

For several years, Michael was assistant coach and manager for Little League baseball and football in Cedar Grove. He also was a member of Cedar Grove's Democratic County Committee.

Michael remains active in the Cedar Grove Elks Lodge No. 2237 having served as exalted ruler and as chairman of the trustees. He was the public relations district chairman for the New Jersey State Elks Association 1975-76. He actively served on membership, handicapped children, housing, Memorial Day services, Flag Day, Mother's Day services, and investigation committees. He also served as the lodge's justice of the forum.

In 1989, Michael joined the Cedar Grove chapter of UNICO National and served as the chapter's vice-president, and president. Currently serving as publicity chairman, Michael authored special biographical news releases for Michael A. Saltarelli when he was elected auxiliary bishop, Archdiocese of Newark in 1990 and James Troiano who was appointed a superior court judge in 1992. He also promoted the special UNICO Dinner Dance held in 1996, in honor of Bishop Saltarelli who left New Jersey to become bishop for the diocese of Wilmington, DE.

As UNICO's membership chairman for 3 years, Michael nearly doubled the chapter's membership. He was appointed to the UNICO National Editorial Advisory Committee and the Gay Talese Literary Award Committee by the national president. He was honored by the Cedar Grove chapter as "Man of the Year" at the chapter's 10th Anniversary Dinner Dance in 1996. Michael is also a member of the Center for Italian and Italian-American Culture.

Michael is married to Florence Beltram whom he first met in high school. They have three children and five grandchildren. Their daughter Robyn is married to Craig Sloboda and the two live in Milford, PA. The couple has two daughters, Randi, 15 and Ashley, 10. Their son Brian is a CitiCorp vice-president and lives in Cedar Grove with his daughter Larisa, 12. Their youngest son, Barry, is a cardiologist and lives in Voorhees, NJ with his wife Cindy and his twin sons, Christopher and Matthew, 7.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Michael's family and friends and the township of Cedar Grove in recognizing Michael A. Bravette for his outstanding and invaluable service to the community.

PROVIDING FOR CONSOLIDATION
OF H.R. 1119, NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FIS-
CAL YEAR 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to oppose the rule. I have a great deal of respect for the chairman of the Committee on Rules, but I want those of my colleagues who can hear me, who can hear the sound of my voice to listen to my amendment which was turned down by the Committee on Rules yesterday.

We are talking about the military. We are talking about equipment and we are talking about facilities.

I had an amendment that said we have to honor our commitment to the men and women who serve in the military. I believe that if we are going to provide certain benefits—such as lifetime medical care—to them when they retire, then they are entitled to them and we ought to keep our promise.

That is the simple amendment. It's straightforward and it's honest. It's about making promises and keeping them.

I tell my colleagues, it does not make any difference how many pieces of equipment we have or what kind of facilities we build. If we do not have good men and women serving in the military it makes no difference how good our equipment or facilities are.

I went before the Committee on Rules to ask them to allow me to bring my amendment to the floor. All I was asking is that we honor the commitment we made to our military retirees and to honor the promises that we made. I was asking us to honor our commitment to them.

The U.S. military makes a commitment to a young person who comes in and signs up. They say, "We're going to give you health benefits for life when you retire." All of us here in the Congress know the military has repeatedly made that promise. We have the case-work to prove it over and over.

We also know that we have had problems delivering those benefits and even more problems keeping our word. This amendment would force the military to keep its word.

I am troubled that the Department of Defense doesn't support this amendment. Their legal counsel issued a three-page statement which said my amendment would "impose undesired inflexibility" on the Department. According to them, my amendment would be "unwise." It means they don't want to keep their word.

Mr. Speaker, what kind of message are we sending our retired military population when we hide behind our promises rather than honor them? Recently a Federal judge in Florida ruled that retirees over 65 years of age who enlisted in the military prior to 1956 may now sue the Government for breaking its promise of free health care for life.

Are we really supposed to sit here in the 105th Congress and tell the next generation of American military veterans that they may have to sue the Government in order to have adequate health care coverage simply because the Department of Defense is finding it difficult to live up to its word?

Mr. Speaker, we are asking the United States to honor its commitment to our veterans.

WHO WILL CARE FOR THE POOR?
NEW DATA SHOWS THE IMPENDING
HOSPITAL CRISIS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, we have just received the June report from our congressional hospital payment advisory panel—the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission—and it carries a dire warning about the future of the Nation's safety net hospitals in the era of managed care.

