

choose between traditional fee-for-service Medicare and managed care Medicare programs without risk of penalty. It does so by guaranteeing access to Medigap supplemental insurance for seniors who choose to enroll in fee-for-service Medicare after participating in a Medicare managed care plan.

Congress is currently debating fundamental changes to the Medicare system. The Republican plan to reform Medicare would strongly encourage Medicare beneficiaries to enroll in managed care plans. Nationwide, approximately 13 percent of the Medicare population have enrolled in managed care options. I support providing freedom of choice for senior citizens, but the choice must be real and not coerced. As more senior citizens enroll in managed care plans, we need to ensure that they can reenroll in Medicare without losing benefits or paying a financial penalty.

Under current law, Medicare beneficiaries can enroll in either a managed care product or traditional Medicare Program. Many enrollees in traditional Medicare choose to purchase supplemental insurance policies, called medigap to cover the cost of copayments, deductibles, and other uncovered benefits such as prescription drugs. When Medicare beneficiaries make this initial choice, current law protects them by requiring all insurers to sell medigap insurance. Regrettably, this consumer protection is not provided after this initial enrollment period.

H.R. 3374 would require guaranteed issue of medigap policies for those senior citizens who choose to enroll in traditional Medicare after leaving a managed care Medicare Program. This bill would require any issuer of medigap insurance to provide an annual enrollment period of 30 days for those Medicare beneficiaries that reenroll in the traditional Medicare Program. The Secretary of Health and Human Services would issue regulations to enforce this act. The bill would become effective 90 days after enactment.

Without this protection, senior citizens do not have real choice. In addition, many senior citizens are not aware of this lack of protection and may enroll in managed care plans without knowledge of this problem. A constituent of mine, Ms. Nona Phillips of Pasadena, contacted me when she had difficulty obtaining medigap insurance after switching back to fee-for-service Medicare from an HMO. Consumers should be able to choose plans without financial coercion or penalties, such as lack of medigap insurance. For many senior citizens, medigap benefits are extremely important because traditional Medicare does not provide prescription drug coverage. I want to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries make a choice between equal options. It also provides greater freedom and choice for seniors without forcing them to cover the costs of higher copayments, deductibles, and prescription drugs.

This is another incremental health care reform we can pass immediately that should be supported on a bipartisan basis. President Clinton has endorsed this provision as part of his 1997 budget. We need to pass common sense, reasonable legislation, H.R. 3374, that will improve the Medicare Program so senior citizens are protected and have real choice. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to strengthen consumer protections for Medicare beneficiaries.

IN CELEBRATION OF EMANUEL DAY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues and the members of Temple Emanuel of Great Neck, as they gather on May 5, 1996, in Temple Emanuel to celebrate Emanuel Day, the end of a 10-year effort that has served to beautify the synagogue, and enhance it as an ongoing source of inspiration to its congregants and the Great Neck community. Conceived by Rabbi Robert Widom, spiritual leader of Temple Israel, the project evolved into the design of six stained glass windows for the synagogue's sanctuary, a new ark and eternal light. The initial project, under the direction of Rabbi Widom, undertook a search that would last for 10 years until the appropriate artist was selected and the creative plans were developed.

An extensive search by the rabbi and the congregation's refurbishing committee yielded Paul Winthrop Wood, a Canadian born artist, who comes from a family of renowned architects and builders. Mr. Wood brought to Temple Emanuel an innate understanding of the Old Testament and the many creative and imaginative themes that flow from it. It was his early upbringing by his mother that endowed him with a rich blend of talent and insight that would be brought to fruition by the many religious building challenges he undertook.

A native of Port Washington, Mr. Wood continues the family tradition of building and design. He began his early studies in the Art Studies League and the National Academy of Design. Soon thereafter, he founded his own school, and began a career that would include the design and construction of more than 100 churches and synagogues throughout the United States and 30 houses of worship on Long Island.

