

opened up the chest cavity, the heart was still beating."

The magazine pressed Kelly again: Was the type of abortion ever altered to provide an intact specimen, even if it meant producing a live baby? "Yes, that was so we could sell better tissue. At the end of the year, they would give the clinic back more money because we got good specimens."

Some practical souls will probably swallow hard and insist that, well, if these babies are going to be aborted anyway, isn't it better that medical research should benefit? No. This isn't like voluntary organ donation. This reduces human beings to the level of commodities. And it creates doctors who swore an oath never to kill the kind of people who can beat a breathing child to death with tongs.

MEDICARE FRAUD PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Act of 1999.

The vast majority of health care providers in this country are honest. Yet all large health care programs are vulnerable to exploitation, and Medicare is no exception. Over the past few years, Medicare fraud has skyrocketed, depriving millions of seniors quality care and bilking taxpayers out of literally billions of dollars.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services Inspector General, in fiscal year 1998 alone, waste, fraud, abuse and other improper payments drained as much as \$13 billion from the Medicare Trust Fund.

How is this happening? Well, according to a June 1999 General Accounting Office examination of three states—North Carolina, Florida and my home state of Illinois—as many as 160 sham clinics, labs or medical-equipment companies have submitted fraudulent claims.

For example, two doctors who submitted in excess of \$690,000 in fraudulent Medicare claims listed nothing more than a Brooklyn, New York laundromat as their office location. In Florida, over \$6 million in Medicare funds were sent to medical equipment companies that provided no services whatsoever; one of these companies even listed a fictitious address that turned out to be located in the middle of a runway at the Miami International Airport.

Phony addresses and bogus providers add up to Medicare fraud and taxpayers being swindled out of billions of dollars.

In an attempt to change this equation, I am introducing the Medicare Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Act of 1999. This legislation is designed to prevent waste, fraud and abuse by strengthening the Medicare enrollment process, expanding certain standards of participation, and reducing erroneous payments. Among other things, my bill gives additional tools to the federal law enforcement agencies that are pursuing health care swindlers.

This bill is by no means a solution to Medicare fraud. But the Medicare Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Act of 1999 will make it more difficult for unscrupulous individuals to enter and take advantage of the Medicare system.

It is my hope that, come the next legislative session, my colleagues will join me in making a commitment to preventing and detecting fraud and abuse.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. WISE, JR.

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, on November 16 and 17, I missed several votes because I was home recovering from surgery. Had I been present, here is how I would have voted on the various bills. I would request that you insert this at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

H.R. 3257, State Flexibility Clarification Act: I would have voted "aye".

H. Con. Res. 222, Condemn Armenian Assassination: I would have voted "aye".

H. Con. Res. 165, Commend Slovak Republic: I would have voted "aye".

H. Con. Res. 206, Express Concern Over Chechen Conflict: I would have voted "aye".

H. Con. Res. 211, Support Elections in India: I would have voted "aye".

H. Res. 169, Support Democracy and Human Rights in Laos: I would have voted "aye".

H. Res. 325, Importance of Increased Support and Funding to Combat Diabetes: I would have voted "aye".

Rule to allow suspension bills to be brought up on Wednesday: I would have voted "no".

H.R. 2336, United States Marshals Service Improvement Act of 1999—Amends the Federal judicial code to provide for the appointment of U.S. marshals for each judicial district of the United States and for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia by the Attorney General of the United States (currently, by the President), subject to Federal law governing appointments in the competitive civil service: I would have voted "no".

H.J. Res. 80, Continuing Resolution: I would have voted "aye".

S. 440, Provides Support for Certain Institutes: I would have voted "no".

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS VETERANS BRAINTRUST

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. BISHOP. The Honorable CORRINE BROWN (D-FL) and I recently convened the 11th Annual Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust. Traditionally known as one of the highlights of the CBCF Legislative Conference, the Veterans Braintrust has truly become a family affair bringing together African American veterans and supporters from across the nation.

