

the law has been exercised with a deep respect for the law, balanced with his respect for humanity.

Pete was one of eight children, born in 1930 in what is now Jim Thorpe, PA. Educated in local schools, he served with the 14th Division of the U.S. Army in Germany for 3 years. For 18 years Pete served as a business consultant, but turned his interests to law enforcement in the mid-1960's. He attended a local community college and studying criminal law and medical-legal investigation. Pete was appointed Justice of the Peace under Gov. William Scranton from 1968 to 1970.

In 1971, he became Chief Deputy Sheriff of Carbon County under Sheriff Louise D. Lisella. He was then elected sheriff in 1976 serving four consecutive terms in that capacity. Pete was the top vote-getter in each of his elections. During his tenure, Pete saw the need for a new correctional facility and worked hard to bring the idea to reality. In January 1995, the new facility was dedicated.

Pete's expertise and leadership was acknowledged by the Pennsylvania Sheriff's Association in the many positions he held on that board and finally as its president in 1986. He still serves on the board of trustees for the association.

Mr. Speaker, Sheriff Peter Hoherchak has been a dedicated public servant for almost 30 years. He not only serves his community in a professional capacity but also does valuable volunteer work for the community. He remains a leader in the Carbon County Democratic organization. He and his wife Claire are the proud parents of one son and four daughters and have six grandchildren. I am extremely proud of my long friendship with this outstanding public official. I join with the community in thanking Pete for a job well done and wish him many happy years of retirement.

IN HONOR OF ELEANOR
TIEFENWERTH, A LEADER OF
THE COMMUNITY WHO SERVES
THE PEOPLE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Eleanor Tiefenwerth, a citizen who exhibits never-ending dedication to the community. She will be honored by the Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation at their 30th Annual Dinner Dance on November 17, 1995.

The Bayonne Economic Foundation is a social service agency in its 30th year. The foundation is dedicated to serving the people of the community through various outreach programs, including Head Start and Meals On Wheels. The foundation's slogan is "People Helping People". Mrs. Tiefenwerth exemplifies this motto.

Mrs. Tiefenwerth, a native of Bayonne, is a graduate of Jersey City State College. While a volunteer with the Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation, Mrs. Tiefenwerth developed the skills which she retains as its executive director. She has been instrumental in increasing the level of services the foundation offers to the community. These innovations include providing crosstown transportation for both senior citizens and the disabled.

In addition to her duties with the foundation, Mrs. Tiefenwerth also serves as a commissioner on the Bayonne Housing Authority, a member of the Community Education Advisory Council, and secretary to the Community Action Programs. In 1994, she spent 2 weeks in Russia with groups from People to People International and the Russian Ministry exchanging ideas on social issues affecting the world.

Mrs. Tiefenwerth has received numerous awards for her selfless service to the community, including the Jersey Journal Woman of Achievement, the Golden Recognition Award from Hudson County and the Distinguished and Caring Service Award from the Hudson County Director of Human Services. She is a volunteer with the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Parent Teacher Associations at the municipal, county, and state levels.

I am proud to have such a dedicated woman serving the citizens of my district. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Eleanor Tiefenwerth for her service and dedication to the community.

THE MEDICARE PRESERVATION ACT OF 1995

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 1995

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of passing this historic legislation to save Medicare from bankruptcy and preserve and protect the program for current and future beneficiaries.

There is no issue more important to elderly Americans than their health care security. Medicare gives beneficiaries peace of mind every time they go to the doctor or spend a few days in the hospital.

That is why, when I received the alarming news in April that Medicare was headed toward bankruptcy, I began meeting and corresponding with people throughout district 11.

I held 14 town meetings to listen to constituents, met with senior citizen clubs in 5 counties, reached out to our health care providers, met with hundreds of individuals in my office, and reviewed thousands of letters and telephone messages on this matter.

Our dialog enabled me to work constructively over the past eight months with my colleagues to ensure that the citizens of New Jersey will only benefit from modernizing the 30-year-old, government-run program.

I am proud of what we have accomplished. The Medicare Preservation Act saves Medicare from bankruptcy and provides elderly Americans with the same choices as individuals in the private sector have to meet their health care needs. And make no mistake about it, spending on each beneficiary will increase—from \$4,800 today to \$6,700 in 2002.

I have read in the newspaper and heard on television some disturbing and often erroneous reports about our Medicare Preservation Act.

I have been outraged by the tactics being employed by some politicians in Washington and by groups outside Washington that are funding their television and radio commercials. It is unconscionable that they would resort to distortions and half-truths in an attempt to

frighten Medicare beneficiaries about the future of a program they have come to rely on to pay their doctor and hospital bills.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare is teetering on bankruptcy, and it is important that we act now to preserve, protect and strengthen this vital program.

