

The Detroit community, and indeed the Nation, have benefited from his efforts to promote understanding and healing. It is with joy and sincerity that I thank Arthur Johnson. Because he never allowed anyone to shackle his mind, he made it possible for others to know the beauty of freedom.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
GIFT REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 16, 1995

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Gingrich amendment to the Gift Ban Reform Act.

We were elected to Congress to conduct the peoples' business. We were not elected to feed at the trough of the Gucci clad lobbyists and special interests that dominate our Nation's Capitol.

If Members of Congress want to enjoy fine dining, golf excursions, and exotic vacations, then they should be willing to pick up the tab.

The American people have grown sick and tired of perks and privileges extended to Members of Congress.

Our constituents do not receive unsolicited gifts and meals and neither should we.

By eliminating the potential for corruption and perception of impropriety, House Resolution 250 will help to restore the American peoples trust in elected officials and the Congress.

It's time to clean up this institution and restore the public confidence in our Nation's leaders.

We have a moral imperative to hold ourselves to a higher standard of conduct then practices of the past.

The American people have demanded a Federal Government that is open and accountable. We need to assure them that all citizens, not just special interest and lobby groups will have access to elected officials.

By passing the Gingrich proposal, we can demonstrate our sincerity and dedication to ensuring that congressional activities are conducted honorably and legitimately.

The overwhelming majority of my colleagues are sincere, hard working, and dedicated public servants. I am not of the opinion that Members of this body are bought and sold over a dinner or golf outing.

However, by eliminating gifts we remove all doubt of impropriety and wrongdoing.

In my opinion this is all about trust and perception. By banning all gifts and junkets, we can prove to our constituents and to the American people that we are, in fact, sincere about cleaning up Congress.

I urge my colleagues to support the Gingrich proposal.

RENA BAUMGARTNER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 1995

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a personal friend of mine who

has become one of northeastern Pennsylvania's most important and influential political and community leaders, Rena Baumgartner. I am proud to have been asked to participate in a tribute to Rena and to be able to tell my colleagues of her contributions and accomplishments.

As an active member of her community, Rena has participated in numerous clubs and organizations which work diligently to promote the betterment of and ensure safety to the general public. Rena has worked with the West End Ambulance and West End Fire Company Auxiliaries as well as the Polk Township Fire Company Auxiliary. She is a member of the Exchange Club of the Pocono Mountain. In addition to these organizations and others, Rena remains an active member in the United Effort Methodist Church.

Rena may be best known for her leadership positions within the Democratic Party organization. Since 1968 Rena has been active in the political arena, beginning as a Democratic township committee person. From that position, Rena graduated to become the Assistant Secretary of the Monroe County Democratic Committee and eventually the Chairperson of the Monroe County Democratic Committee, a position which she still holds today.

Rena's involvement in the Democratic Party was not limited to local politics. On the statewide level, Rena was appointed Deputy Chairperson of the Democratic State Party and in 1984 was made Vice-Chair of the party.

On the national level, her involvement in the Democratic Party is deserving of even more recognition. Rena has been a member of the Democratic National Committee since 1979 and has taken a leading role in every national election since becoming a member. During the last three presidential elections she served as a delegate to the Democratic National Conventions. She has served on the executive committee of the Democratic National Women's Caucus and has been the Treasurer and Secretary of the Democratic National Committee's Eastern Regional Caucus. Presently, Rena is helping to select the delegation which will be sent to the 1996 Democratic National Convention. No one can question Rena's commitment to the Democratic Party.

Certainly, an accomplishment that Rena can be extremely proud of is her family. With her husband William, Rena has raised two wonderful children, her daughter Robin and her son Bryan. In addition to having such a positive role on her own children, Rena is also able to play an active role in the upbringing of her two grandsons. Throughout all of her other undertakings Rena managed to keep her family at the center of her attention and in a position of importance above everything.

Mr. Speaker, my close friend Rena Baumgartner has been a caring mother and wife. She also has been a strong leader in her community and throughout Monroe County. Finally, Rena Baumgartner has been a true leader in the Democratic Party. I salute and thank Rena for everything she has contributed to the betterment of northeastern Pennsylvania and the Democratic Party.