This year's Braintrust forum entitled, "Veterans Health Care Issues for 2000 and Beyond" convened with the hope of facilitating a national dialogue between the veterans community and lawmakers. The Braintrust addressed the future course of the veterans health care system with an emphasis in plan-

ning for the needs of an aging veterans population. The moderator, Dr. Lawrence Gary, a preeminent scholar from Howard University, led a distinguished panel of experts that included doctors, researchers, government officials, veterans service representatives and community advocates. Participants at the event included: Dr. Eugene Oddone, Dr. Jeff Whittle, Georgia State Senator Ed Harbison, Dr. Sissy Awoke, Mr. Charles McLeod, Jr., Mr. Ralph Cooper, Mr. Dennis Wannemacher, Mr. Carroll Williams, Mr. Calvin Gross and Dr. Erwin Parson.

The panel was invited to help focus our attention on racial disparities in the veterans health care arena. The implications of these preliminary findings, as well as the urgent need to eliminate racial disparities in veterans health care led Congresswoman BROWN to call for the creation of a national working group to develop a series of legislative and policy recommendations to address these issues.

Our keynote speaker was Dr. Thomas Garthwaite, the Acting Under Secretary for Health at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Garthwaite stated that the VA is facing new challenges in the health care arena, specifically issues relating to veterans of African-American descent. He noted concerns in the area of long-term care, increased rates of Hepatitis C, behavioral and mental illnesses, and homeless veterans. He stated that these problems are compounded by a rapidly aging veteran population and a continued lack of sufficient funding for veteran-related expenditures.

Congresswoman BROWN and I agreed that funding for veterans health care is inadequate. We believe that we cannot have a budget surplus, if we have not paid our dues to America's veterans. Georgia State Senator Ed Harbison expressed the sentiment of many at the Braintrust when he stated, "It used to be said, that 'old soldiers never die, they just simply fade away.' But in 2000, it's more like 'old soldiers never die, they're just ignored to death!'"

Dr. Erwin Parson, Vietnam veteran and health care professional, summarized the essence of the forum by acknowledging, "We know too well that little attention has been given to the issue of African American elderly health by society. Our elderly veterans, especially our African American elderly, have important health care needs that are not being met satisfactorily. We are aware that the stream of scientific studies on comparative health seem to always reach the same conclusion: race is a factor in access and quality care for many life-threatening medical conditions which afflict African Americans."

We found it disconcerting that studies found that race is often a controlling factor in the assessment and management of many administrative and clinical decisions in veterans health care. We all realize that accurate data is vital to evaluating the true health care needs of African American veterans. However, current research is much too sparse and fragmented. It is obvious that we urgently need to get better, more meaningful data on African American elderly veterans.

Finally, the reality is simply this: The aging veterans population is upon us now! We are grateful and will never forget that African Americans have fought gallantly for America, beginning as far back as the Revolutionary

War. They are our living 'Legacy' and, today, we honor that legacy when we care for those who gave all they had. Therefore, I believe we do owe them a special debt of gratitude. Health care is something promised, a promise that must be paid in full. So let us honor them who honored us, and give them the best health care to be found anywhere in America, or the world.

At the conclusion of the session, Congresswoman BROWN and Ron Armstead, Executive Coordinator for the Veterans Braintrust, presided over our 11th annual awards ceremony. This event was conceived by Congressman CHARLES RANGEL (D-NY) and begun 11 years ago with General Colin Powell in attendance. At this historical gathering General Powell was joined by some of the highest ranking African-American military officers ever to serve this great Nation: Lt. Gen. Julius Becton, USA, Ret., Brig. Gen. Hazel Johnson-Brown, USA, Ret., Dr. Roscoe Brown, Vice Adm. Samuel Gravely, Jr., USN, Ret., Gen. Frank Petersen, Jr., USMC, Ret., and Col. Fred Cherry, USAF, Ret.

