

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 41ST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to honor a man of courage, of dignity, of character. A man who dedicated his life to God, family, and country. A man whose service to the country began in his teenage years as a pilot in World War II, continued during his tenure as CIA Director and Vice President, and climaxed with his election as the 41st President of the United States. I am speaking about George Herbert Walker Bush.

Yesterday, the library chronicling his life was dedicated. It stands as a tribute to his unwavering belief in the greatness of this country and his admiration of the American people. It is a monument to his compassion and humanity in difficult times, as well as his firmness and determination to do what is right even if it came at a personal cost. He is a gentleman in every sense of the world who put the interests of the country before his own.

On a personal note, I wish to thank him for the support and encouragement he gave me since the beginning of my career in Congress.

I thank him for his defense of democratic ideals and his commitment to freedom for the people of Cuba.

The American people and the world were well served by George Bush—a decent and honest man; a public servant; a husband, father, and grandfather.

I join the praises of all those who participated or attended the dedication ceremony, and extend my best wishes for the future. I hope that he will remain involved in the public arena and share his insight and experience with future generations.

Again, thank you, President Bush.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS: KYL AMENDMENT WOULD PUT ELDERLY AND DISABLED CITIZENS AT SERIOUS FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL RISK

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, following is a letter from the National Council of Senior Citizens spelling out why the Kyl-Archer amendment is bad for seniors and the disabled and for the Medicare Program.

I urge Members to oppose this amendment. As the public begins to understand what this amendment would do, they will overwhelmingly reject this proposal and the Members who vote for it.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS,

Silver Spring, MD, October 30, 1997.

DEAR SENATOR: The National Council of Senior Citizens strongly opposes any legislation which would reopen the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) for the purpose of limiting or repealing the two-year bar to any Medicare billings after a doctor enters a private payment contract with Medicare-eligible person. Passage of H.R. 2497, the Medicare Beneficiary Freedom to Contract Act of 1997, would decimate the Medicare program by removing cost protections while reducing the supply of doctors serving the needs of the overwhelming majority of Medicare users.

NCOA opposed, and continues to oppose, the inclusion of the original Kyl Amendment to the Medicare program. Such a provision, allowing a doctor to contract privately for medical care payments outside of the Medicare program, promises to shred three decades of essential quality, consumer, and financial protections which have been incorporated into Medicare.

As enacted, the Kyl Amendment did include the provision barring for two years other Medicare billings subsequent to an agreement for privately-paid Medicare-covered services. Clearly, this could inhibit widespread utilization of the private contract option by many doctors who have not heretofore, in large numbers, declined Medicare payments. Removal of this bar would open the Medicare program to opportunities for many doctors to coerce patients into giving up their Medicare protection in the name of "freedom to contract."

Fewer than 5% of all doctors decline to treat Medicare patients, and only 1% of Medicare beneficiaries have trouble finding doctors. The current doctor-patient Medicare market works well, with no shortage of physicians willing to accept Medicare payments. H.R. 2497 will allow doctors to legally pick and choose patient-by-patient, service-by-service, and dictate payment levels to vulnerable persons needing professional services. Instead of freedom, this would cripple Medicare's ability to hold down health care costs and would put elderly and disabled citizens at serious financial and medical risk.

We pledge every effort to defeat H.R. 2497 or any similar bill and to restore Medicare to its responsibility to cover the costs of an essential set of quality medical services provided by competent doctors and institutions on a uniform and universal basis.

Sincerely,

STEVE PROTULIS,
Executive Director.

HONORING THE LYNCHBURG FERRY

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the historic Lynchburg Ferry for 175 years of service to the residents of Harris County, TX.

The Lynchburg Ferry links East Harris County's bustling present with its historic past and continues to ease transportation for travel-

ers today. Local leaders, residents, and teachers and students from the Goose Creek Independent School District recently gathered in nearby David G. Burnet Park to celebrate 175 years of the ferry and share stories about the area as it was in days gone by. The event was organized to thank the people who have operated the ferry for so many years.

