

Selma, AL. He has continually fought for the independence of Cyprus, preservation of Greece, and enhanced United States-Greek relations. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1980 by President Jimmy Carter. He is a magnificent and stalwart friend of American Jewry, voiced support for Soviet Jews, and has been a strong advocate for Israel.

This extraordinary spiritual and religious leader has been a very sensitive pastor at every level. His warm pastoral dimension expresses itself to not only his own people, but to people of all religions, cultures, and nationalities. Beyond fulfilling his duties to the Church, he has been a leader in the cause of justice in America and all over the world. I know all of my colleagues join with me in wishing this extraordinary individual the very best in his retirement.

THE MEDICARE PRESERVATION
ACT OF 1995

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 1995

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Medicare crisis to share with my colleagues the suggestions I have received from my constituents about how best to preserve, protect, and strengthen Medicare.

In April, when the Medicare trustees issued their annual report which stated quite clearly that the Medicare Trust Fund would be bankrupt in 7 years, I felt it was my duty to inform the people of the 11th Congressional District of the problem.

I mailed the facts of the trustees report to over 22,000 people in my district. I met with the presidents of nearly every senior citizens club in the area. I listened to thousands of Medicare beneficiaries at Morristown Memorial Hospital, the Morris Plains VFW, and at St. Clare's Riverside Medical Center in Denville. In addition to discussing the Medicare crisis, I also asked people for suggestions on how we could save and improve the program, while holding down costs.

Mr. Speaker, the response has been overwhelming. Who better to suggest ways to improve Medicare than the very people who have to deal with the system every day? As you might imagine, the meetings yielded a litany of suggestions. A man from Sparta suggested that Medicare should have a better verification system to weed out overcharges and duplication of services rendered. A couple from Livingston strongly suggested that millions of dollars could be saved by reducing the mountains of paperwork involved in the Medicare bureaucracy.

The responses touched on other subjects as well. At the Morris Plains VFW, several people indicated that more preventive care was needed such as mammograms, prostate screenings, and diabetes screening. I agree. This would not only help reduce costs but greatly improve people's health and I was surprised that the current Medicare program was weak in this area. If we can keep people healthier and provide routine health care and appropriate checkups, we can avoid using the most costly method of health care which is the emergency room.

I have listened to all of these concerns and brought them back to Washington. In fact, I applaud the leadership for giving Members an opportunity to testify on behalf of our constituents. I was pleased to have that opportunity, and testified on September 7, on what I have learned from the people of the 11th Congressional District. One constant theme was that the people know there is a problem, and they want to be part of the solution. If we do not give them that opportunity, Mr. Speaker, then we have really solved nothing at all.

To be sure, I will continue this thoughtful and important discussion and listen to these very knowledgeable people. Last week, when the preliminary Medicare preservation options were presented to us, I called for a series of town meetings so that my constituents could share the exact information given to me on possible solutions and plans to strengthen Medicare. I am sure they will take a hard look at these options, and will continue to provide guidance for me and this Congress as we fulfill our responsibility to preserve Medicare for all Americans—present beneficiaries as well as the next generation. The Medicare Preservation Act is just that, a comprehensive plan to ensure a better Medicare.

On September 16, hundreds of older Americans attended two town meetings in Fairfield and Parsippany, and listened to the broad outline of the proposed Medicare Preservation Act. I expect that the turnout will be even heavier this weekend, September 23, when we continue the Medicare discussions at town meetings in Roxbury and Madison.

I welcome this open exchange of ideas and encourage my colleagues to continue the dialogue with the American people on how to save this important program. While it is very easy to be sidetracked in Washington by special interest groups, media hype, and partisan politics, listening to people on a face-to-face level permits a much clearer message to emerge.

Mr. Speaker, the message that I hear more and more is that we know there is a problem and we are willing to fix it. They have said that Medicare is indeed important for us but is also important for our children and grandchildren. And finally, they tell me that if Medicare is really going bankrupt, then we as Members of Congress have a responsibility to save it.

I have confidence that we are moving toward fulfilling that responsibility, and I thank the thousands of people in the 11th Congressional District for their guidance on these very complex issues. Their willingness, contributions, and suggestions will assure successful reforms of the Medicare program and its preservation. I am fortunate to be their Representative, and am also fortunate to help deliver a comprehensive plan which will ensure a better Medicare system for years to come.

