

ENCOURAGING ALL ELIGIBLE MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES TO REVIEW AVAILABLE OPTIONS TO DETERMINE WHETHER ENROLLMENT IN A MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN BEST MEETS THEIR NEEDS FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the Gentlewoman from Connecticut for bringing this resolution forward today. In my district, almost 70,000 Medicare beneficiaries have obtained prescription drug coverage, which constitutes 72 percent of the number of Medicare beneficiaries who live there.

My staff and I are proud to have contributed to this achievement. We have held numerous town hall meetings across Southern New Mexico to help seniors sign up for this critical new benefit. We have also trained others to provide this assistance—creating a multiplier effect regarding the amount of help that is available to our seniors. And we continue to urge seniors to contact our offices if they need help as the May 15 deadline approaches.

Every senior should immediately check their enrollment status in order to ensure they are enrolled in the Medicare Part D benefit. I also encourage everyone who has a parent or grandparent who is eligible for Medicare to call them and check their status. Seniors must sign up before May 15 to receive the best benefits at the lowest cost.

The phone numbers and addresses for my district offices are listed on my website at www.pearce.house.gov. Several additional resources also exist that can assist New Mexicans in choosing and enrolling in a plan. Medicare beneficiaries and their family members with questions about Medicare drug coverage can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or visit www.medicare.gov. They can also obtain help from local community organizations, pharmacists, senior centers, area agencies on aging and groups like AARP.

No senior should go another day without this coverage and we in Congress have a responsibility to stand with them and help them get that coverage today.

RECOGNIZING JEFFREY B. ROE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeffrey B. Roe. After 12 years by my side, Jeff recently retired as my Chief of Staff. Since meeting him in 1994, while I was serving in the Missouri State House of Representatives, Jeff and I have maintained a unique bond; he has been there throughout my entire political career, offering guidance and expertise.

Jeff and I began working together in 1994, when he was an intern and I was a State Representative pursuing a position in the State Senate. We won that election, and Jeff soon

became an instrumental member of my staff. Over the next six years, he came in early and stayed late, the consummate professional. When I made the decision to seek the 6th Congressional District seat in the 2000, Jeff was again by my side. Those late nights and tireless hours on the road paid off, and Jeff followed me to Washington, DC, and created an office structure that we still use today. Jeff has held every job in each of my offices and has used that experience to help develop outstanding employees that leave our office more polished and determined than when they enter. Jeff has always had a love of government and politics. He has a unique perspective on the way that the world works. His tireless work ethic has always been something that has set him apart, and he was even recognized as one of Kansas City's 40 most influential leaders under the age of 40, in *Ingram's Magazine* 2003 honors. Throughout his distinguished career in politics, he has helped countless people in their pursuit of public office.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Jeffrey B. Roe. His commitment to public service and the professional manner with which he has crafted my office will be missed. I would respectfully like to ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking him for all of his hard work and dedication over the years. Though he is no longer a member of my staff, I am comforted to know that, because of his hard work, I have the honor of representing him in the United States Congress.

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SPEECH OF

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there are millions of Americans benefiting from the new Part D Drug Program.

Many people overlook that fact, though. I'm pretty tired of hearing the same old story from nay-sayers . . . that people could get their drugs cheaper, "If only the Government had the ability to negotiate lower prices."

I'll tell you what—That's just not true. People love to tout the V.A. system as an example of successful government negotiation.

But did you know that only 13 of the top 33 prescribed drugs for seniors are on the V.A. formulary?

Heck, a negotiated price doesn't help you much if you can't get the drug you need.

For years, P.B.M.'s have been negotiating prices for millions of Americans—and now they are getting the job done for medicare beneficiaries.

Some plans are able to offer prices lower than Internet wholesalers, lower than Canadian prices.

The beneficiaries, the States, and the taxpayers are all benefiting from these lower prices.

I encourage a yes vote on the resolution and thank the gentle lady from Connecticut for her tireless—and persistent—efforts on this issue.

HONORING LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER OSBALDO "OZZIE" RAMOS

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Osbaldo "Ozzie" Ramos for being named a 2006 "TOP COP" by the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO).

The TOP COP is given annually by NAPO to pay tribute to outstanding law enforcement officers whose actions have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Officer Ozzie Ramos was nominated by his fellow Los Angeles Police Department Officers for his heroism in the face of grave danger last spring. On March 10, 2005, Officer Ramos and three fellow LAPD officers brought down two dangerous gunmen. That day the two suspects loaded a SUV with 500 rounds of ammunition and a rifle and lured officers into a chase. Several police cars joined the pursuit, including Officer Ozzie Ramos and his partner Officer Trevor Jackson, when suddenly the suspects opened the door of the van and began firing shots at the police cars.

While Officer Ramos drove the patrol car, Officer Jackson returned the suspects' fire using his shotgun. When Officer Jackson ran out of ammunition, Officer Ramos courageously maintained their position in proximity to the SUV while simultaneously pulling out his weapon and firing a full magazine at the suspects.

The Officers' fire caused the SUV to crash in a parking lot, but the suspects continued firing at Officer Ozzie Ramos and his comrades. Officer Ramos exited his vehicle and while firing, crossed an unprotected area to gain a better shot and more accurately relay information on the suspects' position. As a result of Officer Ramos' information, another officer fired through the door of the vehicle and ended the standoff.

Officer Ramos' heroism that day is a reflection of his distinguished career in law enforcement. A 12-year veteran, Officer Ramos graduated from the Police Academy at the young age of 22. Upon graduation Officer Ramos was assigned to the 77th Street Patrol Division as a probationary officer. After completing probation, Officer Ramos served one year in the Central Traffic Division as a Collision Investigator before joining the Gang Enforcement Unit. He was certified as a gang expert and promoted to the ranks of Police Officer III and Assistant Squad Leader in the Gang Unit. After serving a tour in the Gang Unit, Officer Ramos continued his work as the Assistant Squad Leader in the Special Enforcement Unit. Presently Officer Ramos is a Field Training Officer in the 77th Street Patrol Division and he has received thirty-one Commendations for various acts, works, and accomplishments since 1998.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Officer Ozzie