

survival and development. Mr. Francois has never hesitated to speak out and fight against political abuse and corruption. In 1982, Joseph Francois personally drove nonstop from New York City to Albany to deliver legal briefs to the New York State Court of Appeals in the case where the Kings County political machine plotted to rob congressional candidate MAJOR OWENS of a Democratic Party primary election victory. His heroic ride to meet the filing deadline resulted in the declaration by the State's highest court that MAJOR OWENS was unquestionably the winner of that 1982 election.

Along with Mr. Francois' dedication to his community, in addition to his traditional educational achievements, he completed 4 years of theological training and was ordained a Deacon by the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens.

Married and a resident of Brooklyn, NY, Joseph Francois' distinguished life marks one of dedication to community, to God, and to family. Undoubtedly, his input in New York State legislative policy, outstanding research, and effective design of programs have improved the overall quality of life for many children, men, women, and families. Joseph Francois is a great "Point-of-Light," not only for the people of his New York community, but for all of the people of America.

#### ANNIVERSARY OF THE KILLING OF LEON KLINGHOFFER

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 1995*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, it has been 10 years since a band of terrorists hijacked the *Achille Lauro* cruise ship, holding the crew and passengers hostage for several days.

It has also been 10 years since these murderous terrorists shot to death Leon Klinghoffer, a wheelchair-bound American citizen, and threw his body and his wheelchair overboard. This hijacking and murder stunned all of us, and showed us—in no uncertain terms—that terrorism threatens all Americans.

In the decade since the *Achille Lauro* incident, we have seen many more incidents of terrorism around the world and in this country. Each incident underscores that we need to pass tough antiterrorism legislation. We cannot tolerate the terrible and cowardly acts of violence that have rocked the United States and the world. It is time to close the door on terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, Leon Klinghoffer's death was a horrible tragedy. And now, a decade later, it is clear that we have not done enough to stop terrorism. We must do more to ensure that no other families face the tragedy that Mr. Klinghoffer faced 10 years ago. We must pass tough antiterrorism legislation.

JACK LASKOWSKI, A TRUE  
LEADER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 1995*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, many of us know how important the labor movement has been

for the improvement of working conditions and fair compensation for millions of Americans. None of this would have happened if it had not been for tireless, visionary individuals who were willing to work on behalf of their coworkers. Jack Laskowski, the current director of UAW region 1D, has been such an individual who is being honored for his dedication at a retirement party this Friday.

Jack has been a member of UAW Local 362 since 1958 when he started to work at General Motors' CPC Powertrain plant in Bay City. He followed on the traditions established by his father, Walter "Bullet" Laskowski, who took part in the UAW's first strike at the Chevrolet plant in Bay City in 1936, which led to the formation of Local 362.

Since 1958, Jack has served as a member of the bargaining committee, chaired by his father. He also was a benefit plans representative and editor of the local paper until he joined the staff of the international union. Jack served on the staff of 1D since 1971, and then became the assistant director in June 1986, and finally director on June 17, 1992. He has been a vital component of labor's presence in Saginaw, Bay City, and the northern portion of Michigan's lower peninsula.

Jack's involvement in matters affecting people extend beyond his activities in the UAW. He has served as a member of organizations like the NAACP and the Coalition of Labor Union Women. He served a 3-year term as a city commissioner of Bay City. He has throughout his adult life been active in the Democratic Party, including his current membership of the Kent County Democratic Party executive committee.

He and his wife Sally also raised three wonderful sons, Greg, Tim, and Mike, who have become a bilingual special education teacher, a director of labor at Occupational Health Care, and another generation of GM worker and member of UAW Local 2031, respectively.

I have had the good fortune to know Jack personally for many years. I consider him to be a friend, a capable advisor, and someone I am proud to know. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of a career of devotion and a lifetime of leadership, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing Jack Laskowski a happy, and well-deserved retirement from his years with the United Auto Workers.

#### TRIBUTE TO MOTHER MARTHA OVERALL

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 1995*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mother Martha Overall, who was honored for her tireless contributions in the service of the community on October 6 at the 1995 St. Benedict the Moor Neighborhood Center's dinner dance, in the South Bronx.

Mother Overall is one of eight individuals who were recognized for their remarkable success in helping rehabilitate individuals who had been struggling with substance abuse. The rehabilitation program is being implemented at St. Benedict the Moor Neighborhood Center.

A native New Yorker, Mother Overall finished law school at New York University. Soon

she was helping tenants and providing volunteer legal services for the improvement of residential buildings.

