

Several of my colleagues have introduced important bills to encourage greater use of conservation easements. My bill addresses the disadvantage the 30-percent limit imposes on lower income taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, Gifford Pinchot, the founder of the U.S. Forest Service, once wrote that a nation "deprived of its liberty may win it, a nation divided may unite, but a nation whose natural resources are destroyed must inevitably pay the penalty of poverty, degradation and decay."

In order to save the countryside, we must strengthen our cities. Thanks to the leadership of Chairman BILL ARCHER, fundamental tax reform will be near the top of the agenda of the next Congress. We need to take a look at the impact of tax policy on land use decisions in this country. The bills I am introducing today would go a long way toward correcting two serious problems in existing law.

IN HONOR OF LILLIAN CARINE: AN
OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY AC-
TIVIST MAKING A DIFFERENCE
FOR THE RESIDENTS OF BA-
YONNE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lillian Carine, a dedicated community activist who has made a significant difference in the lives of my constituents in Bayonne. Mrs. Carine will be honored at the seventh annual Italian American Heritage Award dinner dance on September 28, 1996, at the F.A. Mackenzie Post in Bayonne.

Family has played a major role in our esteemed honoree's life. Mrs. Carine was born to Sicilian immigrants, Josephine and Nicola Alessi, on July 21, 1911, in Bayonne where she still lives. Alessi married Nicholas Carine on April 11, 1932. Their joyful union, which lasted 57 years until Nicholas' passing in 1989, produced two children, Frank and Rosalie, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Competence and compassion are invaluable words to one who seeks to describe Mrs. Carine. This selfless individual's tradition of community involvement began under the influence of her mother who put her on a "trolley track" of service to others from which Mrs. Carine has yet to disembark. Along the way, there have been a number of stations which Mrs. Carine's trolley has passed through, including the Bayonne Board of Education to which she was elected twice, the Hudson County Juvenile Conference Committee and the Bayonne Child Abuse Prevention Council.

Additionally, Mrs. Carine is a founding member of the Sons of Italy, Father Del Monte Lodge 2560, a member of the selection panel of the Holocaust Memorial Committee of Bayonne, and a member of the Bayonne Visiting Nurse Association board of directors.

Senior citizens and their concerns have interested Mrs. Carine for a long time. She is the producer and host of a local cable television show called "Sixty Plus" geared toward senior citizens, relating information useful to seniors in their everyday lives. The Vial of Life program was an especially gratifying milestone

in Mrs. Carine's chosen vocation. It provides seniors with information important to meet their health care needs.

It is an honor to have such an empathetic individual residing in my district. Mrs. Carine's performance of her civic duties is an example for everyone to emulate. I am certain that my colleagues will rise with me to honor this exceptional woman.

TRIBUTE TO THE 90TH ANNIVER-
SARY CELEBRATION OF NATIV-
ITY OF THE BVM

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join all my friends and colleagues in celebrating the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary's 90th anniversary. This wonderful church has been serving Ozone Park, Queens faithfully for the past 90 years, and is well-deserving of recognition and praise.

I am pleased to congratulate the members of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary for making this area a source of community pride. As a result of the tireless work and vigilant dedication of the church, Ozone Park has maintained its reputation as a safe and quiet community distinct from the city's frenetic atmosphere.

I am certain that the strength of this community would not be what it is today without the commitment of its church. Such countless contributions have ensured the neighborhood's continued growth and stability which are fully appreciated by all.

For years, families have known Ozone Park as a solid community, making it a good place to live. I am honored to celebrate 90 years of civic leadership in Ozone Park—the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary's members have done much to improve the quality of life for all area residents.

CONGRATULATIONS TO POSTAL
WORKER WHO SAVED CHOKING 4
YEAR OLD

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I would take a moment today to publicly thank Joanne Johnson, a postal worker from my district, who recently saved the life of a 4-year-old boy who had swallowed a quarter and was choking.

On a recent dreary Monday morning, Joanne was delivering mail on a rural route in her hometown of Hopwood, PA, when she heard the screams of Rosemary Bradshaw who was standing on her front porch.