THE COMPENSATORY TIME FOR
ALL WORKERS ACT OF 1995

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 1995

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing "The Compensatory Time for All Workers Act of 1995" which would allow private sector employers to offer employees the

choice of taking time-and-a-half compensatory time as payment for overtime. In 1938, the Fair Labor Standards Act [FLSA] was written for a predominantly male work force and a marketplace primarily comprised of manufacturing firms. These demographics have dramatically changed. Today, women make up a much greater percentage of the work force, private enterprise is dominated by service and high technology industries rather than heavy manufacturing, global competition has significantly increased, and the lines between white and blue collar workers have been blurred.

The FLSA, however, has failed to keep pace with these changes and, as such, restricts the ability of employers to meet the needs of their work force. The Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, which I chair, has heard from employees and employers of large and small companies, and State and local governments on a variety of problems which they face because of the act.

Currently, the FLSA impedes an employer's ability to accommodate employee requests for greater flexibility in scheduling. Companies who want to be family friendly find that flexible scheduling can be extremely difficult for those employees who are covered by the act and whose hours must be kept track of. Suppose an employee has a terminally ill parent who lives several States away. Days off with pay can become precious for that employee when a 2-day weekend does not provide enough time to travel and spend time with that parent. Thus, when that employee works a few hours overtime each week, he or she may prefer to be paid with time off rather than money. However, the FLSA says the employee must receive money instead and is therefore forced to use previous paid leave to spend time with the ill parent.

In 1985, Congress provided the public sector with the flexibility to use compensatory time in lieu of overtime pay. Congress has gone even further in providing flexibility for Federal workers. In 1978, Congress passed the Federal Employees Flexible and Compressed Work Schedules Act, which enabled Federal workers to arrange alternative work schedules which meet their personal needs and their employers' needs. This was so successful that Congress reauthorized the program in 1982 and 1985. President Clinton acknowledged the benefit of flexible scheduling when he directed all executive departments and agencies to expand their use of flexible family friendly work arrangements in a memorandum on July 11, 1994. In issuing the memorandum, Mr. Clinton stated, "broad use of flexible work arrangements to enable Federal employees to better balance their work and family responsibilities can increase employee effectiveness and job satisfaction, while decreasing turnover rates and absenteeism."

It is time that private sector employees be given greater flexibility similar to what the public sector has enjoyed for some time. This legislation would allow employers to offer employees compensatory time off in lieu of overtime pay under an agreement with the employee. If an employer made compensatory time available, employees would be free to choose to have their overtime compensated with cash or with paid time off. As with overtime pay, the compensatory time would accrue at a rate of time and a half. Employees who prefer to receive overtime pay would be free to choose this. Similarly, employers would have the

choice of continuing to compensate their employees with overtime pay only. Employees who do not use the compensatory time would be paid for the time at the end of the year.

The FLSA currently stands in the way of companies who attempt to utilize flexible human resource strategies in order to allow workers to pursue more fulfilling combinations of work, family life, and other interests. As the percentage of employees who must balance work and family issues grows rapidly, there is more and more pressure from employees for increased control over their work schedule. Flexibility in the workplace continues to rank high on the list of issues of major concern to most employees. This legislation would allow employers to provide employees with the choice of overtime pay or compensatory time to help ease the burdens of juggling work and personal responsibilities.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 1995

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of my hometown parish, Holy Trinity Church in Nanticoke, PA. This Sunday, September 24, Bishop James C. Timlin will celebrate the Pontifical Celebration Mass of Thanksgiving in honor of the church's centennial.

According to historical documents, the church was founded when a group of Polish immigrants separated from another local parish to form the Holy Trinity Church. The cornerstone of the original church was laid on May 4, 1885. Rev. Francis Hodur, Holy Trinity's first pastor, led the church for 2 years. Seven different pastors served the church in the 20 years following Father Hodur. In 1919 Father Roman Wieziolowski began 48 years of service at Holy Trinity Church. Under his leadership a brick school with eight classrooms was built in 1923 and 3 years later, construction of the present church was begun. Five years later the church was completed at a cost of \$225,000. By then, the parish had 1,000 families and the school was always filled to capacity.

In 1967 Father Walter Poplawski, who had served as an assistant under Father Wieziolowski, was appointed Pastor. Under his guidance repairs and modernization were undertaken to meet the liturgical renewal. Father Poplawski considered Catholic education a priority during his leadership at Holy Trinity and worked with other area pastors to merge the Nanticoke area Catholic schools into a central school system, which became the Pope John Paul II School. This newly formed school, which is housed at Holy Trinity and St. Stanislaus Churches, still serves the youth of the Nanticoke area.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to bring the history of Holy Trinity to the attention of my colleagues. An integral part of the religious community of northeastern Pennsylvania, Holy Trinity Church has a tradition of dedicated service to the faithful. I join with the community in congratulating the Holy Trinity Church on this milestone anniversary.