The Lynchburg Ferry is one of the Nation's oldest continually running, free-of-charge ferries, carrying thousands of cars each week near the confluence of the San Jacinto River and the Houston Ship Channel. Free service was begun by Harris County in 1890, and the Lynchburg Ferry remains Texas' only free, county-operated ferry.

The ferry operates in an area stepped in Texas history. Burnet Park, near the ferry landing, contains the remaining five acres of the original 279-acre homestead of David G. Burnet, the first provisional president of the Republic of Texas, who lived there from 1836-58. Burnet once competed with Sam Houston for prestige and power within the Republic of Texas and was a leader in the battle for independence. Also nearby was the home of Nathaniel Lynch, one of Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred settlers. Lynch settled where Buffalo Bayou runs into the San Jacinto. In 1822 Lynch started a hand-pulled ferry that he thought would make his fortune and still bears his name today.

The Lynchburg Ferry played a role in one of the key events of Texas' drive for independence. It was here that settlers fled from the advancing Mexican Army under the command of General Santa Anna as he crossed the Brazos River in 1836. Tired after walking for days through heavy rains and battling a measles epidemic, these settlers took the ferry to safety and headed for Liberty and Beaumont. Shortly following the boatlift, the forces of Sam Houston defeated Santa Anna and the Mexican troops at the Battle of San Jacinto.

In 1936, a Houston school teacher bought the land surrounding the ferry in order to create a park in Burnet's honor. World War II put those plans on hold, and in the 1950's the land was given to Harris County, which created the park.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the Lynchburg Ferry for 175 of service and for the important role it has played in Texas history.

RESOLVING THE CREDIT UNION MEMBERSHIP CONTROVERSY

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, a year has passed since the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued its order, on October 25, 1996, barring occupation-based credit unions from adding any new members from employer or trade groups that are not part of the core common-bond group in their original

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

charter. The ruling placed a cloud of uncertainty over the operations of nearly 3,600 credit unions that continues to this day.

The credit union case, *National Credit Union Administration versus First National Bank & Trust, et. al.*, is now before the Supreme Court with a decision expected sometime early next year. At issue in the case are conflicting interpretations of the definition of credit union membership in the 1934 Federal Credit Union Act. Since 1982 the credit unions have interpreted this definition as permitting them to incorporate multiple common-bond groups within their membership. The banks interpret the same provision as limiting credit union membership to the core common-bond group in a credit union's original charter.

While the difference between these interpretations may seem minimal from the outside, it is extremely important to credit unions, like many in my district in western New York, that have a core membership in companies that have downsized in recent years or that have tried to reach out in their community to serve residents and groups who otherwise might have limited access to financial services.

Like many of my colleagues, I strongly support credit unions and believe they play a significant and necessary role in meeting the banking and credit needs of a huge segment of our population. While I believe credit unions require new opportunities to grow and compete, I am sensitive to complaints that larger credit unions not be allowed to exceed their original charter and simply duplicate the role and services of banks.

The issue for public policy is now to balance the need for continued membership growth by credit unions with the need to assure that credit unions do not simply duplicate the role of banks or compete unfairly with other local financial institutions.

Unfortunately, it appears that few in Congress want to address this issue and prefer to let it be resolved by the Supreme Court. I disagree. It is Congress' responsibility, not the Court's, to update a depression-era statute to conform with today's market realities.

Over the past several months I have worked to develop a legislative proposal to effectuate the best public policy on this issue. I do not intend to introduce the proposal at this time. Instead, I wish to offer it as a vehicle for discussion and as a guideline for future action, if needed.

I do not presume that the approach I am proposing is necessarily the right or only answer to the membership controversy. It is certainly not an approach that either the credit unions or the banks are likely to welcome or support at this time. But either party that loses the court decision will certainly view this as an extremely reasonable proposal. And it is possible that the Court may deny standing in the current case, leaving all parties in the same position of uncertainty as a year ago.

I believe that now, before the Court acts, is the time to discuss policy options and to determine what makes good public policy. Waiting until after a decision will only harden the positions of both parties. I would encourage the credit unions and the banks to come together and consider options for resolving the issue in legislation rather than additional years of litigation. The approach I am outlining or somewhere close to it, could well be where we end up on the issue.