While taking care of an ailing brother who died from AIDS, she was called to the priesthood. She received a master's in divinity from Union Theological Seminary. Mother Overall was ordained at the Cathedral of St. John The Divine and began working at St. Ann's Episcopal Church, next door to St. Benedict the Moor.

In her public and private life, she has never given up the commitment to help those who need her. Mother Overall became the mother of her godson Joey Daniel Spearman II, after his biological mother died from breast cancer. Her dedication to the community has gained her the admiration and respect of all of us in the South Bronx.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mother Overall for her immense love and devotion in helping those who are the least fortunate among us.

#### LEGISLATION TO ENCOURAGE FRANCE TO HALT NUCLEAR TESTING

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 1995*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Congressman FALEOMAVAEGA and Congressman STARK have joined me in introducing legislation today to encourage the French Government to stop exploding nuclear test devices. Despite an international nuclear testing moratorium in effect since 1992 and the important progress made by the permanent extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, France has detonated two nuclear test devices at its facilities in the South Pacific. Additional tests are planned.

This legislation is very straightforward: Until France's nuclear tests stop, the bill makes importing France's celebrated Beaujolais wine more expensive in the United States and therefore less palatable to American consumers.

As this year's ripe French grapes are pressed into another vintage of France's prized Beaujolais wine, French nuclear testing in the South Pacific is reaping a bitter harvest: A harvest of worldwide criticism, protest, and censure. We are sending France a clear and simply message: To paraphrase Ernest and Julio Gallo "You will sell no wine during testing time."

The bill increases the current import fee on Beaujolais by 800 percent. All France needs to do to stop this year's Beaujolais from going down the tubes is to stop testing nuclear weapons.

The French Government has pledged to sign a comprehensive test ban next year that will outlaw all future nuclear test explosions. President Chirac recently has said that France will shorten its planned series of test explosions in the South Pacific. In addition, last Friday, France promised to sign the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty by the first half of 1996. These steps are encouraging. However, France should take them now instead of making promises while continuing to blow up nuclear test devices on fragile coral reefs in the middle of the ocean.

France's underground nuclear test explosions at these reefs produce radioactive materials that will, over time, leak into the surrounding environment. In fact, scientific studies conducted in the area around the test site have found evidence that this is already occurring. In 1987, marine researcher Jacques Cousteau examined the reefs and collected water samples. In his report, Cousteau indicated that the water samples contained concentrations of the radioactive isotope cesium-134. Cousteau also noted that reefs are the "worst possible choice" for locating a test site because of the potential for leakage of radioactive contamination.

In addition to environmental damage, French nuclear testing also severely undermines ongoing efforts to conclude a CTB outlawing all tests for all time. French testing slows the momentum toward global nuclear disarmament which was achieved at the U.N. conference permanently extending the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

I am pleased that Congressman FALEOMAVAEGA and Congressman STARK have joined me in this effort, and I hope that France listens to the message we are sending today and stops testing immediately.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SONNY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 1995*

Mr. BONO. Mr. Speaker, on October 12, 1995, I was unavoidably delayed and missed rollcall vote No. 713, final passage of the Omnibus Civilian Science Authorization Act of 1995, H.R. 2405. If I were present, I would have voted "aye," in support of final passage.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN T. AND LORRAINE HEDRICH

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 1995*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John T. and Lorraine Hedrich as they are recognized for their vast contribution to polka and the State of Michigan. John and Lorraine were inducted into the State of Michigan Polka Music Hall of Fame on Sunday, October 1, 1995.

America was built by the hard work and commitment of settlers who brought with them a rich and varied heritage. Polka flourished in Michigan largely due to the devotion of those who brought with them their families' traditions and customs, as well as their love of polka. John and Lorraine are two of those special individuals who are proud to keep an honored tradition alive.

John T. Hedrich of Chesaning, MI has been playing the drums since the age of 5. His wife Lorraine has been playing the accordion since she was 11 years old. John and Lorraine first met in 1962 when Lorraine played with John's Hot Shots at the Quaker Inn in Coruna. The two were married in February of 1965. In 1973 they began playing together in a two-piece band still known today as The J & L

Bluetones. Currently, John and Lorraine are members of the Saginaw Musical Association Local 57.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to John and Lorraine's efforts, we are all able to enjoy an old musical tradition from many years ago. They were honored at a reception in Owosso, MI because of their dedication and commitment to spreading the polka tradition and helping others enjoy this special music. I am confident that the musical legacy of these outstanding individuals will be remembered for decades to come.

#### MEDICARE

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 1995*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting my Washington Report for Wednesday, October 18, 1995 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE GINGRICH MEDICARE PLAN

Congress will consider soon proposals to reform the Medicare system. Everybody agrees that reducing the growth in Medicare spending is essential to eliminating the federal budget deficit, but there is disagreement over the level of cuts that should be made.