Medicare costs have been soaring. Medicare alone now consumes 11 percent of the entire Federal budget and is increasing at the rate of 10.5 percent a year. That's more than three times the rate of inflation and seven times faster than the 65 and older population is growing.

They've been paying taxes all their entire life to support the Medicare program. But the fact is that retirees are collecting far more in benefits from Medicare than they actually paid in taxes to support the system. An individual who turns 65 this year will, on average, receive \$129,000 more in benefits from Medicare than he or she contributed to the system. Although this imbalance is certainly not the beneficiary's fault, it helps to explain why Medicare is in dire financial condition.

Next year, for the first time in history, Medicare will pay out more money on seniors' hospital bills than it collected through payroll taxes. The reality is Medicare is teetering on bankruptcy.

Unless some action is taken now to control skyrocketing costs the Medicare hospital insurance trust fund, which pays hospital expenses for America's seniors, will be bankrupt in just 7 years. It's important to know that is not a prediction made by Congress, it is the conclusion reached by the trustees responsible for maintaining the financial stability of the Medicare program—including three members of President Clinton's cabinet.

And there is another, equally important crisis that must be addressed—the financial condition of Medicare part B, which covers doctor bills and lab tests.

Spending on this portion of Medicare has increased by 53 percent in just the past 5 years. If nothing is done, spending on part B will actually double over the next 7 years from \$37 billion to \$74 billion. The Medicare trustees have called this rate of growth in spending on part B "clearly unsustainable." Under our plan, part B spending still creases to \$6,800, just a slower rate.

Against this threat of imminent bankruptcy, our opponents want you to believe that our plan to save Medicare is actually aimed at paying for tax cuts. They're wrong.

Even if there were no plan in Congress to provide tax relief to middle-class families, the Medicare Board of Trustees confirm the need to take immediate action to preserve Medicare for today's seniors and those approaching retirement age.

Remember, the Medicare trust fund is financed exclusively through every worker's payroll tax. There is no plan, not even a suggestion, to cut the payroll tax and thereby reduce the money available to Medicare. But even leaving the payroll tax alone, Medicare will be bankrupt in just seven years.

As the Washington Post stated in a recent editorial:

The Democrats have fabricated the Medicare-tax cut connection because it is useful politically. It allows them to attack and duck responsibility, both at the same time. We think that's wrong.

And as for the tax cuts, they have already been paid for with savings achieved by reducing the bloated Federal bureaucracy, targeting waste and inefficiency, and transferring money and responsibility for programs back to the States.

While our opponents accuse us of cutting Medicare, the truth is Medicare spending will increase.

There will be no cut in Medicare spending. Under our plan, spending for each Medicare beneficiary will increase from \$4,800 this year to \$6,700 in 7 years. That's a 54-percent increase in Medicare spending! In total, we'll be spending \$700 billion more on Medicare over the next 7 years than we did during the past 7 years.

Let me discuss the key elements in our plan to save Medicare and make it better.

Traditional Medicare will be preserved. Any beneficiary wishing to stay in the existing Medicare program can do so. There will be no increase in copayments and no increase in deductibles. They have an absolute right under this plan to stay in the existing Medicare program. That right cannot be taken away, and no beneficiary will be required to change their health care coverage. Most importantly, for those who choose to stay in traditional Medicare, they can continue to be able to choose any doctor and hospital they wish.

In addition to preserving the right to remain in traditional Medicare, our plan offers new, additional choices for elderly Americans. These options will include an opportunity to choose from a number of different coordinated care plans, ranging from health maintenance organizations to preferred provider organizations to medical savings accounts.

In New Jersey there are very few choices of health care plans for older people such as co-ordinated care plans. But in some States, co-ordinated care has become a popular alternative to traditional Medicare. In California, for example, fully 34 percent of seniors have chosen some form of coordinated care. These seniors have found that coordinated care greatly reduces their out-of-pocket expenses. Enrollment in one of these plans has enabled many retirees to stop purchasing expensive private MediGap insurance, which currently costs around \$1,200 a year. In addition, co-ordinated care plans usually provide services not available under traditional Medicare including prescription drugs, dental care and eye glasses.

Let me emphasize that no one will be forced to join any of these coordinated care plans, but they will be available to those who prefer this kind of health care protection. Remember, the existing Medicare coverage beneficiaries now have, will continue to be available.

One question repeatedly raised at my town meetings was why not save Medicare by combating fraud and abuse. The Medicare Preservation Act contains strong measures in the fraud and abuse area, including stricter penalties on Medicare providers who defraud the system. Unfortunately, these savings alone are not enough to avert financial calamity.