In rising to the challenge of bringing to the synagogue and sense of love, understanding, and compassion, Mr. Wood succeeded grandly. It is with great pride and love that the trustees of Temple Emanuel of Great Neck have declared Sunday, May 5, as Emanuel Day. As the hundreds of congregants of Temple Emanuel gather on this day, it is most exciting and reaffirming that in the truest tradition of the American spirit, this beautiful congregation continues to so willingly give of itself, to its members and the community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. AND MRS. MATTHEWS

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker. There has been a great deal of discussion about the importance of family values in America during this session of Congress, and I can offer no better example than of Mr. and Mrs. Matthews of Bessemer, AL.

This Wednesday, May 1, will mark the 50th wedding anniversary of William and Margaret Matthews. By celebrating 50 years of mar-

riage, they are serving as a shining example of what love, commitment, and dedication can do for a loving relationship and for society. I want to offer them my personal best wishes and congratulations on achieving this milestone in their relationship.

HATS OFF TO THE WOODLAND WAL-MART DISTRIBUTION CENTER

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of the Woodland Wal-Mart Distribution Center which is located in my congressional district. The Woodland Center was recently singled out by the Wal-Mart Corp. for its President's Award for Excellence. The President's Award is no small honor as it is only bestowed upon one center per year and its winner is generally recognized across the Nation as the top distribution center of the entire Wal-Mart Corp.

As if this was not enough, the private fleet operation at the Woodland Center also received the President's Award for Excellence in the area of dispatch, centerpoint and shop operations for 1995. These two awards are a testament to the drive and professionalism of the Woodland Center's employees who day in and day out do a first-class job for both their company and their community.

I will close by once again congratulating all the folks at the Woodland Center for a job well done. Your commitment to excellence speaks very well for both Wal-Mart and the people of west central Pennsylvania and it is my honor to represent you. Hats off to the best of the best. Hats off to the Woodland Wal-Mart Distribution Center.

TO AMEND THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to extend the demonstration program for direct billing for Medicare, Medicaid, and other third-party payors to September 30, 1998.

Section 405 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act established a demonstration program to authorize up to four tribally-operated Indian Health Service [IHS] hospitals or clinics to test methods for direct billing for and receipt of payment for health services provided to Medicare- and Medicaid-eligible patients. This program was established to determine whether these collections could be increased through direct involvement of the tribal health provider as compared with the current practice which required such billings and collections to be channeled through the IHS.

Currently, there are four tribal health care providers participating in this demonstration project, the Bristol Bay Area Health Corp. of Dillingham, AK; the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium of Sitka, AK; the

Mississippi, Choctaw Health Center of Philadelphia, MI, and the Choctaw Tribe of Oklahoma of Durant, OK. All participants have unanimously expressed success and satisfaction with the demonstration program and report that dramatically increased collections for Medicare and Medicaid services, thereby providing additional revenues for Indian health programs at these facilities; significant reduction in the turn-around time between billing and receipt of payment; and increased efficiency by being able to track down their own billings and collections and thereby act quickly to resolve questions and problems.

The IHS is required to monitor participation and receive quarterly reports from the four participants. The law also requires the IHS to report to Congress on the demonstration program on September 30, 1996, the end of fiscal year 1996. This report is to evaluate whether the objective have been fulfilled, and whether direct billing should be allowed for other tribal providers who operate an entire IHS facility.

All four participants seek to extend the demonstration program authority for 2 more years to give Congress time to review the report IHS must submit on September 30, 1996, and determine the future of the program.

Without the extension, the four participants would have to close down their direct billing-collection departments and return to the old system of IHS-managed collections. This would mean the dismantling of highly specialized administrative staff and would have an immediate negative impact on revenue collection.

This is a technical amendment to extend the program in 2 more years so that the existing participants can continue their direct billing collection efforts while the required report from the IHS is reviewed.

CODY JESSE CRAIG ATTAINS RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. CHARLES WILSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to present to you Cody Jesse Craig who, on February 20, 1996, achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank awarded in the Boy Scouts of America. The achievement of the Eagle Scout rank for any young person is indeed a major accomplishment that eloquently addresses their personal character, diligence, initiative, tenacity, and many other equally desirable characteristics that we all admire in individuals. The factor that focuses the attention on his personal victory and sets him apart from most of the recipients of the Eagle Scout rank is that he is 15 years old; starting his scouting when he was 6 years old, subsequently earning every award offered as he progressed from the Cubs, Webelos, and on to the Boy Scouts. He obviously is a goal-oriented young man who has a bright and exciting future.

