

be missed. Teachers like Mr. Selke, who give tirelessly to their students and inspire great success, are a rare breed.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Mr. Selke and wish him the best of luck as he begins his much deserved retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF "MEDICARE HOSPITAL CAPITAL EFFICIENCY PROMOTION ACT OF 1999," 11TH IN A SERIES OF MEDICARE MODERNIZATION BILLS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the 11th in a series of bills to modernize Medicare, obtain long-term savings, and make the program more efficient, without forcing beneficiaries to make radical changes.

The bill would give Medicare authority to reduce capital payments 25% to hospitals in areas where we have more than an average number of beds and the occupancy rate is below the national average. Exceptions would be made if capital payments to these hospitals were used to merge or downsize or if the Secretary determined that special circumstances required a capital expansion.

Mr. speaker, a major force making American health care the most expensive in the world is that we have way, way too many hospital beds. In California, occupancy has been below 50% for years. Throughout the nation, many hospitals are at 20 to 30% occupied. No one would run a modern factory at these occupancy rates-and certainly no banker would willy-nilly put more capital into such an industry. Yet the taxpayer consistently makes billions of dollars a year in automatic payments for capital to the nation's hospitals.

Dr. John Weinberg of Dartmouth has just published the third in what is called The Dartmouth Atlas. He provides overwhelming documentation that in health, it is not so much demand, as supply that is driving the cost of the health care system. In other words, "build it, and they shall come." Build a hospital, and doctors will find a way to use it. The more hospital beds available in a community, the more likely you will die in a hospital instead of at home, in a hospice, or in a nursing home. Yet we know that the public does not prefer a high-tech, prolonged death. At the moment of death, most people would like to be a familiar setting surrounded by family-not hooked up to a half dozen tubes in a hospital ICU.

Capital payments also are used to proliferate fancy new services-rather than asking that expensive services (such as transplant or open heart surgeries) be concentrated at hospitals which do a large volume of operations and which have better outcomes. The data is overwhelming that the more operations a hospital does, the less likely they are to kill you. In other words, practice makes perfect, or at least very good. Yet in California, for example, we have about 130 hospitals doing open heart surgeries. Setting up an open heart program costs, I am told, about \$10 million. Yet some of these heart centers only do 3 or 5 operations a month! They may be good for a local hospital's prestige, but they are almost a prime facie malpractice waiting for a jury.

Medicare and taxpayers, again, should not be paying for this proliferation of local prestige: we are killing people through bad outcomes when we allow every Tom, Dick, and Harry hospital to do sophisticated operations.

My bill is a simple proposal: where we have to many beds and they are going unoccupied, the taxpayer can save 25% in reduced hospital capital payments.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE RAGIN CAJUN AMATEUR BOXING CLUB

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 1999

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special group of young athletes. These young boxers, along with their coach Beau Williford, comprise Lafayette, Louisiana's Ragin Cajun Amateur Boxing Club.

Over the Memorial Day district work period, I had the privilege of visiting their gym and witnessing first-hand the remarkable program that Mr. Williford leads. Everyday after school, Mr. Williford's gym becomes a training ground for the next generation of boxers. He not only provides these youngsters with a place to train, but he also provides the life instruction and guidance that many of these kids so desperately need. My experience at his gym convinced me of just how vital the need for such programs is in communities throughout the United States. In fact, research has shown that students who participate in after-school programs exhibit higher levels of achievement in reading, math, and other subjects. These students also exhibit improved grades, reading ability, attendance levels, homework completion, and increased graduation and enrollment in post secondary education.

In 1982, Beau Williford opened Beau Williford's Boxing Academy and began the Ragin Cajun Amateur Boxing Club. Mr. Williford's Boxing Academy soon became a place where young people could productively spend their after school time under the wing of an inspirational coach. Indeed, nine gold medals were recently won by young athletes who competed at the 1999 Junior Olympics and Under 19 competitions in Natchitoches, LA, on May 14-16, 1999.

Beau Williford deserves special acknowledgement for his devotion to the physical and personal development of the youngsters he takes in. A former boxer and trainer of six boxing champions, Mr. Williford offers these kids a place where they can relieve stress through exercise while socializing with others their age. Several of the young people he trains were troubled youths without motivation, discipline, or direction. Under Mr. Williford's guidance, their lives have been turned around. Those who were once making failing grades in school are now making straight A's. In addition, the parents of these young athletes claim that not only are their children doing great as boxers, but they are doing much better as children. They are more disciplined and have gained a sense of self-respect.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to individually recognize these outstanding youths who have worked hard to earn the title of "champion." Please join me in extending a warm voice of

