

reforms in 1991 and 1993 to curb growth of the program.

1996 was a year of dramatically lower growth in Medicaid costs, only 3.3%. However, it is unlikely to stay that low, with program growth estimated to average almost 8% annually over the next 6 years.

Because of the extremely high rate of Medicaid growth, Congress has examined ways to reform the program. The previous Congress enacted a welfare reform law which is expected to reduce Medicaid spending by \$4 billion over 7 years largely because of restrictions on eligibility of non-citizens for Medicaid. In addition, a proposal to turn Medicaid over to the states was included in a budget bill vetoed by the President.

What are the issues in Medicaid? The issues Congress faces this session include whether Medicaid should remain an entitlement, what national standards should be retained, and how federal funds should be allocated among the states. I favor retaining the entitlement status because eliminating it would increase the number of disadvantaged persons without coverage. I also favor greater flexibility in the administration of Medicaid, including ways to organize and deliver care, reimburse providers, and assure quality of care. But I do believe it is necessary to maintain uniform national standards, especially regarding who should be covered and what basic services should be provided. Today federal Medicaid funds are provided to states on an open-ended basis. Some limits on growth are necessary, possibly on how much can be spent for each patient.

Conclusion. For me the key questions in Medicaid are how to improve coverage without imposing excessive burdens on the taxpayers and how to curb excessive spending without imposing unacceptable hardship on the poor. Congress is looking hard at ways to improve the program and rein in its costs. Much effort is necessary to slow the growth of spending by making more efficient the delivery of health care. Part of the answer is to expand enrollment in managed care and community-based care to control acute care expenses. The undesirable alternatives are to cut eligibility or services, raise taxes, or cut-back reimbursement to doctors or hospitals. Great care must be taken not to reduce needed services to the elderly, the poor, and people with disabilities.

EDWARD WILLIAMS, EAST
CHICAGOAN OF THE YEAR

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to commend Mr. Edward Williams, an outstanding citizen of Indiana's First Congressional District. On Thursday, March 13, 1997, Edward will be named East Chicagoan of the Year during a recognition banquet at the Knights of Columbus Hall in East Chicago, IN.

Edward, a native of East Chicago, is a graduate of Indiana University in Bloomington. He is currently the director of education and development for the Showboat Mardi Gras Casino. Prior to holding this position, Edward was the president and chief executive officer of Lakeshore Employment and Training Partnership. In this capacity, Edward utilized his aggressive motivational and leadership qualities, which led Lakeshore to successfully train and secure employment for thousands of young adults and other unemployed residents of Lake County, IN.

Not only has Edward excelled in his professional life, but he has been a great community leader as well. Edward's emphasis on the needs of our youth has challenged countless young people to be the very best they can be. He is an accomplished speaker and has addressed thousands of citizens on such diverse topics as education, motivation, economic, and community development, family issues, religion, and community involvement. Edward is a member of several professional associations, and he has received numerous appointments to local, State, and national boards. For example, Edward is a member of the East Chicago Library Board, a trustee of Antioch Baptist Church, and a Lilly Fellow.

Along with the distinguished award of East Chicagoan of the year, Edward has been bestowed with the State of Indiana's highest public service award. The Sagamore of the Wabash. The award was issued by Gov. Evan Bayh.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Edward on being honored as East Chicagoan of the Year. His children, Kelly, Kirk, and Kevin, can be proud of their father's accomplishments. His unselfish dedication will be marked forever in history.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ADAM
RICHARDSON, WINNER OF THE
1997 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY
BROADCAST SCRIPTWRITING
CONTEST FOR THE STATE OF
GEORGIA, SPONSORED BY THE
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. NATHAN DEAL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD:

DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND

(By Adam Richardson)

When Alexander Hamilton was a child, his family was traveling along the North Carolina coast by boat. He was so terrified of the surroundings he vowed that if he ever became capable, he would build a lighthouse so large and bright that all those that resided in its glow would have nothing to fear. In 1802 Hamilton as Secretary of the Treasury used his influence to get a lighthouse constructed on Cape Hatteras, and to this day it stands, the tallest on the East Coast. Our American democracy that we have built with our blood, sweat, and tears is much the same as this lighthouse. Democracy, like a lighthouse, starts with a dream and strong foundation. This foundation was made with the lives of the men and women who first dreamed the dream to allow democracy to soar above and beyond.

