

Health Care Law's Fate Lies With GOP Justices

WASHINGTON (AP) — Here's a thought that can't comfort President Barack Obama: The fate of his health care overhaul rests with four Republican-appointed Supreme Court justices.

His most sweeping domestic achievement could be struck down if they stand together with Justice Clarence Thomas, another GOP appointee who is the likeliest vote against.

But the good news for Obama is that he probably needs only one of the four to side with him to win approval of the law's crucial centerpiece, the requirement that almost everyone in this country has insurance or pays a penalty.

Lawyers with opposing views of the issue uniformly agree that the four Democratic-appointed justices, including Obama's two picks, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor, will have no trouble concluding that Congress did not overstep its authority in adopting the insurance requirement that is aimed at sharply reducing the now 50 million people without insurance.

On the other side, Thomas has made clear in several cases that he does not take an expansive view of Congress' powers.

Israeli, U.S.: Iran Hasn't Decided On Bomb

JERUSALEM (AP) — Despite saber-rattling from Jerusalem, Israeli officials now agree with the U.S. assessment that Tehran has not yet decided on the actual construction of a nuclear bomb, according to senior Israeli government and defense figures.

Even so, there is great concern in Israel about leaving Iran "on the cusp" of a bomb — explaining why Israel continues to hint at a military attack on Iran's nuclear installations before it moves enough of them underground to protect them from Israel's bombs.

Israel's leaders have been charging in no uncertain terms for years that Iran is trying to build nuclear weapons. Though officials say they accept the more nuanced American view, they warn that it is just a matter of semantics, because an Iran on the verge of being able to build a bomb would still be a danger.

The United States is playing up its assessment that Iran has not made its final decision in a public campaign to persuade Israel to call off any attack plan and allow the increasingly harsh sanctions against Iran time to persuade Tehran to back down.

The concern — which is widely shared in Israel as part of a complex calculation — is of an Iranian retaliation that might spark regional conflict and send oil prices soaring, at a time when the world economy is already struggling and U.S. presidential elections loom.

More Than 2,000 Killed In Yemen Turmoil

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — More than 2,000 people have been killed in a year of political turmoil that led to the resignation of Yemen's longtime president, the government disclosed Sunday. The figure is much higher than human rights groups estimated.

The government released its first casualty figures on a day when crowds of protesters were marking one year since a particularly bloody day, when dozens were killed.

Yemen's Ministry of Human Rights said the figure of at least 2,000 includes both unarmed protesters and military defectors, as well as more than 120 children. It said 22,000 people were wounded over the past year.

The London-based human rights group Amnesty International estimated earlier this year that 200 protesters had been killed in the uprising.

The government of Ali Abdullah Saleh, who stepped down as president last month after more than three decades in power, never released casualty figures.

Occupy Demonstrator: Protesters Were Beaten

NEW YORK (AP) — An Occupy Wall Street protester says police gave demonstrators little warning before kicking them out of a New York City park overnight and that officers beat several of them during the arrests.

The protester, Chris Casuccio, was at Manhattan's Zuccotti Park on Saturday, where demonstrators chanted and held impromptu meetings to mark the six months since the movement against economic inequality.

Police moved in around 11:30 p.m. Detective Brian Sessa says the protesters were arrested after they started breaking the park rules against setting up tents.

Decision 2012

Romney Prevails In Puerto Rico

BY PHILIP ELLIOTT AND BEN FOX
Associated Press



Romney

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Mitt Romney scored an overwhelming win Sunday in Puerto Rico's Republican presidential primary, trouncing chief rival Rick Santorum on the Caribbean island even as the two rivals looked ahead to more competitive contests this week in Illinois and Louisiana.

Romney's wife, Ann, urged Republicans to unite behind her husband. "It's time to come together," she said at a rally in suburban Chicago. "It's time to get behind one candidate and get the job done so we can move on to the next challenge, bringing us one step closer to defeating Barack Obama."