HEALTHY CHOICE: BALANCING  
THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND IMPROVING MEDICARE

HON. STEVE GUNDERSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 1995

Mr. GUNDERSON. Mr. Speaker, within the past few weeks, Congress has taken historic steps to balance the Federal budget and improve the way the Federal Government provides and delivers health care services to the more than 36 million Medicare beneficiaries. The goal of this reform initiative has been to secure the future of Medicare for today and tomorrow while providing beneficiaries with better benefits, additional health care options, and lower out of pocket costs. All of this will be accomplished while slowing the overall growth of Federal Medicare spending. I commend the House and Senate Committees for their work to improve and preserve Medicare.

Many of the Medicare provisions in the Balanced Budget Act will benefit the ailing health care delivery system in many small communities in my western Wisconsin district and identical communities throughout rural America.

In terms of rural health care, I believe the most dynamic Medicare improvement was changing the adjusted average per capita cost [AAPCC] payment formula. As the cochair of the Rural Health Care Coalition, the dedication of the coalition enabled us to work with the leadership during House and conference committee deliberations to craft a new formula favorable to all beneficiaries regardless of where they live. In this endeavor, the Rural Health Care Coalition had the good fortune to receive outstanding technical assistance, counsel and support from the Fairness Coalition, representing a diverse group of hospital systems, hospital associations, managed care providers, and insurers.

What does an improved AAPCC payment formula mean for Medicare beneficiaries? The AAPCC is the total amount of Medicare fee-for-service dollars spent on doctors and hospitals annually in a county, divided by the number of Medicare beneficiaries in that county. It also represents the dollars available to beneficiaries to purchase health care choices under the new Medicare-plus program.

For Grandma Smith living in the Bronx, NY, her 1995 AAPCC payment is \$679 a month and she can enroll in a health maintenance organization [HMO] providing the required Medicare services and additional benefits or traditional fee-for-service. Grandma Smith's brother living in Fall River County, SD, has a monthly payment of \$177. Unfortunately, because of the low payment an HMO is not available to him, just the traditional fee-for-service. A low AAPCC payment has a devastating effect on the health care choices available to beneficiaries living in rural counties and in those counties with efficient health care markets. Why should there be a 367-percent payment difference between these two Medicare beneficiaries just because of where they live?

The situation facing Grandma Smith's brother is not unusual. Approximately 4 million beneficiaries live in counties that have access only to Medicare fee-for-service. My home State of Wisconsin, with 769,000 Medicare beneficiaries, is 1 of 15 States that currently

do not have a Medicare HMO option available to them. It is difficult to understand how beneficiaries who paid into the Medicare trust funds at the same rate and pay the same part B premium now receive very different AAPCC payments. This is not equitable or fair. Improving the AAPCC payment formula is critically important to fulfill our legislative promise of providing health care choices as well as equity and fairness to all beneficiaries.

Why can some beneficiaries today choose to receive their Medicare services from the traditional fee-for-service or an HMO and others cannot? HMO's and hospital associations suggested that a monthly payment between \$325 to \$350 begins to provide them with the opportunity to offer Medicare managed care services. For this reason, it was necessary to craft an AAPCC payment formula that would support the establishment and operation of an HMO or the new options of a provider-sponsored organization [PSO] or medical savings accounts [MSA's].

The Balanced Budget Act improves the AAPCC payment formula by setting a payment floor of \$350. This is extremely beneficial for counties in 43 States with below average payment rates between \$177–\$300 and offers hope to the more than 4 million beneficiaries in rural and efficient markets that they may soon have the choice to receive Medicare services through an HMO, PPO, MSA, or PSO. Other important rural health care provisions incorporated into the Balanced Budget Act only enhance the care and services available to rural America:

Clarifying the Medicare payments to essential access community hospitals/rural primary care hospitals.

Implementing a new Rural Emergency Access Care Hospital Program.

Increasing by 10 percent the Medicare bonus payment to 20 percent for rural, primary care physicians practicing in health personnel shortage areas.

Reinstating the Medicare Dependent Hospital Program for facilities with 100 or fewer beds and at least 60-percent Medicare patient discharges or days.

Establishing of a uniform reimbursement rate for physician assistants and nurse practitioners at 85 percent of the physician fee schedule payment for outpatient services.

Setting a floor for the area wage index used in determining prospective payments to hospitals.

Prohibiting the Medicare Geographic Re-classification Review Board from rejecting applications of rural referral centers on the basis of area wage index.

Extending the rural referral center classification for any hospital previously classified.

