

**Quote of the Week:** *"But we have to pass the bill so that you can find out what is in it..."*

- *Speaker Nancy Pelosi speaking to a group about the Senate health care bill in Washington, DC on Wednesday.*

**WASPs:** You may not have heard of the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs). I have known about them because the mother of one of my lifelong friends was one of these pilots. During World War II, combat pilots were in short supply in the U.S. and frankly, the same was true amongst our allies and enemies. It took a long time to train pilots and then the mortality rate for them on the front was very high. Starting in 1942, the U.S. Army Air Force started the WASP program to train women to fly aircraft in non-combat situations, often within the U.S., thereby freeing up male pilots for the front lines. Over 1,000 women volunteered and paid their own way to go to Texas to be trained to fly military aircraft. They flew



those aircraft for the balance of the war. 38 died while in service. Two of these wonderful women had lost husbands in combat and then volunteered to serve the cause for which their husbands had died. All were remarkable.

The Congress honored them with the highest civilian honor we can bestow, The Congressional Gold Medal, in a ceremony in the Capitol on Tuesday. Several hundred of these women, including Edna Davis, the woman of whom I spoke earlier, and 3 constituents, made the trek to D.C. to receive their medal. Tom Brokaw was the featured speaker and the ceremony was

celebratory and well done.

As I listened to the stories, I heard about how these women paid their own way to Texas and then volunteered their service for years. They then had to pay their way home and were not considered veterans because they technically were not in the military. They received no veteran's benefits until 1977 and those who died were not even honored with a flag over their coffins. But there they were all of them now at least in their 80s, proud of their service, complaining about nothing, and regaling how they would gladly sign up again... That really got me to thinking. What a change we have gone through since then. These women **SERVED** in the truest sense of the word. They did it without expectation of glory or treasure. They did it simply because it was right and they felt a sense of duty.

After the ceremony ended, we in Congress went back to debating how we need a new health care entitlement. It seems that now we only discuss how we are entitled to free this, and free that, and to have someone else serve us simply because we have the good fortune to take breath in the United States. I was melancholy thinking about how our leadership in Washington today lectures us on what we deserve without being deserving, what we must expect from others when nothing is expected of us, and of how our culture is being trained to be one of entitlement rather than of service. And all the while, they think that it makes us a better country and a better people. It doesn't. Women like the WASPs make us better.

We as a society could learn a great deal from these women. And it's not just about bravery or how to fly. This country was not made great by those who demand their benefits. It has always been made great by those who defend our rights. May God bless them now and forever.

**Earmarks:** Yesterday, the entire House Republican Conference voted to take a 1 year moratorium on requesting ANY earmarks. That means that all Republicans in the House will now join the position that I have held for some years, which is to not request any earmarks whatsoever. Also this week, the Chairman on the House Appropriations Committee, David Obey (D-WI), said that no earmark requests will be approved for 'for-profit' companies in the future. These are very significant steps. It means that the message has finally gotten through to all Republicans and many Democrats that the earmark process is wasteful and corrupting and that it has to change, particularly in these times of unprecedented debt and deficits. There have been only 3 of us who have been relentless on this issue: myself, Jeff Flake (R-AZ) and Jeb Hensarling (R-TX). This is a huge victory for us and a step forward.

But it's not over. House Democrats are still, at this time, going to request earmarks for other purposes and the Senate has yet to agree to any restrictions. And all of these moves are temporary, for this year only, yet permanent solutions to end earmark abuse are required. Also, earmark reform should only be a part of reforming the entire budget process so we can get out of these reckless deficits. We will see if House or Senate Democrats follow our lead.

Health Care: As I write this, news has just broken that the Senate Parliamentarian (the person who is the "judge" over what follows Senate rules and what doesn't) has ruled that Democrats can only use the reconciliation process (requiring only 50 votes to pass in the Senate instead of 60) on health care if a bill is passed and signed into law **FIRST**. That means that the House will have to pass the Senate passed bill as is, complete with the "Cornhusker Kickback," the "Louisiana Purchase," and the "Gator Aid," and have the President sign it into law

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, they can consider 'reconciliation' to make changes. This may make it harder to get the votes in the House, but it appears, at least at this writing, as though Pelosi is close.

More on that on Monday.

Until then, I remain respectfully,

Congressman John Campbell