The victory in Puerto Rico was so convincing that Romney, the GOP front-runner, won all 20 delegates to the national convention at stake because he prevailed with more than 50 percent of the vote. That padded his comfortable lead over Santorum in the race to amass the 1,144 delegates needed to clinch the nomination.

Romney announced the Puerto Rico win at the Illinois rally and told the crowd, "I intend to become our nominee and I intend to get Latino voters to vote for a Republican and take back the White House."

Nevertheless, the GOP nomination fight is unlikely to end anytime soon, with Santorum refusing to step aside even though Romney is pulling further ahead in the delegate hunt.

As the day began, Santorum claimed he was in contest for the long haul because Romney is a weak front-runner.

"This is a primary process where somebody had a huge advantage, huge money advantage, huge advantage of establishment support and he hasn't been able to close the deal and even come close to closing the deal," Santorum said. "That tells you that there's a real flaw there."

Yet, Santorum sidestepped when asked if he would fight Romney on the convention floor if he failed before August to stop the former Massachusetts governor from getting the required number of delegates.

Romney, in turn, expressed confidence that he'd prevail.

"I can't tell you exactly how the process is going to work," Romney said. "But I bet I'm going to become the nominee."

Both campaigned in Puerto Rico last week — in a campaign focused on statehood for the U.S. territory — but Romney cut short his trip so he could head to Illinois and Santorum spent Sunday in Louisiana. Illinois, a more moderate Midwestern state, votes Tuesday and is seen as more friendly territory for Romney, while Santorum is the favorite in the more conservative Southern state of Louisiana, which votes Saturday.

After the Puerto Rico victory, Romney had 521 delegates in his camp and Santorum had 253, according to The Associated Press' tally. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich trailed with 136 delegates and Texas Rep. Ron Paul had 50.

Enrique Melendez, the Republican representative on the Puerto Rican State Electoral Commission, told the AP that Romney "won the Puerto Rican primary by a huge margin and we are granting him the 20 delegates."

At this rate, Romney is on pace to capture the nomination in June unless Santorum or Gingrich is able to win decisively in the coming contests.

Both have said they would stay in the race and perhaps force the nomination to a fight at the GOP's convention in Tampa if Romney doesn't amass enough delegates to arrive with a

mandate. That would turn the convention into an intra-party brawl for the first time since 1976.

Even as Santorum declined to commit to forcing a brokered convention, his advisers were working behind the scenes on a plan to persuade convention delegates to switch candidates if the former Pennsylvania senator fails to derail Romney before that.

Romney's aides call this a fantasy scenario even as they try to prevent delegates from defecting.

Half of the states have yet to weigh in on a race with seemingly no end in sight anytime soon. That's prompted fresh speculation within the GOP over whether a contested convention is likely.

Republican National Chairman Reince Priebus insisted that party will have a nominee sooner rather than later.

"We're only at halftime," Priebus said. "I think that this process is going to play itself out. We will have a nominee, I think, fairly soon — one, two months away."

In Puerto Rico, the race was focused on the issue of statehood, and Melendez said, "This proves Gov. Romney's electability and his ability to reach out to Hispanics and minorities."

Whether that's true or not, Romney told Puerto Ricans he would support statehood while Santorum said English would have to be the official language of the island if it were to join the United States — a statement that roiled residents.

"In Puerto Rico, we get along fine with both languages," said Francisco Rodriguez, a 76-year-old architect who supported Romney and hopes Puerto Rico becomes the nation's 51st state.

Award

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direction," Luken said. "One of Mr. Dullerud's sons located an image of an elk that he really liked along with other photos to be etched on the stone."

The front of the stone featured not only the elk but also a personal photo and a mountain scene. The back of the monument featured a large family photo at the top with three smaller photos underneath.

"Once the information and photographs were in our hands, we designed a unique contour that incorporated all the details that told a story of the family," Luken said. "The photos were a challenge to etch due to their resolution, so I approached it with an artistic eye

and substantial time in front of a computer monitor."

The editing process can take hours, even the equivalent of days, Luken said.

The stone was cut to a specific contour drawn by Luken. The cutting is normally done at the quarry, he said, but this granite came from overseas and the cutting was done in the United States using a diamond band saw.