The health of rural health care and services to Medicare beneficiaries will only be improved with the enactment of these very important provisions in the Balanced Budget Act. I am pleased to lend my support to this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO COACH EDDIE G.  
ROBINSON

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 17, 1995*

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, we have honored many legends on this floor—men and

women who are revered and who will be so revered for generations. I come to this historic floor today to add still another name to this long list of distinguished Americans who we can truly call a legend of our time—one whose singular contributions will separate him from everyone else who has toiled in his profession.

Our Nation has produced many, many great football coaches. Men like Paul "Bear" Bryant, Woody Hayes, Ara Parseghian, Joe Paterno, Knute Rockne, Amos Alonzo Stagg, Bud Wilkerson, to name a few. But, today I rise to pay tribute to the historical accomplishments of Coach Eddie G. Robinson of Grambling State University—the winningest football coach of all time, the best that the game of football has to offer.

During a period spanning 55 years, Coach Robinson has led his Grambling State teams to more than 400 victories. No other coach has reached the 400 win milestone. Along the way, he has won 17 SWAC championships or co-championships. Coach Robinson started modestly at Grambling. Nevertheless, he grew to a giant in his profession. Yes, he has become the greatest coach of all time, but his first priority always was the development of his players. Coach Robinson nurtured his athletes into competent, strong, professional players, not only in game of football but in game of life. He has touched our hearts, our very souls. His achievements will stand forever.

We are left to wonder what Grambling State University would have been like had Eddie Robinson not walked through the doors of the then Louisiana Negro Normal and Industrial Institute in 1941. Would there have been the mentoring, that steady hand guiding countless young athletes to exalted levels of achievement? Would such players as Paul "Tank" Younger, Willie Brown, Willie Davis, Buck Buchanan, Doug Williams, Charlie Joiner, Frank Lewis, Essex Johnson, Billy Newsome, John Mendenhall and over 200 other players have been able to leave their mark on the National Football League? No. A Grambling State University, indeed the American way of life, without the contributions of Coach Robinson is not imaginable.

Coach Robinson, served as a coach, father and tutor to thousands of students at Grambling who have gone on to make great contributions to this Nation. Through his tenacity and guidance, he influenced countless young men and women who crossed his path. For this and for all that Coach Robinson through his success has meant to our country, we in the Congress offer our most heartfelt congratulations to him. All Americans are extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to experience the influence of this great man. Coach Eddie Robinson is a winner, and because he is, so are we all.

The Congress salutes Coach Robinson today not only for winning more football games than any other college coach, but for who he is.

IN HONOR OF MS. MALIN FALU, A  
RADIO HOST PERSONALITY WHO  
HAS ENTERTAINED AND SERVED  
THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 17, 1995*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Malin Falu, a Hispanic woman who has distinguished herself as a prominent radio personality. Ms. Falu will be honored today in a live broadcast on Radio WADO 1280 AM.

Ms. Malin Falu is the creator, producer, and commentator of the Hispanic radio program "Hablando con Malin." Speaking with Malin. This radio program is transmitted throughout the New York and New Jersey area. In her show, Ms. Falu discusses the important issues that affect the Hispanic community. She keeps them informed of events and issues that are notable and allows her listeners to participate and voice their opinions.

She has worked hard and strived to be one of the best commentators in Hispanic radio. Ms. Falu received her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Puerto Rico. She then went on to receive her masters of arts degree in media from the New School for Social Research. She has also studied theater in London, England. A well-accomplished woman, she now enjoys reaching out to the Hispanic community through the airwaves.

For the last 17 years, Ms. Falu's sweet voice has captured the hearts of all her listeners. Her show has been transmitted from all around the world, including Greece, Israel, and many countries in Latin America. With her charisma and dedication, Ms. Falu serves the community by exposing and finding solutions to the problems it faces.

She has inspired many to accomplish their goals and dreams. She has advised today's younger generation to enrich and develop their minds. She is a wonderful role model who has served her community with dedication and dignity. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this great woman, Malin Falu.

NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE  
AGREEMENT

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 17, 1995*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today on the 2-year anniversary of the North American Free Trade Agreement, I rise to draw attention to NAFTA's failed promises. Two years ago I objected to the passage of NAFTA because of the thousands of American workers that would be displaced from their jobs and the lack of opportunities they would face in an uncertain market as a result of the trade agreement.

Due to the present political and economical instability of Canada and Mexico, I am even more concerned today about the adverse repercussions of agreeing to NAFTA. In 1994, the Department of Labor reported that 17,000 jobs were lost due to plant relocations to, or increased imports from Mexico or Canada. Last year, 152 companies filed petitions under