Mr. Speaker, I have inserted a copy of my proposal elsewhere in today's RECORD. I offer

it for the consideration of my colleagues as a beginning point for future discussion.

TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICE OF NEW JERSEY STATE SENATOR JOHN EWING

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize New Jersey State Senator John H. Ewing. Senator Ewing has dedicated the last 31 years to representing the citizens of Somerset County and the surrounding area in many ways. Senator Ewing served 2 years on the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders starting in 1966. In 1967 he successfully ran for a seat in the New Jersey General Assembly where he served for 10 years until he was elected to the New Jersey State Senate in 1977. While in the Senate he has served on the Joint Appropriations Committee and as chairman of the Senate Education Committee. His interest in the need to ensure a quality education for New Jersey's children is well known by educators and parents from all around the State.

Senator Ewing not only served his State, but served his country as well. He served in World War II, winning a Bronze Star for Valor. Because of the bravery of men like Jack Ewing the people of our Nation and many others around the world are free today. His wartime courage remains an extremely significant contribution to humanity because were it not for the men and women who risked life and limb during the Second World War, we might not have the freedom here to pay tribute to his legacy. I thank him for that service.

Senator Ewing is retiring from the New Jersey State Senate at the end of this year. He has served the people of central New Jersey very well. We will all miss his energetic and dedicated service. It is my hope that he and his wife Ally will have a long, happy, and healthy retirement. It is certainly well deserved.

A TRIBUTE TO LUKE MARANO, SR.

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Philadelphian, Luke Marano, Sr., who will be honored this Sunday as the Philadelphia Committee of Boys Towns of Italy's 1997 Man of the Year. Mr. Marano is the chairman of the 83-year-old Philadelphia Macaroni Co., and has distinguished himself through his continued contributions to the community.

Since taking over the operations of the Philadelphia Macaroni Co. from his grandfather, who started the business back in 1914, Luke has taken a hands-on approach to making it a continued success. He knows how to run every machine in the plant, and has expanded operations three times since 1973. Producing nearly 100 million pounds of pasta per year, Philadelphia Macaroni is one of the

largest family enterprises in the U.S. pasta business today. Under Luke's direction, the company recently broke ground for a new durum flour mill in North Dakota. Indicative of his success in the industry, in 1992 Luke was named Pasta Man of the Year by the National Pasta Association.

But aside from his business successes and contributions to the Philadelphia business community, Luke Marano is compassionate and generous in his public life. When he is honored this Sunday, it will be for his generosity in aiding the cause of the Boys Towns of Italy. This worthy charity, founded after WWII by Monsignor Carroll-Abbing, provides food, clothing, and shelter to needy children throughout Italy, a cause Luke Marano has long been a supporter of.

Mr. Speaker, in light of his years of success in the pasta business, and his dedication to worthy causes such as the Boys Towns of Italy, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring a great American and fellow Philadelphian, Luke Marano, Sr.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ETTA WEISS OSMAN

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Etta Weiss Osman a very happy 85th birthday. Born Etta Weiss in Brooklyn on November 25, 1912, Etta is the youngest of six siblings. She married Haskel Osman on September 1, 1935, and they enjoyed 47 years of happiness together before Haskel's passing in 1982. Brooklyn's loss was Florida's gain when Etta and Haskel moved south in 1972, but we are fortunate that Etta still returns to Brooklyn for frequent visits.

Etta is blessed with a large, loving family—four children, eleven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. On the occasion of her birthday, we would all do well to emulate Etta Weiss Osman, who continues to embody the proverb that happiness is not a destination, it is a method of life.

THE SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF TRESSLER ADOPTION SERVICES

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, for the past two and a half decades, Tressler Adoption Services has provided an invaluable service to the community by helping to place special needs children in the care of loving and caring families. The courage and conviction that they have devoted to helping these extraordinary children has not gone unnoticed and I applaud their efforts.

Tressler Adoption Services has given more than 2,500 children a second change in life. The priceless opportunities afforded to these special needs children may not have been realized had Tressler not been the stewards of their good fortune. Tressler should serve as a model for other communities, demonstrating