Not really knowing what was wrong, Joanne jumped out of her mail truck and ran to the woman's aid. Mrs. Bradshaw's son, John Kenneth Thorpe, Jr. stood nearby in obvious distress, unable to breathe. Luckily, Joanne had built up a relationship with John since she began delivering the route in early spring. Daily the boy would raise the flag on his mailbox, even if there was nothing to pick up, just

so he could chat and laugh with her. While Joanne had no formal training in CPR or the Heimlich maneuver, she coaxed him to come to her. She quickly flipped him around and squeezed him tightly. Fortunately the quarter popped out and John began to breathe again.

Local postal officials intend to recognize Joanne for her heroism. As they correctly state, daily Postal Service workers across the country, like Joanne, help citizens in distress, but rarely are these events ever reported on the evening news.

Joanne, naturally, does not see herself as a hero. She says she was just at the right place at the right time and would not hesitate to help again, if she could.

But I know that is not the case. Joanne is a very special person and her family and neighbors and coworkers should be very proud of her. More importantly, each and everyone of us should try and emulate her efforts to reach out to others in need.

Not surprisingly, little John knows a friend when he sees one. Lately, he has been leaving cards and presents for Joanne in the mailbox. She has been leaving him candy.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3666,
DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the conference report on H.R. 3666, the VA, HUD and independent agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 1997.

As chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am deeply dissatisfied with the way the conference report treats the veterans' portion of the bill.

The conference report switches priorities approved by the House.

The result, veterans lose out to nonveteran programs.

I strongly object to the conference report boosting programs for EPA, NASA, and Americorps at the expense of veterans.

The conference report drops VA medical care \$55 million below the House, inadequately funds VA medical research \$15 million below the House, and skims \$13 million off the House on resources necessary for timely processing of veterans service connected benefit claims.

The conference report bumps up EPA by \$140 million above the House, NASA \$100 million above the House, FEMA \$197 million above the House, and gives \$400 million to "paid volunteers" and bureaucrats at Americorps, which the House had zero funded.

Mr. Chairman, the overall story is unfortunately a weakening of the House-passed priorities for veterans' programs.

Additionally, it is inappropriate for legislative amendments to find their way into appropriations measures.

While I would not necessarily disagree with all the attached legislative amendments had

they been properly before the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I strongly object to their presence in the appropriations bill conference report.

The conference report creates an unprecedented benefits entitlement for children with spina bifida, on the basis of what can at best only be called questionable scientific foundation.

Worse than that is the way it has been paid for.

The appropriations bill reverses the Supreme Court's Gardner decision.

This is not simply an offset.

It is legislative savings that should be controlled by the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and it is more than what is needed to pay for the new entitlement.

Thus the VA Committee loses control over \$500 million.

That's the difference between the costs of this brand-new entitlement and savings from repeal of Gardner.

It's the price for rushing these provisions through the appropriations process instead of the committee of jurisdiction.

The appropriations bill strips the House Veterans' Affairs Committee of our plan to achieve significant savings without hurting higher priority veterans' programs, and denies veterans the potential of using that \$500 million for other benefits improvements for service-connected veterans.

Frankly, we should be able to do better for these men and women who served us in uniform.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID FUNDERBURK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 24, 1996 I was unavoidably detained and missed several votes. Had I been present, I would have recorded my vote as follows:

Rollcall vote number 426 on agreeing to the VA/HUD conference report—I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote number 427 on agreeing to H.R. 3452, the Presidential and Executive Office Accountability Act—I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote number 425 on agreeing to House Resolution 525 providing expedited procedures for the remainder of the second session of the 104th Congress—I would have voted "aye."

AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY: THE END OF DEPENDENCY ACT

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues Congressman JIM McDERMOTT and Congressman CHARLIE RANGEL in introducing legislation that will fundamentally shift how the United States approaches our relations with the 48 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. For

many years, the United States has supported a variety of foreign assistance programs that have sought to aid the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. Unfortunately, traditional foreign aid has not led to the level of economic development that we would all like to see on the African continent. In the long run, private sector investment and development must serve as the catalyst for the countries of sub-Saharan Africa to compete in the global marketplace and to improve the standard of living for their people. Unfortunately, the region's immediate potential does not seem to be reflected either in the investment decisions of individual businesses or in the U.S. Government's export development priorities, including high-profile trade missions.