"It's computer driven and controlled," he said. "They cut the contour very precise."

Technology greatly helps the process, but it's not simply a matter of pushing a button, Luken said.

"Generally, any monument takes roughly 10 weeks to produce from start to finish," he said. "Some (monuments) are more detailed, and it also depends on the type of granite. If (the stone) comes from overseas, it can take

quite a long time. There are a lot of different quarries around the world that we buy from, and we are very particular."

The Dullerud family couldn't be reached for this story, but Luken said he received positive feedback on the finished project.

"With any monument, we show a rendering of what it looks like. The Dullerud family was very impressed with the layout. It's what they wanted, but I didn't know how it was going to turn out," he said. "The end result was a success. The family continually invites friends to the rural cemetery to show the beautiful tribute."

Luken received an unsolicited — and unexpected — testimonial from Sharon Dullerud about her late husband's stone.

"My family and I went Christmas shopping in Sioux Falls, and I got really interested hearing this gal standing next to me, talking to

another lady about her monument," Luken said.

"I took a special interest because there just aren't that many conversations about monuments. The woman was talking about how much the family loved it, and she wanted to take this other gal to see it. The more she talked about the details, the more I realized this was Mrs. Dullerud."

Luken couldn't resist checking the woman's identity.

"I walked over to her and asked if she was Mrs. Dullerud. It was her, and I had heard covertly how much she loved the monument," he said.

"You always assume that people like (your work), but you like to hear someone talk about how much they like it."

The Dullerud stone, showing both the front and back sides, can be found online at www.lukenmemorials.com.

OBITUARIES

Helen Koupal

WAGNER — Helen M. Koupal, 76, of Wagner died Friday, March 16, 2012 at the Good Samaritan Society in Wagner.

Funeral Mass will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at the Assumption Catholic Church in Dante. Burial is in St. Leo's Catholic Cemetery in Tyndall.

Visitation is Monday from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner. Rosary/Wake services are 7:30 p.m. Monday, at the church.

Helen Marie Koupal was born January 10, 1936 at Tyndall, SD, the daughter of John and Frances (Zapletal) Bartekoske. She died Friday, March 16, 2012 at the Good Samaritan Society in Wagner, SD. Helen attained the age of 76 years, two months and six days.

Helen attended Steckly Country School east of Tyndall and graduated from Tyndall High School in 1954. Following high school, she worked in Tyndall at the Bon Homme County Courthouse in the Register of Deeds office.

Helen was united in marriage to Lyle Joseph Koupal on October 24, 1955 at St. Leo Catholic Church in Tyndall. Together they farmed on the family farm south of Dante until retiring in 2002 due to Lyle's failing health. Lyle and Helen remained living on the homestead until October 3, 2011, when they became residents of the Good Samaritan Society in Wagner. She also worked part-time in the office at the Wagner Livestock Sales in Wagner.

Helen was a member of Assumption Catholic Church in Dante, St. Mary's Altar Society, St. Mary's Altar Society officer, CCD Religious Board, CCD Religious Board officer, CCD Religious Coordinator, CCD Religious Instructor, Catholic Daughters of America, National Catholic Society of Foresters



Koupal

and Dante Card Club.

Helen will be remembered for her love of birds, polka music, dancing and her large frog collection. She loved baking and making kolaches for her grandsons. Her two large gardens on the farm and her flowers were her pride and joy.

Thankful for having shared her life are her three children: Cynthia and husband Richard Ludens of Springfield; Ronald D. Koupal of Dante; and Julie and husband Randy Rysavy of Wagner; five grandsons: Kyle Schneider and fiancée Sarah Monen of Sioux Falls; John and Monte Rysavy, both of Wagner and Michael and David Ludens, both of Springfield; two great granddaughters: Eleanor (Monen) and Elsie Schneider of Sioux Falls; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Lavina (Koupal) and Bill Ruhl of Davenport, IA; sister-in-law, Helen Koupal (Mrs. Nilus) of Davenport, IA; four nephews and a niece.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband, Lyle on October 22, 2011; her parents; and brothers-in-law: Nilus and Lambert Koupal.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
March 19, 2012

Hanna Goeken

Hanna Grace Goeken, 43, died Friday, March 9, 2012, in Yankton.