As our democracy grows, we are indebted to be a caretaker of the lighthouse and keep it strong so that the ideal that we uphold, the beam of light, can be seen from farther away with the clarity it commands. This beam of light, seen first by our forefathers, led them out of oppressive darkness to thrive in unforeseen opportunity. But the obstacles were untold, and to aid others who would follow them, they built our lighthouse to carry their vision above and beyond. We were indeed fortunate to have received a raw country instead of being given one stifled in outdated institutions.

Democracy still stands strong, yet it has its enemies. As a lighthouse is constructed, the salt, sand, wind and water attack it, intent on destruction. But when finished, a lighthouse is nearly indestructible and will stand up to the winds of change. When democracy stands tall and strong, it is the envy of its enemies and cannot be considered safe, because there is always a sea spray to diminish the radiance that gives democracy the ability to illuminate the darkness. The democratic vision stands above and reaches beyond all barriers—but not without a struggle. The waves of ignorance often inhibit the gains of democracy. In many countries a child goes without an education because religious differences hurl bullets through the schoolyard. In the former Yugoslavia 250,000 lives have been lost and millions displaced because of a campaign of ethnic cleansing. We in America are made strong by people with the same goals but not necessarily the same gods. Likewise, the winds of inequality topple the hopes of people in countries where one man's vote will not count as much as another's or possibly will not be counted at all.

On the other side of the lighthouse, where all is calm, are the opportunities and the peace of mind that comes with a democratic nation. In America, like a harbor with its protected waters and secured ships, is a country with the betterment of the people the main issue. When democracy has fallen into rigidity, the government has always bent to refuse breaking—in the form of new laws, updating of old ones, and the acceptance of new schools of thought when the old way had proved itself ineffectual. Because this harbor is guarded by democracy and maintained by the power of the people, children can receive an education in the manner they should. Within this harbor a man goes to vote, and his ballot is cast without the worry, "Will I be heard?" or "If so, will I be given a chance?"

Even though the wind and the waves can be kept out, certain elements cannot be held at bay. There is a fog that we cannot see through, even with attuned senses. If we leave this fog unattended, it will be our terrible demise. Many great civilizations have fallen to this killer that comes on cat feet. This killer that lurks in the fog is complacency. We must not become immune to what is going on around us because beyond the fog and beyond the safety of our democracy, the wind and waves are always surging. We must remain vigilant.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
RICHARD J. GROSS VFW POST 8896

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Richard J. Gross VFW Post 8896 on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Located in East Berlin, PA, this post is named in honor of a fallen hero of World War II, Richard J. Gross. A radio operator-gunner on a B-24 Liberator, Gross was lost when his plane was shot down during a combat mission over New Guinea.

Fifty years ago, this post first organized at an informal meeting. On February 13, 1947, the first official meeting was held. The staff of officers was selected and the official business of organizing the post and finding a permanent meeting place was underway. These were but the first few steps of a long journey of community service, fellowship, and remembrance of

the sacrifices veterans have made for the United States.

On March 13, 1947, the Department of Pennsylvania, Veterans of Foreign Wars approved the charter submitted to it, and the VFW Post 8896 officially existed. The men who were a part of this organization were strong and self-reliant; they raised funds and worked themselves to build a suitable place for meetings. The men who constructed this structure did so in their spare time, often after a long day of work. Many times they labored well into the night to complete the structure.

Post 8896 quickly became an important part of the community in East Berlin, PA. Throughout the past 50 years, its members have been actively involved in making their town a better place to live. Both they and the man that the post honors serve as reminders for the community at large: One for making the supreme sacrifice for his country during war, and the others for their service to the United States, and the values it holds important.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognition of VFW Post 8896's anniversary. I am proud to say that I am a member of this post. I salute my fellow veterans for 50 years of service, and wish them at least another 50.

HONORING ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF THE EASTSIDE

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in commemorating the chartering of Assistance League of the Eastside [ALE] in Redmond, WA, as the 98th chapter of the National Assistance League. For 8 years Assistance League of the Eastside has existed to develop and carry out philanthropic projects to meet the needs of the greater eastside community. This all-volunteer, nonprofit organization has made a difference in the lives of literally thousands of needy citizens with programs that are tailored to meet real-world emergencies. For example, Operation School Bell has provided more than 1,000 at-risk children with new clothing, school supplies, and hygiene items. Victims of rape and assault have benefited from the Assistance League's dissemination of assault survivor kits, a program that provides sweat suits and personal care items to those seeking refuge from an aggressor. And the ALE's caring and sharing program has brightened the lives of senior citizens at the Emerald Heights assisted living facility in Redmond by providing birthday and holiday parties for the residents. ALE, through the efforts of its 65 very active and good-hearted members, is making a difference in ways that go far beyond the capabilities of government programs because the volunteers are impelled by compassion for their fellow eastsiders. That spirit deserves not only recognition, but commendation and celebration. America needs more people like the citizens who devote their spare time to the many good projects of Assistance League of the Eastside.