In this context, I believe that it is time for us to reexamine the nature of our relationship with sub-Saharan Africa and to focus our attention on ways to facilitate private sector trade and investment in the region. In 1994, Congress took an initial step in this direction by asking the President to develop "a comprehensive trade and development policy for the countries of sub-Saharan Africa" as part of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act. The first of the five annual reports required under this provision was submitted by President Clinton earlier this year. The President's report, in turn, has generated a broader discussion among many of my colleagues, the business community, and the public on the future direction of U.S. economic relations with sub-Saharan Africa.

Throughout this year, I have been pleased to work with Congressman JIM McDERMOTT and Congressman CHARLIE RANGEL toward developing a bipartisan proposal to facilitate the economic development of sub-Saharan Africa by expanding our trade relations with the region. On August 1, 1996, the Subcommittee on Trade of the Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on this issue to look more closely at how we might elevate the priorities of business and government toward sub-Saharan Africa and pursue mutually beneficial trade expansion efforts. The legislation that we are introducing today is the culmination of our work on this issue in the 104th Congress and will serve as the basis for further action on this issue by the Ways and Means Committee next year.

Among other things, the "African Growth and Opportunity: The End of Dependency Act" calls for the negotiation of a free-trade agreement with the countries of sub-Saharan Africa that take appropriate steps to reform their economies. Moreover, to put momentum behind these negotiations and to focus greater attention on the region in the private sector, the bill calls for the creation of a United States-sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum. This forum will provide regular opportunities for policy leader and heads of state to meet to discuss issues of mutual interest and to keep the trade negotiations on track. Finally, our proposal will create privately managed equity and infrastructure funds to encourage private institutional investors in developed countries to pool their resources to make investments in established businesses and infrastructure projects in sub-Saharan Africa.

With a combined population of nearly 600 million people, sub-Saharan Africa can and should become a major export market for United States goods and services. In my view, the

active participation of the global marketplace is essential to creating the economic and investment opportunities that will stimulate the conditions for developing countries to emerge as business partners, rather than aid recipients. By giving sub-Saharan African countries a trade and investment alternative to foreign aid, this important legislation will encourage the type of economic and political reforms in the region that will ultimately make traditional assistance unnecessary.

THE NEED FOR CONSUMER GRIEVANCE RIGHTS IN MANAGED CARE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a comprehensive bill to improve consumer and provider rights in managed care plans. I introduced the bill late in this Congress so that everyone has the opportunity to review the bill over the autumn and suggest changes and improvements, prior to its reintroduction in the 105th.

One major section of the bill requires the timely consideration by managed care plans of patient appeals. The Medicare agency is very concerned about this area of consumer rights and is proposing a rule to better protect patients. Depending on the strength of the HCFA rule, the need for the appeals and grievance section of my legislation may be fully or partially addressed.

The following news articles from the Bureau of National Affairs of September 18 and 19 describe why this is such an important issue. As Bruce Fried, head of the Office of Managed Care states so well: The appeal and grievance process is "fundamentally the most important protection our beneficiaries have."

VLADECK URGES MANAGED CARE GROUPS TO IMPROVE APPEALS PROCESS

Increasing numbers of health care consumers are feeling powerless in the face of decisions made by their managed care organizations, Health Care Financing Administration Administrator Bruce C. Vladeck said Sept. 17 in urging such groups to improve their beneficiary grievance and appeals process.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the American Association of Health Plans, the nation's largest managed care group, Vladeck said Medicare managed care organizations should ensure Medicare enrollees are aware of their health care coverage appeals rights; should establish systems that do not deter, and even solicit coverage questions; and should employ staff that are well-versed in Medicare regulations.

As managed care has grown, "there is an increasing perception among consumers that they are voiceless and powerless in the system," even though they had little or no appeal rights in the fee-for-service system, Vladeck told conference attendees.

He urged AAHP members to voluntarily upgrade their appeals and grievance process to parallel HCFA's on-going review of what is required managed care groups to provide enrollees in this area.

"If it doesn't happen spontaneously, we will make it happen," he warned.

HCFA OFFICIALS WARN HMOS TO PROVIDE GOOD GRIEVANCE PLANS; RULE IN DEVELOPMENT

Health maintenance organizations that do not provide adequate grievance and appeals