

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DEL MARTIN

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues in Congress, and with great personal sadness, I rise to pay tribute to a highly esteemed and loved community leader who died on August 27th. Del Martin was a remarkable woman, an eloquent organizer for civil rights and human dignity. Del helped create and shape the modern lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender and feminist movements. She was endowed with extraordinary courage, persistence, intelligence, humor, and grace. She refused to be silenced by fear and never stopped fighting for equality.

Del Martin and her beloved partner, in work as in life, of 50 years, Phyllis Lyon were married at San Francisco City Hall on June 16, 2008. They were the first same-sex couple to wed in San Francisco after the California Superior Court's landmark decision to affirm marriage equality. This was Del Martin's, last public political act, and we would not have won marriage equality in California without their leadership and example.

I have proudly talked about Del and Phyllis on two occasions on this House floor—first in 1996 as I spoke in strong opposition to the ill-named Defense of Marriage Act, then 10 years later against the constitutional amendment to prohibit same-sex marriage. I told my colleagues about their love, happiness and commitment to each other which continue to be a source of strength and inspiration to all who know them. I asked my colleagues to explain how their relationship was a threat to anyone's marriage and why Del and Phyllis should not be treated equally under the law. I am grateful that they allowed me to share their personal history to show that these malicious and discriminatory measures were counter to the ideals of liberty, freedom, and equality for which this Nation stands.

Del and Phyllis were pioneering activists for lesbian and gay rights and women's rights. They fought and triumphed in many battles and made history for the LGBT community in our city, our State and our Nation. In the 1950s, they cofounded the first national lesbian rights organization in the United States, the "Daughters of Bilitis," long before the gay rights movement took hold. They published a monthly newsletter, *The Ladder*, and the book *Lesbian/Woman* which generated new media visibility and political engagement for the nascent gay rights movement. They cofounded the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, the first gay political club in the United States.

Del Martin's publication of *Battered Wives* in 1976 was a watershed moment in the movement against domestic violence. She cofounded the Coalition for Justice for Battered Women, La Casa de las Madres, and the California Coalition against Domestic Violence. Lyon-Martin Health Services, the San Fran-

cisco clinic named for Del and Phyllis that provides quality health care to women and transgender people, will stand as a testament to their generous spirit and pioneering commitment.

In 1995 Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN and I named Del and Phyllis to the White House Conference on Aging where they advocated for LGBT people to be included explicitly in aging policies.

I hope it is a comfort to Phyllis, their daughter Kendra Mon, and their grandchildren and vast extended family of friends that so many people mourn her loss and will hold Del in their hearts forever.

STATEMENT ON GAS PRICES AND ENERGY IN THE 14TH DISTRICT

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I am submitting this statement to record my strong and enthusiastic support for achieving independence from foreign oil, continuing our work in moving forward on comprehensive energy policy reform, and finding new alternatives to develop cheap, clean, and renewable energy. Recently, the House of Representatives passed a bipartisan, comprehensive energy bill, which I had the honor of supporting. But when it comes to providing more solutions to overcome our energy crisis, there is still much more to be done.

Earlier this month, on Labor Day, I met with constituents from Illinois' 14th District at the DeKalb Oasis on the Ronald Reagan Memorial Tollway to hear what they had to say about how gas prices and our current energy policy affected them.

While passing the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act was an excellent first step, I firmly believe that we need more relief from high gas prices, and we need a comprehensive energy policy overhaul that provides solutions for the short, medium, and long term. As statements from my constituents show, I am not alone in this concern.

Much of what I heard was familiar. They told me gas prices are too much and are spiraling out of control. They told me they are forced to make new, tough choices as consumers on groceries, transportation, and the other costs of daily life. They told me while they try to cut their spending, there is almost nothing left to cut. They told me that because of gas prices they have to work more at a second job, or the business that employs them can no longer do so because business costs are increasing as well.

I am entering some of what I heard on Labor Day into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD not because the testimony I heard is a surprise, but because it is a wake-up call. We need more bipartisan solutions, and need

them now. We cannot afford to wait. I have repeatedly shown my support for solutions that increase supply, and decrease demand while also pursuing research and development of clean, affordable, alternative energy sources that would make our Nation energy independent. These are solutions I supported when I voted for the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act, and these are solutions I firmly believe we should continue to pursue.

Here are some things I heard from constituent about how gas and energy prices are affecting them.

"How are gas prices affecting my family? Well, first of all I am an educator who could not afford to have a family, not even years ago . . . I have a full-time job, and I now have three part-time jobs so I can pay all my bills. I cut back on travel expenses, which is one expense I could control. I am working more hours at one of my part-time jobs. I never forgot lesson taught by President Carter—I keep my house in the 60s during the winter and 80 degrees in the summer. I do everything I can to keep the house insulated in the summer and winter. I cut back on eating out and on food expenses in general, but not to the point of knowingly putting my health at risk by eating cheaper, but fatty foods."—Kay, DeKalb, IL

"I actually have a car at home, well kind of I paid for half of the vehicle. My sister was driving it while I was here at school, and now that my sister has gone away to college my parents are just taking us off the insurance. They're just keeping the car in the garage," Amanda, of DeKalb, IL, explained to me.

I asked her why she left her car unused. She said it was an expense she could not afford.

"My parents don't think I'd be able to maintain working and paying for the high prices of gas, but you know everything with having to maintain repairs, whatever need be but that gets really expensive so we just thought it would be better off not doing anything."

Amanda was not alone in finding that gas prices and college-related costs very limiting. Gas prices restricted her roommate's options in commuting as well as compounding other expenses like the cost of school and raising a family.

"It's just shopping and whatever, I would like to go home. NIU is nicknamed the suitcase school because so many kids just come for the week and then they go home, but I don't have the ability to do that, I can't go back and work all the time because everything is expensive," Hillary, DeKalb, IL, said.

Hillary pointed out another common sentiment is not just the cost increase of gas prices, but also the speed at which they increased.

"It's kind of a gradual thing of course; our economy being in the status that it is right now and with gas prices rising. It's like everything is happening at once," Hillary continued. "My tuition has gone up and Northern was actually the only school I could afford, even though I'm

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