SALUTING THE ALLIANCE OF POLES OF AMERICA

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute an organization in my congressional district which will celebrate its centennial anniversary. During the period of September 23 to 24, 1995, the Alliance of Poles of America will mark 100 proud years of existence. Since its founding in 1895, the organization has been an integral part of the Cleveland community.

The Alliance of Poles of America was founded for the purpose of uniting citizens of Polish descent and, by doing so, maintaining important traditions and ties. It is an organization which has proven to be extremely beneficial to both American Poles and Polish immigrants. Under the leadership of its national president, John Borkowski, the Alliance of Poles has fostered educational and social programs to serve its membership.

Mr. Speaker, the alliance offers low-cost home mortgage loans; its credit union provides auto and personal loans; and the organization provides assistance to its elderly members. The Alliance of Poles also sponsors a Polish school which teaches children the Polish language and culture. In addition, classes are held for adults, and college scholarships are offered to qualified members. On the cultural front, the alliance sustains a Polish library which is unequalled in the Greater Cleveland area, a Polish theater group, and an adult dance group. The organization also publishes a newsletter, the Alliance, in both the Polish and English language. I am proud to note that the Alliance of Poles of America has shown a special concern for those who are less fortunate. The alliance raises funds for blind children in Poland, and contributes to veterans organizations, community groups, churches, and other worthy causes.

Mr. Speaker, to mark its historic centennial celebration, the Alliance of Poles of America will host a centennial banquet, a grand parade, and a special mass. It is expected that a host of elected officials, community leaders, and other distinguished guests will join members of the alliance for these events.

As the Representative of Ohio's 11th Congressional District, I take special pride in saluting the Alliance of Poles of America. Over the years, I have benefited from a close working relationship with members of this distinguished organization on issues of both national and international significance. I applaud the organization for its leadership, and I extend my best wishes for a memorable centennial celebration.

TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE L. MURRAY

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 1995

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to recognize the achievements and contributions of Larry Murray, who is retiring after 21 years as

the founder and director of the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan. His work and dedication have been superb over the years. He will be sorely missed by our community and the people he has come in contact with.

A native of Pittsburgh, PA, Larry attended elementary and high school there. He went on to graduate from Duquesne University in his hometown. In 1939, Larry began his professional career as a sales trainee for the United States Gypsum Co. After learning the ropes of the industry, he rose quickly through the ranks and eventually became the company's national sales manager of insulation products. Three years after he began his first job, Larry enlisted in the U.S. Army to serve his country during World War II. Four years after enlisting Larry was honorably discharged, and he returned to his job with the United States Gypsum Co. He remained with the company and began his association with Grand Rapids, MI.

Larry remained involved in the gypsum industry for another 14 years, working as a sales manager for the Grand Rapids Gypsum Co. Midway through his tenure with the company Larry was appointed as vice president of sales and marketing. As vice president, he oversaw all phases of the marketing program including prices, policies, and profits. In 1970, he retired from the gypsum industry to pursue a personal business venture. From 1970 to 1974, Larry owned and operated a consulting service geared toward the construction industry.

In 1974, Larry was appointed as director of the newly developed Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan. The agency is responsible for planning, coordinating, and serving as a funding agency for older adult programs in nine-county area. As director of the agency, Larry dedicated himself to providing the best possible services for area seniors.

Larry's contributions to the care of seniors have been recognized not only by the citizens of west Michigan but also across the Nation. Throughout his 21 years with the Area Agency on Aging, Larry has been applauded by his peers and recognized with awards and leadership roles on various boards. He is one of the founders of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging and served on the first board of directors for two terms. In 1986, he received the "Distinguished Area Agency Director Award for the United States" from the director of 675 Area Agencies on Aging in the United States. He also served as a representative to the 1981 White House Conference on Aging. This litany of activities demonstrates that he has been very active on State and national levels in promoting aging related issues.

Not only has Larry blessed many people with his commitment to helping, he has also been blessed with a wonderful, caring family. Providing support over the years for this dedicated man have been his wife Mary Lou of 52 years, and his children Dr. Lawrence Murray III, Patrick J. Murray, Mary Anne Timmer, and Jim Murray.

Mr. Speaker, I have only touched the surface of the many contributions Larry has made to our community. I want to personally thank him for all that he has done in marking west Michigan a better place for the seniors of our community. It is with great pleasure that I take this time today to honor the many achievements and contributions of this outstanding and dedicated citizen.