Therefore it is fitting that today, as ALE gains chapterhood status with the National Assistance League based on compliance with

that organization's bylaws, policies, and standards, I am proud to draw the attention of the House of the great work of this organization. And I am honored to join Redmond Mayor Rosemarie Ives in setting aside March 12, 1997, as a day to honor Assistance League of the Eastside. I join Mayor Ives in urging all citizens of Washington State to recognize this all-volunteer organization and encourage its continued philanthropic work benefiting our eastside community.

TRIBUTE TO MUSIC EDUCATION IN WASHINGTON STATE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the students and teachers of Washington State for their accomplishments in the area of music education in our State. Research shows that music is an important tool for building a more creative and intelligent populace and music study helps students to perform better in academic and social settings. March is Music in Our Schools Month and an appropriate time to pay tribute to the students, parents, and teachers in our State who work diligently throughout the year to call attention to the importance of music education in our schools.

I would like to pay a special tribute to Grass Lake Elementary School in Kent, WA, for their contribution to the Music Educator's 13th Annual World's Largest Concert which will be shown nationwide. The hard work and dedication of the individuals involved with this project deserve recognition for their important efforts for bringing attention to music education in our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, as you all are aware, over the past week, the Midwest has experienced devastating flood waters. Because of these floods, major portions of the Sixth Congressional District of Ohio have been declared a Federal disaster area. To help the people back home, I remained in the district last week and therefore missed the following votes:

Wednesday, March 5, 1997: Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" on Rollcall Vote 29, House Concurrent Resolution 17, the Guatemalan Peace Process; "yea" on Rollcall Vote 30, House Concurrent Resolution 18, the Nicaraguan Democratic Elections; and "nay" on Rollcall Vote 31, House Concurrent Resolution 31, Display of the Ten Commandments.

Thursday, March 6, 1997: "yea" on Rollcall Vote 32, Motion to Adjourn; "yea" on Rollcall Vote 33, the Journal; "yea" on Rollcall Vote 34, Washington, DC, City Council Contract Reform; and "yea" on Rollcall Vote 35, Motion to Adjourn.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LA PORTE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the good work of the La Porte Education Foundation and to congratulate foundation members as they prepare for the fourth annual Education Celebration Event on March 13, 1997. The foundation's efforts to improve educational opportunities are forging a stronger community today and building a brighter future for our children.

The foundation's mission is to strengthen the La Porte community through education. A nonprofit organization operating separately from the La Porte School System, the foundation funds innovative, creative, and instructional projects for both students and teachers in La Porte schools.

The La Porte Education Foundation was established in 1993 because the community understood that there is a strong linkage between the quality of life in La Porte and the quality of its education system. Its organizers understand that, sometimes, the best way to meet a challenge is to roll up your sleeves and get involved.

The foundation's endowment has provided a steady, new source of funds outside the general revenue fund for expanding the educational opportunities available to La Porte's students. And it has worked.

The La Porte Foundation Board decided early on that the entire community needed to be actively involved in the foundation's efforts to enhance education in La Porte schools. As a means to involve citizens, the board chose to sponsor an event which would celebrate public education in La Porte on an annual basis. The first celebration was held at Sylvan Beach Pavilion and was developed and presented by a foundation committee consisting of teachers, community members, PTO and area industry representatives, and foundation board members. The first celebration was an overwhelming success with over 1,000 citizens enjoying booths from each school and entertainment from many students.

The second annual celebration was moved to La Porte High School to accommodate large crowds. Now in the fourth year, this year's celebration will highlight grant projects by LPISD teachers which were funded by the foundation. This unique event continues to draw enthusiastic crowds numbering over 1,000 each year.

I wish the foundation continued success as they celebrate another Education Celebration Event and continue their mission to improve the education and lives of the children of La Porte.

THE DEFENSE JOBS AND TRADE PROMOTION ACT OF 1997

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. CRANE, Ms. DUNN, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. HAYWORTH,