The report, "Medicare and the American Health Care System, Report to the Congress, June, 1997," contains the following statement and table. It is a matter of life and death to millions of our fellow citizens that we address the problem of the uninsured in these good economic times. When an economic downturn comes, the pressure on these safety net hospitals will be unbearable—and then who will care for the uninsured and poor?

Rising financial pressure has raised concern about the willingness or ability of many hospitals to continue providing uncompensated care in a more competitive marketplace. A previous ProPAC analysis suggested that high managed care enrollment is associated with increased financial pressure from private payers and with greater reductions in the amount of uncompensated care hospitals provide.⁴³ Between 1992 and 1994, private payer payment to cost ratios declined 4.5 percent for hospitals located in urban areas with high managed care penetration; uncompensated care burdens for these hospitals also fell by 4.5 percent (see Table 3-14). The experience of hospitals located in areas with low managed care penetration was quite different: Their private payer payment to cost ratios rose 4.1 percent, while uncompensated care burdens fell only 0.1 percent.

CHANGE IN HOSPITAL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, BY
MANAGED CARE PENETRATION RATE, 1992-94
(in percent)

Financial performance	Low	Medium	High
Private payment to cost ratio	4.1	3.8	-4.5
Total payment to cost ratio	0.9	-0.8	-2.0
Uncompensated care burden	-0.1	-1.4	-4.5
Cost per adjusted admission	8.2	7.0	7.3

Note: Managed care penetration rates are based on enrollment in health maintenance and preferred provider organizations as a percentage of the total population in the metropolitan statistical area (MSA). Low penetration is less than 41 percent; medium is from 41 percent to less than 50 percent; high is from 50 percent to less than 60 percent. This analysis is limited to 89 of the largest MSAs and excludes those with penetration rates of 60 percent or more.

SOURCE: ProPAC analysis of data from the American Hospital Association Annual Survey of Hospitals and the National Research Corporation.

The situation is particularly tenuous for hospitals that furnish a large amount of indigent care. They often lack the private payer base that can offset uncompensated care losses. Private payers' share of costs in public major teaching hospitals, for instance, is less than 15 percent (see Table 3-7). Moreover, compared with other institutions, these hospitals are already getting substantially higher private payments relative to costs, which makes it difficult for them to compete. The private payer payment to cost ratio for these facilities is 154 percent compared with an all-hospital average of 124 percent.

These hospitals are also in much weaker financial condition than other institutions, despite the additional subsidies they receive. Total gains for public major teaching hospitals, for instance, were only 1.5 percent in 1995, far below those for other hospitals. Given that one of their missions is serving the poor, they may not be able to reduce uncompensated care, particularly if other hospitals are doing so. Consequently, any increase in uncompensated care burdens could put such hospitals at serious financial risk.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN COOKSEY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 1997

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I was not present to record votes on rollcall

votes No. 221, 222, 223, and 224. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 221, "aye" on rollcall 222, "aye" on rollcall 223, and "aye" on rollcall 224.

WARREN/WASHINGTON COUNTIES
ARC CELEBRATES 35 YEARS

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this opportunity to heap praise on one of the most valuable and important programs that has been operating for 35 years now in my congressional district. I'm talking about the Warren/Washington Counties ARC which provides quality services to people with disabilities and their families in my hometown and neighboring communities in New York's Adirondack Mountains.

The good people who work at and operate this fine chapter deserve all the credit in the world for the time and energy they devote to those less fortunate than themselves. Helping those who have the misfortune of being born with or acquiring disabilities, mental and otherwise, is truly one of the more admirable undertakings and one of the greater responsibilities in our society. I know those they are able to help and their families and loved ones greatly appreciate everything they do to help make their lives as full and complete as possible.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, that's the remarkable thing. We would all do well to emulate the spirit of giving of those who nurture those in our communities who may be less fortunate than ourselves through no fault of their own. The staff and administrators who have made up the history of the Warren/Washington ARC will tell you that their satisfaction comes not in feeling good about themselves, but in recognizing the joy of those they help.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been one to judge people based on what they return to their community. By that yardstick, the people of Warren/Washington ARC are truly great Americans. This is a country founded on the principles of volunteerism and helping others. What better way than to help those neighbors with disabilities enjoy the same opportunities we all enjoy to be part of a community? That's why Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all Members of the House rise with me in salute to this tremendous program and in wishing them another 35 years of unparalleled success.

