, the medical review panel requirement, the total compensation cap, and the limit on providers' liability. It is also my understanding that there is nothing in H.R. 5 that would prevent other States from adopting a medical liability system that includes such elements.

I urge the adoption of H.R. 5 to bring common sense back to our medical liability system.

HONORING DR. JERRY SHEN

**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 17, 2003*

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on February 28th the St. Louis area lost one of its leading physicians and a committed advocate of the sacredness of human life, Dr. Jerry Shen.

Dr. Shen was a Harvard-trained pediatrician, a pioneer in the field of adolescent medicine whose commitment to the young people of my great home state of Missouri was legendary. But that commitment had roots not in the Show-Me state but in Dr. Shen's native land of China.

When the Communists seized power in China, Dr. Shen and his family were on the last boat out and traveled on expired passports. He and his family had faith that God would take care of them, and in His great mercy, He did.

Dr. Shen was someone whose medical knowledge and Catholic faith animated his belief that human personhood should be protected from the moment of conception until natural death. He was instrumental in founding the Missouri Right-to-Life movement, which regularly has one of the largest delegations to

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