

Mr. Speaker, this generation of Americans had a rendezvous with destiny. Fifty years ago last month, General MacArthur stood upon the deck of the U.S.S. *Missouri*, in Tokyo Bay, to receive the unconditional surrender of the Empire of Japan. In MacArthur's closing remarks, he spoke directly to the mothers, the fathers, the wives, and the sweethearts of those men and women back home.

And so my fellow countrymen, today I report to you that your sons and daughters have served you well and faithfully . . . their spiritual strength and power has brought us through to victory. They are homeward bound—take care of them.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to my fellow Americans, to take care of them as well. I speak to the spouses, the children, the grandchildren, and the friends of those brave patriots who served this country in war. Please continue to care for them. They deserve it, and they have earned it.

In the 50 years since they have returned home, they have faithfully served this country with dignity, and with strengthened character. They have all helped to create the single greatest country on the face of the earth, and have altered, for the better, the future of mankind, both at home and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, for those who are no longer with us, there are no words to adequately describe the supreme sacrifice each has made in the service of their country.

But words in the context of why we honor their memory, pale in comparison to the ultimate deed that these brave Americans have done for us now living in a free world. We must all sustain the memories of their heroism and their service with respect, with reverence, and with our heartfelt affection.

Our humble words can never repay the debt that we owe these great men and women, yet, we can strive to keep their faith and to uphold their vision which led them into battle and to their final sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, we are, after all, the caretakers of their memory.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 94. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a dedication ceremony incident to the placement of a bust of Raoul Wallenberg in the Capitol.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that we will have fifteen 1-minute speeches on each side.

MEDICARE REFORM A SMALL BUSINESS PRIORITY

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to mention one of the other reasons we must reform Medicare—our Nation's small businesses.

It is conservatively estimated that employer costs will rise by more than 125 percent in only seven years, if we fail to fix Medicare. Mr. Speaker, what small business can survive overhead like that?

Our Nation has more than 20 million small businesses, and it is these organizations which have made us the super power we are.

They are the engines of innovation and growth in our economy, providing virtually all the new jobs in our country over the past 10 years.

My State is the 2d most taxed State in the Nation, and my district is the 12th most taxed district in the country. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, how can I justify this increased burden on my small businesses?

Mr. Speaker, I hope that when the fearmongers start throwing their fictitious claims they remember the 37 million beneficiaries and our 20 million small businesses, rather than just their petty political goals.

SYMPTOMS IN THE HEADLINES

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker: Prosecutor executed in Boston; World Trade Center bombed; Federal building blown up in Oklahoma; Amtrak train sabotaged in Arizona; A mailbox Unabomber that is killing people through mailboxes: 25,000 murders a year; in some cities high school dropout rates over 50 percent.

I believe these are symptoms, Mr. Speaker, and Congress is addressing them as problems. Maybe the problems will be found in the Federal laws that reward dependency, penalize achievement, subsidize illegitimacy, kill families, kill investments, kill jobs.

I say to my colleagues: without jobs we will continue to have the symptoms that are the headlines of the U.S. papers.

THE REPUBLICAN PLAN PRESERVES AND PROTECTS MEDICARE

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, this weekend I spoke with my parents, and they are very concerned about the bickering that is going on over Medicare. This morning, in honor of the World War II veterans, we heard Senator INOUE ask that we work together to attack our common problems here in America. Well, Mr. Speaker, here are the facts on Medicare:

The President's board of trustees has told us that by 2002 Medicare will be bankrupt. The Republicans have a plan to preserve and protect that program. The plan includes the fact that no senior will be required to give up their

Medicare benefits, that the payments will go from \$4,800 per year per beneficiary this year up to \$6,700 per year per beneficiary. They will also offer options to seniors for other types of Medicare plans.

Mr. Speaker, some Members of Congress would try to scare our seniors into supporting opposition to this plan. It is a good plan. I request the seniors in America to call their Congressman and support the Republican plan to preserve and protect Medicare.

TRUTH IN THE DETAILS

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, for all my colleagues who tried to scare the American public into believing that the devil was in the Republican Medicare plan, they forgot one thing, the truth is in the details, and in the marketplace of ideas, the truth will prevail.

The 1960's Medicare System is going broke. The Democrats know it, the Republicans know it, and the American public knows it. The truth in the details about the Medicare Preservation Act, is this:

There are no cuts in Medicare spending, we increase per beneficiary spending by \$1,900. There is no increase in Medicare copayments. There is no increase in Medicare deductibles. And there is no change in the current rate of Medicare premiums. Most importantly, the \$270 billion saved by Medicare under this proposition will be kept in Medicare to ensure its solvency for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, the truth is in the details.

LET US TALK ABOUT DETAILS

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I think it is very important to talk about the details. Let us talk about what is going on with Medicaid. Some of those details we know. There was no hearing, but, nevertheless, the Committee on Commerce has marked up the bill.

And let us talk about some of the, I think, very non-family-friendly things that they did:

If a couple suddenly finds one of them very, very ill and needing nursing home care, they did away with the 1988 statute that we passed, and now the entire couple's resources must be expended before they can go on Medicaid. Mr. Speaker, in 1988 we said that was not fair, the resources should be divided between the two, and they only had to deplete half because the remaining family members should not have to be poor. It also allows us to reach out and go back to the adult children and

attach their homes. We always felt that that was not fair either, that nobody wants to be dependent upon their children, and it also removed the standards that we fought so hard for in nursing homes.

Mr. Speaker, kennels will have more standards than we will have in nursing homes.