A memorial service for Hanna will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 20, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton.

Mildred Balfany

Mildred E. Balfany, age 94, of Sioux Falls, SD and formerly of Yankton, SD passed away Friday, March 16, 2012 at the Bethany Lutheran Home, Sioux Falls, SD.

Funeral service will be 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton, with Rev. Paul M. Opsahl officiating. Burial will be in the Yankton Cemetery.

Visitations will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Mildred Garvey was born April 23, 1917 and passed away on March 16, 2012 while receiving family and hospice care at Bethany Lutheran Home in Sioux Falls, SD. The youngest of 12 children, her independent spirit which would be utilized throughout her life, developed out of necessity after the passing of her



Balfany

mother when she was very young. In the early 1930s she met M.J. (Jack) Balfany while she was working for his brother in a restaurant and they married shortly thereafter. She and Jack eventually started their own restaurant business and spent the next 40+ years working side by side. At the time of their retirement in the early 1970s, it was estimated that they had cooked over 4 million hamburgers in their restaurant career! Balfany's Dari Bar was a meeting place for many and although there wasn't much seating space there was always room for one more! Mildred's cole slaw recipe was much sought after and has yet to be duplicated! After her retirement from the

restaurant business, she loved spending summers working for family friends Chick and Elda Abourezk at Evans Plunge in Hot Springs, SD. She also spent many years working in the Yankton Rex-all gift shop where she was happy to once again establish contact with the Yankton public.

Family and food played major roles in Mildred's life. She enjoyed spending time with her sisters which usually revolved around a family picnic or having coffee—rarely was she seen without a coffee cup in her hand. She enjoyed spending time with her children and their families, loved to "go for a ride" and was always ready to play the nickel slot machines whenever she was given the opportunity.

She is survived by her son, Tom (Lynn), daughter, Vicci and daughter-in-law Jane. She is also survived by grandchildren: Lori

Brosz and Jeff Brosz, Abby Balfany and Molly Kintzley, Tait Balfany and Megan Jaques, and Teddi Mueller, Jake Lanning and Chauncey Lanning. Additionally, she was lucky enough to know 9 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by many including an infant son, husband Jack, daughter Connie Brosz, son Jack and grandson Brian. She will be missed by many others whose lives she impacted in a variety of ways. Blessed be her memory.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
March 19, 2012



OPSAHL-KOSTEL
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Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Visitation is 2-5 p.m. Tuesday at Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home, Avon. Rosary/wake services are at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the church.

Susan Marrinan

Susan Faye Marrinan, 63, of Naples, Fla., died Tuesday, March 13, 2012. Her family surrounded her at the time of her death.

Funeral services are at 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, at Kober Funeral Home, Vermillion, with burial to follow at Bluff View Cemetery, Vermillion.

Visitation with video tribute is 5-7 p.m. tonight (Monday) at Kober Funeral Home, Vermillion, with a prayer service to follow at 7 p.m.

Helen Slagle

Helen M. (Schramm) Slagle, 83, of Yankton died Saturday, March 17, 2012, at Dougherty Hospice House, Sioux Falls.

Services will take place at a later date.

Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, is in charge of the arrangements.

Leona Kocmich

AVON — Leona Kocmich, 83, of Avon died Saturday, March 17, 2012, at the Wagner Community Memorial Hospital.

Funeral Mass is at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Assumption Catholic Church, Dante. Burial is in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, rural Dante.

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Please Join Us On
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"Europe: Wars Within a War"

Narrated by Walter Cronkite & produced by CBS News.

Although this is part of the series, you do not need to have seen the previous videos to enjoy this feature!

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HONORING THEIR MEMORY
Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them

Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

James Malcomson
who passed away on
March 19, 2011

Vilo A. Oswald
who passed away on
March 19, 1997

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory. Guiding and serving families with compassion and trust.

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