recognition to Jared Hidalgo, a sixteen year-old Carencro High School junior who won the 178-pound division gold medal; to Harold Breau, a seventeen year-old Northside High School junior who won the 165-pound division gold medal; to Mark Megna, an eight year-old Woodvale Elementary School student who won the Gold in the 60-pound bantam division; to John Ross Prudhomme, an eleven-year old Westminster Academy student who won the Gold in the 85-pound junior division; to Jacob Carriere, an eleven year-old Edgar Martin Middle School student who won the Gold in the 65-pound junior division; to Clay Johnson, an eleven year-old S.J. Montgomery student who won the Gold in the 95-pound junior division; to Michael Carriere, a fourteen year-old Edgar Martin Middle School student who won the Gold in the 156-pound intermediate division; to Darren Johnson, a fourteen year-old Lawtell Middle School student who won the Gold in the super heavy weight intermediate division; and to Wesley Williford, a fourteen year-old Lafayette Middle School student who won the Gold in the 156-pound senior division.

These youngsters are guided by an outstanding group of coaches who also deserve our recognition. In addition to the guidance of Beau Williford, Coaches Gene Hidalgo, Walter Dugas, Mark Peters, Sean McGraw, Lenny Johnson, Harold Breau, Sr., and Deidre Gogarty work with these kids on a daily basis. Along with team manager Christian Williford, this outstanding group of adults is committed to the direction and success of these young athletes.

The hard work and discipline that Mr. Williford and his team inspire in these young people not only produces athletic growth, but personal growth as well. Studies have shown that sustained positive interactions with adults contribute to the overall development of young people and their achievement in school. At a time in our country when youth violence is on the rise and we are searching for answers, Mr. Williford and the Ragin Cajun Amateur Boxing Club have found their own solution. He and his young boxers were an inspiration to me, and in recognizing them today I hope that his story will inspire others to take an active role in the lives of our youth.

HONORING KENNETH C. BAKER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize and honor the accomplishments of a man who has given much to the teaching profession, and even to his many students. On June 30, friends, colleagues, and family will gather to pay tribute to Mr. Kenneth Baker of Flint, Michigan, who is retiring from the Flint Community Schools after 34 years of dedicated service to the community.

As a former school teacher myself, I understand how important it is for the minds of our Nation's children to be influenced by positive, uplifting role models. I am happy that Kenneth Baker lives up to this ideal. A graduate of the University of Toledo, and Eastern Michigan University, Kenneth began his long and rewarding career with Flint Community Schools in 1965. He served as a science teacher at

Bryan Community School until 1969, where he then went on to Carpenter Community School as its director. He served in this same capacity at McKinley Middle School from 1972 to 1990, helping guide the lives of thousands of children.

When the need arose, Kenneth found himself thrust back into the role as teacher, as he taught science and social studies at Anderson Community School from 1990 to 1995, and then his current teaching position, once again at McKinley. No matter which hat he wore, Kenneth always proved himself to be an exceptional educator, able to help his students acquire and develop skills that would help them to become strong, positive members of society.

In efforts to lead by example, Kenneth has also been involved in the community as well. Within the school, he has been a team leader in the team curriculum program, and has also been willing to volunteer as a referee for sporting events such as volleyball and track and field. He has served on the Learning Standard Committee, and has been a coordinator of the Buick City and Flint Olympian Road Race.

Mr. Speaker, there are many adults throughout the entire state of Michigan whose lives have been enriched by an early life interaction with Kenneth Baker. I am proud to have a person such as him within my district. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in wishing him well in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 1999

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, on June 10, 1999, I was absent after 6:30 p.m. to attend my son's junior high school graduation ceremony. I ask that the RECORD reflect that if I was present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 192, 193, 200, 201 and 202 and I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 194 through 199 and 203.

TROOPER CHARLES PULVER RETIRES AFTER 31 YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE COLORADO STATE PATROL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Trooper Charles Pulver who, after 31 years in the Colorado State Patrol, has announced his retirement. In recognition of his service and dedication to the citizens of Colorado, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to Trooper Pulver.

After graduating from Central High School in Pueblo in 1960, Pulver went on to serve in the United States Air Force from 1960 to 1964. In 1968, Pulver received his first assignment to serve the citizens of Golden, Colorado. He was transferred to Idaho Springs where he served from 1972 until 1980 when he returned home to serve the community of Pueblo.

Throughout his 31 years of service, Chuck has undoubtedly witnessed a great deal, yet one thing has remained the same, Chuck's dedication to the citizens of Colorado, and his high moral standards. In 1974, Trooper Pulver was awarded the Red Cross Life Saving awards for performing CPR on a heart attack victim until further medical help arrived on the scene. Named Officer of the Year several times by the Optimist Club, Chuck was most recently nominated in 1998 for his outstanding dedication to duty. He has been recognized numerous times for his efforts in DUI enforcement, as a drug expert, and safety belt compliance by the Colorado State Patrol.