THE TRUTH

(Mr. KIM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I am really concerned about this assault and accusation that the Republicans are trying to give millions and millions of dollars' tax credit to rich people at the expense of poor, elderly people by cutting Medicare spending. I am really concerned. This is a bunch of lies.

Let me tell my colleagues exactly what happened.

Here is a tax credit; they are talking about tax cuts, which is \$500 tax credit for child support. That money does not come from Medicare spending. It comes from actually non-Medicare spending cut, which is about \$622 billion. None of those Medicare money going to tax cut.

The second lie: Republicans just passed amendment to Medicare bill which prohibits any money being transferred from Medicare fund to other, other account.

Come on, let us stop this rhetoric. No money shall be transferred for the Medicare to other funds except Medicare trust fund itself. That is the truth.

AMERICA'S SENIORS BEING SOLD UP THE RIVER

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, back-room deals are becoming the standard for this new Congress. Last night, after a closed door meeting with Speaker GINGRICH the American Medical Association reversed its position and announced the association will now support the proposal.

According to the New York Times, a representative of the AMA reported that the organization reversed its position because "doctors would receive billions of dollars more than the Republicans had planned. But he and Mr. GINGRICH refused to give the details, nor would they specify which other groups might receive less money to make up the difference."

Well, why do we not make an educated guess? Medicare savings can only be achieved by cutting from providers or from beneficiaries. And, if the Republicans are not cutting from providers then guess who is making up the difference? America's seniors.

While Republicans buy off the special interests, it is America's seniors who are being sold up the river.

NO CONNECTION BETWEEN CUTTING TAXES AND MEDICARE

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, liberal Democrats are, I believe, at the end of their rope. They know that action must be taken to preserve Medicare for future generations. But they come to the well and spew the grossest class warfare slogans I have ever heard.

Democrats go on and on about tax cuts for the rich.

But, least we forget, to a Democrat, anyone who has a job is rich. Anyone who has children is rich. Anyone who pays taxes is rich.

Mr. Speaker, there really is no connection between cutting taxes and Medicare. Medicare is going bankrupt—period. That has nothing to do with tax rates, or capital gains tax rates, or what level of income pays the biggest share of the tax burden.

But one thing is clear—Medicare is going bankrupt. No matter how hard they cry and scream about tax cuts, Democrats have not lifted one finger to save Medicare. And that is wrong.

EXTREME CUTS NOT NEEDED IN ORDER TO SAVE MEDICARE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, just so my colleagues know that there are two sides to the debate, Medicare is not going bankrupt until, not going bankrupt until, the year 2002, and we can change Medicare by cutting over the next few years and increasing beneficiaries' costs may be \$90 billion, not \$270 billion. That is why the Republicans are scared, because the American people are not buying what they are trying to sell them. It is a tax cut of \$245 billion over that same 7 years and a Medicare cut of \$270 billion.

Mr. Speaker, the American College of Physicians and Surgeons, the AARP, finally came off of dead center and said it is wrong. We even have a freshman Republican doctor who has been quoted as saying, "I guarantee you that these reductions will be bad for quality health care, not just for our senior citizens, but also for working people."

Hello. Earth to the other side of the aisle. Listen to your own people. These extreme, and that is extreme, cuts do not need to be made to save Medicare, only \$90 billion, not \$270 billion.

PROUD TO BE A PART OF MEDICARE REFORM

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me correct the statement that was just made. It is not \$90 billion;

\$90 billion in the Democrat plan takes us out to the year 2006. Guess what? There are 4 more years before the baby boomers arrive, and that is where the real problem exists. Our reform takes us out to that point, and there is a \$300 billion difference in their plan and ours. They do not fund Medicare.

As my colleagues know, today is an important day for me because I am 65 and I have got a Medicare card. Guess what? I worried about it because of the bankruptcy, so I have spent months working with doctors, hospitals, nursing homes, insurance companies, and seniors in my district, as have a lot of us around the country, to save Medicare and find a solution. As my colleagues know, we have come up with a smorgasbord of choices, and I am proud to have been a part of the reform effort, not only for myself, but for every American who depends on Medicare. I am proud knowing that Congress has not just looked toward the next election, but we have looked to the next generation to make a better America for our kids.

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HEALTH CARE IN RURAL AMERICA

(Mr. DE LA GARZA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, I may be one of the few here that voted for Medicare, and the counterparts of the Members now that are complaining chastised me for having voted for Medicare when it was enacted in my first session of Congress.

I am concerned about rural America and health in rural America. The cuts proposed by our colleagues will increase the severe financial pressure on rural hospitals, and force some rural hospitals to close. Rural hospitals lose money on Medicare patients while urban hospitals make a small profit. Medicare accounts for almost 40 percent of the net patient revenue in the average rural hospital, as much as 80 percent in some rural hospitals. The Republican cut of \$58 billion over 7 years, a 20-percent cut in 2002 alone, will almost devastate most rural hospitals. We need to look at that.

I went throughout my country. I did not see what my colleagues were saying in their prepared speeches.

The Republican Medicare cuts will force 9.6 million older and disabled Americans in rural America to pay higher premiums and higher deductibles for a weakened second class Medicare Program.

Medicare spending for people in rural areas of America will be cut by \$58 billion over 7 years—a 20-percent cut in 2002 alone.

The Republican cuts will increase the severe financial pressure on rural hospitals in America and force some rural hospitals to close. Today, rural hospitals lose money on Medicare patients while urban hospitals make a small profit. Medicare accounts for almost