

our goals. As the President dithers, American soldiers are killed and maimed. Let's win or get out.

#### REMEMBERING BOB GOLDWATER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning in remembrance of a great American and great Arizonan, Bob Goldwater. If the last name sounds familiar, it should. The brother of Arizona's favorite son, Bob Goldwater labored alongside his brother in the family business in Phoenix, Goldwater's Department Store, and Bob was his own unique contributor to his brother Barry's political success and to the continued success of Goldwater's Department Store.

Bob Goldwater possessed a laconic wit. Madam Speaker, in my first campaign for public office, I was honored to have Bob Goldwater and former Governor Jack Williams, and the former Republican leader of this House, John J. Rhodes, cosponsor an event for me in the White Mountains of Arizona. This was at a time when I aspired to represent the Sixth Congressional District, an area in square mileage almost the size of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and so to get from suburban Phoenix up to the White Mountains was quite an undertaking that was made a bit more difficult by an incredible thunderstorm because this was during what we call the monsoon season in the summertime in Arizona.

The late great Governor Williams, a former broadcaster, was a stickler for time. The event was supposed to start at 7 p.m. I blew in the door at 7:05. There stood Governor Williams and Leader Rhodes and brother Goldwater. Governor Williams said, "HAYWORTH, 7:00; it's 7:05," to which Bob Goldwater replied, "Oh, heck, keep your shirt on, Jack, booze isn't going to spoil."

At the memorial service for his brother Barry, Bob Goldwater spoke not only of Barry Goldwater, the public servant, but of Barry, his brother. He reminisced how both he and Barry played for their church in a youth basketball league and how Barry suggested that the jerseys they wore should bear the letter "P." Bob recalled that he asked Barry why, and Barry responded, "You know, Bob, P for 'Piscopalian.'"

Perhaps a function of age and time, but the passing of other noteworthy Arizonans would bring Bob Goldwater into the public eye and he, above all other Arizonans, could deliver a heartfelt, humorous, poetic and practical remembrance. I don't have those abilities here today, but I just felt compelled in a moment perhaps of personal indulgence but perhaps more accurately a moment of official reflection, to bring notice to the passing of Bob Goldwater,

bring insight into the very human and humorous way he described others.

And also, to make this note: To my knowledge, Bob Goldwater never ran for public office, although he hailed from an Arizona family synonymous with public service. A lesson that has been impressed upon me through the years and especially in recent days is this fact, that public service is not always defined by public office, that it is what a person does in his fellowship of faith, in his community, in his business that can distinguish that person, a good lesson to remember in these days, a lesson typified by the life and times of Bob Goldwater.

Madam Speaker, those of us who knew Bob count ourselves not lucky but blessed to have a man who championed the success of his brother politically but added immeasurably to the lives of Arizonans in terms of commerce and public service, and as the father of our Phoenix Open.

Rest in peace, Bob Goldwater, you won't be forgotten.

#### AUTHORIZING GOVERNMENT TO NEGOTIATE LOWER PRICES WITH DRUG COMPANIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, last week America went to the polls and sent Washington a message that they wanted a new direction. Unfortunately, when it comes to the Bush administration, it seems as though the voters' call for change has fallen upon deaf ears.

Yesterday, the New York Times reported that the President and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Mike Leavitt, were "strenuously opposed to legislation that would authorize the government to negotiate with drug companies to secure lower drug prices for Medicare beneficiaries."

This is not groundbreaking news. They have said all along that they oppose negotiated prices in the Medicare program. Still, given the outcome of last week's election, it is disappointing that this administration would not even take a moment to reconsider its misguided policies.

Mr. Levitt went on to say, "I don't believe I can do a better job than an efficient market." I agree that the secretary hasn't done such a good job so far, but he shouldn't get too down on himself, he is not entirely to blame. His Republican friends here in Congress have kept him from realizing his potential by legally prohibiting him from negotiating with drug makers.

However, if a Democratic Congress passed a law granting him authority to negotiate prices with drug manufacturers, I am certain we could achieve enormous savings in the Medicare program which could be passed on to

America's elderly and disabled in the form of more generous coverage. Indeed, there is a lot of evidence to support this conclusion.

Take, for instance, a study considered earlier this year by the consumer group FamiliesUSA. They compared prices under private prescription drug plans participating in Medicare part D to the prices available through the Department of Veterans Affairs' health system. Their research showed that the government could help lower costs substantially. From November 2005 to April 2006, FamiliesUSA found that virtually all of the part D plans raised their prices for the majority of the top 20 drugs in this study. The median price increase among part D plans for the top 20 drugs prescribed to seniors was 3.7 percent.

Furthermore, for all of the top 20 drugs prescribed to seniors, VA prices in April were lower than the lowest prices charged by part D plans. The median price difference was 46 percent. In other words, Madam Speaker, for half of the 20 drugs, the lowest price charged by any part D plan was at least 46 percent higher than the lowest price secured for the VA. This is what the secretary must be referring to when he talks about the magic of the market.

My Republican friends argue that allowing the secretary to negotiate lower drug prices cannot actually work because the government will act to set prices. This is just more of the same old excuses we have been hearing all along. The truth of the matter is that the President, Secretary Leavitt, and Republicans in Congress are opposed to negotiated prices simply because they want to preserve the profits of the pharmaceutical industry which this program was really written for.

I have to be honest here. The American taxpayer is being ripped off by the Republican prescription drug law. Pharmaceutical companies have reaped record profits since Medicare part D was implemented while the American taxpayer has been left holding the bill.

Before the Republican law went into effect this year, more than 6.5 million low-income Americans received help for their prescription drug bills through Medicaid. Under the Medicaid system, however, States can purchase drugs at the lowest available prices or the best price. While this was good news for the taxpayer, it certainly cut into the profit margins of the pharmaceutical industry. So now those same 6.5 million Americans have been moved into the Republican prescription drug plan. They are no longer receiving the lower prices, and the higher costs, adding up to as much as \$2 billion this year alone, will be passed on to the American taxpayer.

This is why American voters rejected the Republican platform last week. Republican policies over the past decade have served special interests like the pharmaceutical industry, and now the American taxpayer is paying the price. Clearly voters are fed up, and they