AMENDING THE SAFE DRINKING
WATER ACT

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 1997

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a noncontroversial bill which will make it much easier for States to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments Congress considered last year, States are required to conduct source water assessments. These source water assessments de-

lineate and assess sources of drinking water within each State. They are an important part of our efforts to protect the public's drinking water.

When Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, there was the expectation that States could get their drinking water State revolving funds [DWSRF] up and running within a year. Accordingly, States have had the discretion to use up to 10 percent of their Federal capitalization grants for fiscal years 1996 and 1997 to conduct source water assessments. However, this short timeframe for funding has turned out to be problematic for the States. In fact, some States may not even have grant applications submitted during fiscal year 1997.

This bill would amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to fix this problem by giving States the discretion to fund source water assessments with their capitalization grants for 1 additional year. This bill would not make any new authorizations. It would place no new requirements on States, nor would it require funds to be spent on source water assessments. This bill simply gives States discretion in how they use funds they have already been granted.

When Speaker GINGRICH proposed Corrections Day in the last Congress, he said that it should be used only for noncontroversial legislation of a limited scope. I have actively participated in the corrections advisory group for the last 2 years and believe that this proposal is the ideal candidate for the Corrections Day calendar.

I have consulted with the Office of Drinking Water at the Environmental Protection Agency who have raised no objections. In fact, there is no known opposition to the bill at all. This bill is supported by the State drinking water administrators, the water supply industry, and the environmental groups.

The Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, the American Water Works Association, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, the Association of California Water Agencies, Clean Water Action, and the Natural Resources Defense Council all support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every Member to support this noncontroversial bill. Congress should act quickly to send this to the President to become law.

STATEMENT ON THE RETIREMENT
OF COL. DAVID HARRINGTON,
U.S. AIR FORCE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 1997

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Col. David G. Harrington, a resident of the District of Columbia, on his retirement and to thank him for his 29 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Air Force.

Colonel Harrington joined the Air Force on July 25, 1968, and has served at several locations throughout the United States and Europe. His most recent experience has been in human resources. He has attained the position of chief of the education and training division at headquarters, U.S. Air Force.

Colonel Harrington has devoted his 29-year career to helping the men and women of the

U.S. Air Force through the development of systematic policies that improve their personal and professional readiness to defend the United States and its allies. The colonel has received many awards and decorations for outstanding service during his career.

Upon the completion of such exemplary service to our Nation, I commend Colonel Harrington and wish him well in the future.

IN HONOR OF CHANCELLOR DR.
VIVIAN B. BLEVINS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER OF RANCHO
SANTIAGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 1997

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Dr. Vivian B. Blevins' extraordinary commitment to education and to providing access to all students throughout her tenure as chancellor of Rancho Santiago Community College.

As chancellor, Dr. Blevins has been instrumental in promoting active engagement and participation between students, community leaders, and businesses. She has also been persistent in reaching out to the Asian-Pacific American and Latino/Chicano community.

Her many career accomplishments at the local level include: Kennedy Partners Board of the Orange County Human Relations Council, the Executive Board of Santa Ana 2000, the Board of the Delhi Center, the Advisory Board of Career Beginnings of Orange County, and the Board of Directors of KinderCaminata.

At the national level she has recently completed a 2-year term as chair of the Commission for the Office of Minorities in Higher Education of the American Council on Education. She was also chair of the Women's Caucus of the American Association of Higher Education in 1996-97 and is currently legislative liaison of the caucus. She is on the executive board of the board of directors of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities [HACU] and is currently working on a cultural diversity track for the second international conference sponsored by HACU and the Bureau of Land Management.

I would like my colleagues in Congress to join me in recognizing Chancellor Vivian B. Blevins for her outstanding service to her community. Her many outstanding accomplishments clearly mark her as an outstanding intellectual and inspirational leader. The citizens of Orange County have been very fortunate to have such a remarkable individual working for them. Let us wish Chancellor Blevins many years of enjoyment and happiness in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF DR. AND MRS.
OSCAR C. ALLEN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the momentous occasion of Dr. Oscar C. Allen and Hattie Lawson