

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET JEAN  
WALES O'ROURKE

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 30, 2004*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the fabric of American history is woven with the hearts of Patriots. Since the colonists' first landing on American soil centuries ago, courageous men and women have toiled, sacrificed, and persevered to build a legacy of freedom and hope for future generations.

While the public contributions of some have been widely lauded, the silent service of countless others is known only in the freedom that we as Americans continue to cherish.

Margaret Jean Wales O'Rourke was one such unheralded patriot.

Born on August 24, 1922, Margaret grew up in Saddle River, New Jersey. She became a nurse and spent time serving at St. Albans Hospital in Long Island, New York. In 1943, in the midst of World War II, Margaret answered her country's call and traveled to California to work as a nurse in the San Leandro Naval Hospital.

While in San Leandro, Margaret met Charles Arthur O'Rourke, the man who would become her husband. A fellow-patriot, Charles was born on December 19, 1923, and joined the Navy in 1942 at the tender age of 18. He spent several years at sea serving in the South Pacific during World War II.

Charles and Margaret completed their time in the Navy in 1946. They married and settled in Ramsey, New Jersey. Although their tours of duty were over, however, their service to country did not end.

The O'Rourke's had three children: Thomas, Shirl, and Barbara. Thomas carried on the O'Rourke military tradition and joined the United States Marine Corps in 1966. He remained in the Marines until 1974, serving as a Cobra pilot in Vietnam.

Today, Thomas's son and Margaret and Arthur's grandson, United States Marine Corps Major Kevin Thomas O'Rourke, continues his family's military heritage, serving as an F-18 pilot in Iraq.

Margaret passed away on August 20, 2004. Her course in life took her farther than she may have anticipated, and her legacy will surely be more enduring than she ever could have imagined. Through their dedication to protecting and preserving liberty, three generations of O'Rourke's have now become part of the tapestry of America.

While Margaret's life on earth has passed, her gift to all of us will endure. I honor Margaret's memory, and her service to the United States of America.

HONORING DR. EDWARD N.  
BRANDT, JR.

**HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 30, 2004*

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow Oklahoman who has served this country and his fellowman for over 40 years.

It is not often that we are privileged to honor someone who is considered a Living Treasure, but today we indeed are able to do so. Dr. Edward N. Brandt, Jr., received the Oklahoma Health Center "Living Treasures Award" in 2002, a distinction reserved for "Individuals Who Embody the Light of Compassion, Caring and Creativity in our Community, Schools or Work Places." Dr. Brandt is indeed a Living Treasure who has served his community, his state, and his country with tireless dedication, true compassion, remarkable self-effacement, and persistent good humor for over four decades. We are delighted to join with his colleagues, family and friends who are honoring him with a day of activities in his honor on Friday, November 12, 2004, jointly sponsored by the College of Public Health and the College of Medicine of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He is also being honored by the establishment of The Edward N. Brandt, Jr., Student Endowment that will sustain activities Dr. Brandt has carried out for students over the years.

Dr. Brandt began his affiliation with the University of Oklahoma over 50 years ago as an undergraduate. He earned three degrees from the University of Oklahoma, starting in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Mathematics from the Norman Campus, and followed in 1960 with a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) and in 1963 with a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Biostatistics from The University of Oklahoma Medical Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He also managed to spend time in Stillwater and earn a Master of Science (M.S.) in Mathematics from the Oklahoma State University in 1955.

Dr. Brandt joined the faculty of the University of Oklahoma Medical Center in 1961, beginning as an Instructor and rising to Professor in the School of Medicine and School of Health. He also began his long and distinguished career in medical administration, serving as Associate Dean of the School of Medicine and as Associate Director of the Medical Center from 1968 to 1969.

Dr. Brandt then left Oklahoma to become a leader in academic medicine and a major figure in health policy in the United States. He spent 11 years in Texas, beginning at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where he was Professor in the School of Medicine and Graduate School and Dean of the Graduate School from 1970 to 1974, Dean of Medicine from 1973 to 1976, and Executive Dean from 1976 to 1977. He then took over responsibility for the University of Texas System, based in Austin as Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs from 1977 until 1981.

In 1981, Dr. Brandt answered the call of his country and of President Ronald Reagan, and went to Washington to become the senior health official in the Department of Health and Human Services, serving as Assistant Secretary for Health until 1984. In that role he was responsible for overseeing the development of many critical health policies, including the emerging problems associated with AIDS. He worked closely with Secretary Richard S. Schweiker and Secretary Margaret Heckler and with the Congress on these and other health and healthcare issues. Dr. Brandt was also the U.S. Representative to the Executive Board of the World Health Organization from 1982 until 1984.

Dr. Brandt left his leadership position in the federal government to become President of

The University of Maryland at Baltimore and Professor in the School of Medicine, where he served from 1985 until 1989.

Returning home to Oklahoma in 1989, Dr. Brandt has served the Health Sciences Center as a distinguished and well-loved member of the faculty. He was Executive Dean of the University of Oklahoma Medical College from 1989 until 1992. In 1992 he was appointed Professor of Health Administration and Policy in the College of Public Health, and since 1996 has been honored as Regents Professor. He has been the Director of the Center for Health Policy Research and Development since 1992 and was Chair of the Department of Health Administration and Policy in the College of Public Health from 2000 until 2002.

Dr. Brandt has remained a central figure in health policy in this country. He has been an active member and often the Chair of some 160 major health committees, task forces, and boards, including at least 88 national, 44 state, and 30 local ones. These include positions such as Member of the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine from 1985 to 1989, Chairman (1987-89) and Member of the Governing Council of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences (1986-91), and Vice-Chairman (1987-91) and Chairman of the Medical Schools Section of the American Medical Association (1979-81). He has been a leader in the state of Oklahoma with the Oklahoma State Medical Association, serving as a Member of the House of Delegates since 1992 and Chair of the Council on State Legislation and Regulation. He has been a long-time Chair of the Oklahoma State Trauma System Advisory Board.

Dr. Brandt has received some 82 substantial awards during his career. They include the Outstanding Alumni Service Award for "Outstanding Contribution in Academic Medicine," from the Alumni Association of the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in 1997, the first such award ever given. In 1981 he was elected to membership in the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and was also named "Territorial Marshal" by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma. In 1984 he received the Distinguished Leadership Award, Department of Health and Human Services, and in 1987, the Distinguished Public Service Award, U.S. Department of Defense, both of which were the highest awards made by those Departments. In 1989 the National AIDS Fund established the Edward N. Brandt, Jr. Award in his honor. In 1994 he was elected as Fellow for "Leadership in Academic Medicine and Public Health, and for Outstanding Service in the Federal Government" by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He received the 1997 Leadership Award for "Extraordinary Service and Leadership in Injury Prevention" from the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control and the Joan K. Leavitt Outstanding Achievement Award from the Oklahoma Hospital Association. He was recognized by the National Institutes of Health Office of Research in Women's Health with the "Visionary in Women's Health Award" in 2000 and by the University of Oklahoma with the "Golden Scalpel" Award for Contributions to Trauma Care in 2001, and was selected to be a "National Associate" of the National Academy of Sciences also in 2001. This year he was elected as Fellow for "Leadership in Academic Medicine and Public Health, and for Outstanding Service in