In addition to being an outstanding Boy Scout, Cody is an honor student who has been recognized by the Duke University Talent Search. In this hour of troubled times for many of the youth of America, Cody is truly a Point of Light that illuminates a living example and role model for other young people to emulate.

TRIBUTE TO MARY LOU PRATT

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a woman who has worked tirelessly to make the lives of our disabled veterans a little brighter. Mrs. Mary Lou Platt of Westford, NY, is the New York State president of the American Legion Auxiliary, and a member of the Milford Unit #1566.

The American Legion Auxiliary has been helping veterans and their families for more than 75 years and Mrs. Pratt has proudly kept up that tradition. President Pratt has developed a program called RAVE which stands for recreation, audio and visual entertainment.

Many hospitalized veterans spend endless hours in their rooms or on hospital grounds. Some used to enjoy reading, but now find it difficult or impossible due to poor eyesight. Others used to enjoy listening to music on their radios, but can now only hear faint sounds. Even watching television can be difficult for many of these veterans.

President Platt has traveled extensively throughout New York's 62 counties helping veterans with her program. RAVE has provided veterans with large print books for easier reading, audio books for those who can no longer read, and VCR's and videos. RAVE even provides some video games and equipment to stimulate veterans both physically and emotionally. This program has benefited veterans in New York State VA medical centers and nursing homes.

Our veterans have sacrificed too much for their country to be left as prisoners of unproductive and frustrating lives. President Platt is trying to see that this does not happen. I think we should all RAVE about President Platt and the efforts of the American Legion Auxiliary.

NATIONAL HEAD START DAY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to National Head Start Day. Head Start demonstrates the type of innovate, cost-efficient, and proactive solution necessary to address the national dilemma facing economically disadvantaged preschoolers. The holistic approach taken by Head Start addresses the needs of both parent and child. Preschoolers are provided with educational, health and social service support, while parental involvement ensures support networks for parents.

Extensive studies in child development have shown that a quality early childhood experience returns anywhere from \$5 to \$7 for every dollar invested. We also know that one-third more children who attend quality early childhood programs graduate from high schools, as opposed to those children who did not have the benefits of programs such as Head Start. Without question, the future of America's poorest children is brighter because of the work of Head Start. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary work of Head Start.

IN HONOR OF SAM GIBBONS

SPEECH OF

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly respected 34-year veteran of the U.S. Congress. SAM GIBBONS has served the people of our great State of Florida and his Tampa congressional district with honor and distinction. Having demonstrated exceptional leadership in this extensive time span, he is well-deserved of recognition.

Serving our country in World War II, SAM proved to be a genuine hero as he took part in the parachute landing behind German lines on the Normandy coast the night before D-day. It was with this same vigor that he worked as a freshman Member of Congress to pass the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

As an outstanding leader and public servant, SAM has rendered vital assistance in a number of important matters. In 1966, he succeeded in getting the House Education and Labor Committee to meet and vote in open sessions. He later went on to write the first formal rules for that committee and also the Ways and Means Committee.

In the early 1970's, SAM championed the initiative that ended the practice of anonymous voting on the floor of the House. Twenty years later, as chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade, he was instrumental in crafting the two biggest trade agreements in history—NAFTA and GATT.

SAM GIBBONS has dedicated most of his life to improving this great Nation of ours. What is even more incredible is the fact that he raised three children and four grandchildren while doing so. Serving as a Congressman, a role model, and a good friend of mine, SAM has achieved the esteemed status of a truly great man. His image is impressed upon our hearts and will serve as an inspiration for leaders yet to come.

THE FIRST HISPANIC WOMEN'S HEALTH CONFERENCE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, in an effort to help the Nation's health care system better serve the Hispanic population, the First Hispanic Women's Health Conference will be held in the Knight Center on May 9 and 10.

It is sponsored by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in collaboration with the Little Havana Activities and Nutrition Centers of Dade County and the University of Miami School of Medicine.

Hispanic women have a number of health problems that are complicated by the cultural differences. A doctor who is unaware of the culture framework of her patients will find her job that much harder.

For example, cancer carries a greater stigma in Hispanic populations, which results in a lack of early detection and the complications that then follow.