Is the Medicare system broke? Medicare consists of a Part A program, which pays for hospitalization of older Americans and is financed through a payroll tax of 2.9% of wages, half paid by employers and half by employees; and a voluntary Part B program, which covers doctor bills and outpatient expenses and is financed by general tax revenues and monthly premiums paid by beneficiaries.

Part B is not in danger of bankruptcy because it is financed from general revenues. The Part A trust fund, however, will not have enough money to fully cover the benefits required by law, according to the program's trustees. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which oversees the federal budget, and the Medicare trustees say that \$90 billion in cutbacks are needed to ensure the future solvency of Part A over the next 10 years. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the non-partisan budget arm of Congress, estimates that around \$150 billion in cutbacks are needed for the next 10 years, which is as far as CBO will measure it.

The trustees have issued similar findings for almost every year since 1970, and Congress and the President have always raised taxes or adjusted benefits in plenty of time to prevent bankruptcy. The real problem for Medicare is long term. Its costs are growing rapidly and soaking up a large share of the federal budget. Significant structural changes are necessary early in the next century. To illustrate, there are almost 4 workers paying taxes for each person covered by Medicare today. The ratio will fall to 2½ workers per beneficiary in 2025.

Why are costs increasing? The costs of Medicare are increasing for two basic reasons. First, the population is getting older and living longer—which means more health care problems, greater health care spending and more demands on the Medicare system as the number of beneficiaries climbs (there are presently 37 million Medicare beneficiaries). Second, health care costs are rising, driven largely by inflation and the advance of medical technology.

What is Speaker Gingrich's plan? Speaker Gingrich would cut \$270 billion from pro-

jected Medicare spending over 7 years. He would control costs by shifting beneficiaries into private plans and Medical Savings Accounts, holding down payments to doctors and hospitals, and doubling premiums paid by beneficiaries.

Does the plan cut Medicare benefits or just slow the rate of growth in spending? The answer is both. To provide the benefits required under current law, the amount the government spends for each Medicare beneficiary is projected to rise from the current level of \$4,800 to \$8,400 in 2002. Gingrich's plan would reduce the projected increase to \$6,700 per beneficiary. The increase, however, would be inadequate to keep pace with inflation and more expensive medical treatments. Consequently, Medicare will buy fewer services for each beneficiary.

Will Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs) and managed care networks save money? Gingrich's plan relies on MSAs and managed care to save money. MSAs offer retirees the option to buy with government money a catastrophic policy to cover large medical bills along with a tax-free savings account to pay routine medical bills. The MSA in his plan may include a \$10,000 deductible. This option appeals mostly to healthy retirees who expect small medical bills and therefore could expect tax-free buildup of money in the MSA. The sicker patients would remain in Medicare, driving up costs.

Gingrich's plan also seeks to generate savings by encouraging seniors to enroll in managed care networks, such as health maintenance organizations. The theory behind managed care is that networks can offer more comprehensive coverage than traditional fee-for-service plans because they are better able to hold down costs. Managed care may save money (at least in the near term), but it also entails less physician choice for beneficiaries.

Does the plan add up? CBO has indicated that Gingrich's plan falls short of the projected savings of \$270 billion. Gingrich proposes a "fail-safe" to make up for any shortfall by taking additional (but unspecified) budget-cutting steps in the future, such as further reducing payments to doctors and hospitals.

Are there alternative plans? An alternate House plan has been introduced which would make \$90 billion in cuts over seven years, the amount recommended by Medicare trustees to ensure Medicare's solvency for 10 years. The plan includes modest reductions in hospital payments, limits on physician reimbursement, tough fraud and abuse prevention, and a commission to address the long-term solvency of Medicare. There would be no increased costs to beneficiaries. A similar plan has been introduced in the Senate.

What is my view: I believe that Medicare must be cut and reformed, but changes have to be made in such a way to protect the lower income elderly and the disabled who lack the means to buy their own health care. The Gingrich plan extracts two to three times what is necessary in order to help pay for a huge tax cut, and does this too fast. We need to ease up on Medicare and find savings elsewhere.

Managed care should be an option, but we do not want to shove beneficiaries into it if they prefer to choose their own doctor. The Gingrich plan will likely make physician choice too expensive for beneficiaries, and could push doctors into managed care arrangements. We should also eliminate the "fail-safe" devices in the Speaker's plan which will bring about direct price controls.

Medicare is a vitally important program to the American people and it must be protected. The congressional leadership and the President must work together in a cooperative spirit to ensure the program continues