Today, as Trooper Pulver embarks on a new era in his life, I would like to offer my gratitude for his years of service. It is clear that Pueblo, Colorado has benefited greatly from the hard work and honest endeavors of Mr. Pulver. On behalf of all of Colorado, I would like to say thank you to Trooper Charles Pulver and wish him all the best as he begins his much deserved retirement.

CRISIS IN KOSOVO (ITEM NO. 8)— REMARKS BY JOHN R. MACARTHUR, PUBLISHER OF HARPER'S MAGAZINE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on May 20, 1999, I joined with Rep. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY, Rep. BARBARA LEE, Rep. JOHN CONYERS and Rep. PETER DEFAZIO in hosting the fourth in a series of Congressional Teach-In sessions on the Crisis in Kosovo. If a peaceful resolution to this conflict is to be found in the coming weeks, it is essential that we cultivate a consciousness of peace and actively search for creative solutions. We must construct a foundation for peace through negotiation, mediation, and diplomacy.

Part of the dynamic of peace is a willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue, to listen to one another openly and to share our views in a constructive manner. I hope that these Teach-In sessions will contribute to this process by providing a forum for Members of Congress and the public to explore alternatives to the bombing and options for a peaceful resolution. We will hear from a variety of speakers on different sides of the Kosovo situation. I will be introducing into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD transcripts of their remarks and essays that shed light on the many dimensions of the crisis.

This presentation is by John R. (Rick) MacArthur, president and publisher of Harper's Magazine. Mr. MacArthur is an award-winning journalist and author. He received the 1993 Mencken award for the best editorial/opinion column. He also initiated the foundation-inspired rescue of Harper's in 1980, and since then the magazine has received numerous awards and the support of advertisers and readers alike. Mr. MacArthur is the author of *Second Front: Censorship and Propaganda in the Gulf War*, a finalist for a 1993 Mencken Award for books. A tireless advocate for international human rights, Mr. MacArthur founded and serves on the board of directors of the Death Penalty Information Center and the MacArthur Justice Center.

Mr. MacArthur describes how government institutions and their willing accomplices in the news media mislead the public during periods of wartime. He cites specific instances from the Gulf War as well as the current War in Yugoslavia. He also discusses how both sides in the War in Yugoslavia engage in propaganda, often involving the misrepresentation and invention of atrocity stories to suit political purposes. Mr. MacArthur makes a compelling case for how war undermines the trust that the American people have in their institutions, with truth and accuracy as the victims. I commend this excellent presentation to my colleagues.

PRESENTATION BY JOHN R. MACARTHUR,

PUBLISHER OF HARPER'S MAGAZINE

The first thing to keep in mind is that all governments lie in wartime, more or less in proportion to what they view as their political needs. Much more rarely do they lie in the pursuit of strategic military objectives or to protect military security, which is their oft-stated claim. Occasionally military commanders get the upper hand and their general obsession with secrecy and control can overcome the will of the politicians and their civilian advisors, but usually the politicians call the tune. They lie, and when they lie in concert with their military subordinates it is for one principle reason, and that is to manipulate journalists and mislead the public. In our country this matters more than in, say, North Vietnam, because we Americans operate on the quaint, old-fashioned notion of informed consent of the governed. The thought in the government is that if too much bad or unpleasant news gets to the people, as it finally did in Vietnam, the people might turn against the war policy of their leaders, which the leaders would prefer not to happen. Thus we cannot talk about war coverage in Kosovo without talking about NATO, US, and Serbian censorship and information management.

NATO and the US are trying to manage the bad news in a variety of ways. Some of their techniques have succeeded in keeping us in the dark, and some have backfired. A case in point comes from Newsday's senior Washington correspondent Pat Sloyan whose upcoming article in the June American Journalism Review details the NATO public relations response to the April 14th bombing of the mixed procession of military and civilian vehicles near Jakovo that killed upwards of 82 Albanian civilians, who, of course, we were supposed to protect. You'll recall the delay in NATO's response, and the playing of an audio tape debriefing of a US air force pilot identified only as "Bear 21." "Bear 21" is heard sincerely explaining how hard he tried to hit the military vehicle, but the implication by NATO and by the PR people was that "Bear 21," with all his good intentions, had simply missed his target and killed civilians. In fact, "Bear 21" did hit the military vehicle, not the tractors. A review of the gun-sight footage revealed later that other NATO pilots may have killed the civilians. I think they probably did, and, as Sloyan writes, senior US military officials who spoke on condition of anonymity say General Clark's staff had purposely singled out the F-16 pilot, "Bear 21," in an attempt to minimize public criticism of the civilian bombing. The hope was that the public would be sympathetic to someone who had taken great care to be accurate. "They [that is, NATO], picked him for propaganda reasons," says a senior US military official. The blame-placing outraged senior military officials, who said it deliberately misrepresented the event, and smeared an excellent pilot.

That's a fairly sophisticated public relations maneuver, but NATO is resorting to