Our plan aggressively attacks waste, fraud, and abuse, which is robbing the Medicare system of at least \$18 billion a year. The beneficiaries of Medicare, are the best weapon we have in combatting this waste. But the current system makes it extremely difficult to uncover excessive or unnecessary hospital or medical charges. That's because right now there is no

requirement that the beneficiary receive a detailed explanation of all the hospital, doctor and lab expenses billed to Medicare on your behalf. Under our plan, they will have a new tool to detect waste, fraud and abuse. Our plan requires every health care provider to give a copy of all bills they send to Medicare for payment. The beneficiaries will finally have a legal right to examine every doctor and hospital bill.

In addition, our plan offers a financial reward to any senior who uncovers any unnecessary or excessive Medicare charge. Finally, we will be imposing tough, new criminal penalties on anyone who defrauds the Medicare system.

Health care providers will also make a contribution. Our plan requires doctors and hospitals, as well as older people, to help us save and preserve Medicare. Doctors and hospitals will be asked to accept smaller increases in reimbursement for the services they provide to Medicare patients.

Opponents of our plan contend that reducing reimbursement rates for health care providers will lead to less quality care and hospital closings.

They are not telling the truth. We're not giving doctors or hospitals less money. Over the next 7 years, Medicare will be paying out \$1.6 trillion to health care providers for the treatment of Medicare patients—a substantial increase. But we are putting the brakes on uncontrollable double-digit annual increases in health care costs under Medicare that are driving the program toward bankruptcy. Doctors and hospitals are already being forced to control costs for their patients covered by private health insurance, how they will have to do the same for their Medicare patients.

Finally, we are asking our wealthiest seniors—individuals with annual incomes over \$60,000 and couples with yearly incomes of more than \$90,000—to make a special contribution. Our plan calls for phasing out the government subsidy for Medicare part B that our most affluent seniors currently receive.

But the share of premium costs stay the same. Our critics have charged that there will be exorbitant increases in premiums, as much as \$3,000 per year.

Once again, they are not telling the truth. Right now, premiums paid by seniors cover 31 percent of Medicare part B costs, while general tax revenues pay the remaining 69 percent. Our plan preserves the 31 percent commitment from seniors and the 69 percent commitment from the Federal Government.

Under the Medicare plan proposed by President Clinton, in 7 years seniors will be paying monthly premiums of \$83. Under the House plan monthly premiums will be only \$4 higher in seven years than under the President's proposal. And while the President's plan will keep Medicare part A financially secure for only an additional 3 years, our plan will save both Medicare part A and part B for the next 19 years.

Our plan to preserve, protect and strengthen Medicare is the result of months of study and hearings and listening to our constituents in town meetings in each of our districts. It is the only long-term plan that will guarantee that Medicare is preserved for current beneficiaries and those approaching retirement age, our children.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ARTHUR
JOHNSON

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 1995

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a few minutes to tell you about a man who has spent his life working as a healer but he is not a medical doctor. He has not repaired any broken bones or mended any human hearts. But he has devoted his life to healing the bitter and gaping rifts that separate the races in our country.

The man I am describing is Dr. Arthur Johnson, my longtime friend in the struggle for justice, who retired September 30, 1995, as Vice President for University Relations and Professor of Educational Sociology at Detroit's Wayne State University, which just happens to be my alma mater.

His title and his long list of degrees and commendations might lead some to believe he concentrated his civil rights work in the academic arena. That was not the case. His activism, which has spanned six decades, has taken him repeatedly into hostile and dangerous territory. In the 1950's, as executive director of the Detroit branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, he helped organize sit-ins at Detroit lunch counters that refused to serve African-Americans.

In the early 1960's, he was at the front of civil rights marches to protest unfair housing practices in Detroit suburbs. Almost 40 years later, these suburbs still hold the dubious distinction of being the most segregated in the Nation.

In the 1970's, he struggled to bring order out of the social chaos in the Detroit Public schools where militant young students disrupted classes and shut down schools to demand a curriculum that reflected their African heritage.

In the last two decades, Dr. Johnson has kept up his hectic pace and worked on numerous projects to increase understanding among the races. He has written passionately about the question of race which still divides this country.

As he recently said, "My experience kept me close to the issue of race and race oppression. The struggle is a part of me." But no matter how harsh the struggle, he never became embittered. He remained outwardly calm, refusing to let the enemy destroy him in anger. That enemy began testing him at an early age.

Born in Americus, GA, in 1925, he grew up in an atmosphere poisoned by hatred and supremacy. But instead of creating hatred in him, that environment made him a determined fighter against the evils of racism.

One incident in his youth helped shape his views. He was 13 years old and his family had moved to Birmingham. The memory of what happened is still vivid in his mind. One time he was walking in downtown Birmingham early in the evening with his uncle, who was about 20 years old. Suddenly they found themselves walking behind a white family—a father, a wife, and a little girl who was about 6 or 7. The girl was not paying attention to what she was doing, and she walked across young Arthur's path. He put his hand on her shoulder