Commenting on the significance and rich tradition of this awards ceremony, Congressman RANGEL noted that each of these recipients has distinguished themselves as true patriots in the war for veterans' rights, and they have not allowed racism to hamper their achievements.

The 1999 awards were presented to twenty-nine exemplary veteran supporters. Individual winners of the 1999 CBC Veterans Braintrust Awards included: Julius Allen, John "Buddy" Andrade, Charles Blatcher, III, Delegate Clarence "Tiger" Davis, Jeff Hansen, Alex Holmes, John Howe, Chris Jenkins, Sgt. Henry Johnson (Posthumous), John Johnson, John J. Johnson, Karen Johnson, Ruben "Sugar Bear" Johnson, Phillip "Jay" Jones, Kathleen Andrews-Lindo, Frankie Manning, Charles McLeod, Jr., Dr. Shari Miles, Wallace "Wally" Miles, W. Roy Owens (Posthumous), Robert "Pope" Powell, Larry Smith, Alexander Vernon, Cordell Walker, Barbara Waiters, and Martha Watts.

Organizations receiving this year's honors were: The Civil War Memorial Freedom Foundation, The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Project (CWSS), and the National Minority Museum Foundation.

We also took a moment to recognize Jeanette Boone and Roy Martin from the Office of Senator JOHN KERRY (D-MA) for their excellent assistance on behalf of African-American veterans.

Special citations were given to stalwarts in the battle for veterans rights. The first award was given to Dr. Erwin Parson, co-founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust and renowned expert in trauma/PTSD mental health. He was recognized for his 22 years of dedicated service to veterans and their families. The second award went to Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN (D-FL) Co-Chair of the CBC Veterans Braintrust and Ranking Member of the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation. Ms. BROWN has shown her continued and steadfast commitment to our nation's veterans.

At the end of the ceremony, the Executive Committee members of the Braintrust and past awardees in attendance—Jerry Cochran, Arthur Barham, Morocco Coleman, Joann Williams, Ralph Cooper, Robert Blackwell, Ruben

Johnson, Leroy Colston, Robert Powell, Calvin Gross, Daniel Smith and Brig. Gen. Clara Adams-Ender, USA, Ret.—were asked to stand and be publicly recognized.

In closing, I want to personally thank Congressional staff members Brittlely Wise and Nick Martinelli, Executive Director of the Braintrust Ron Armstead and forum moderator Dr. Lawrence Gary for everything they did to make the event a success. We appreciate the assistance of forum evaluators Dr. Shari Miles, Director of the African American Women's Institute, and Michael Tanner, Director of Health and Welfare Studies at the Cato Institute for all their hard work.

As I have said before and will say again, when veterans answered the call in faithful service, the nation in essence wrote them a check for certain benefits—and it is our duty as members of Congress and as American citizens to make sure this check never comes back marked "insufficient funds!" They were promised more. They have earned more. They deserve no less.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. LUCY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, December 5, 1999, the community of St. Lucy's Catholic Church, will gather to celebrate their 75th Anniversary. I rise today to honor St. Lucy's on this special occasion and pay tribute to their service to the community.

Like many other immigrant communities, Croatian immigrants came to the metro-Detroit area because of the promise of jobs and opportunities in lumber, mining and the automobile industry. After their arrival, they realized that a central component of their former life—the community church—was missing. They regained this sense of community when Father Oskar Suster was given permission by Bishop Michael Gallagher to form a new Catholic parish to serve the Croatian ethnic community. In 1924 they purchased their first building at the corner of Melbourne and Oakland Avenues in Detroit.

Following in the name of their patron saint, St. Lucy's Catholic Croatian Church has spent the last 75 years serving as a radiant light in the Croatian community. The Church, now located in Troy, Michigan, includes the sons and daughters of those original immigrants as well as many new arriving families. I have enjoyed participating in some of their activities and seeing firsthand the pride parishioners have in their Church and the sense of community it represents. I have also enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the community's discussions on issues of special concern, especially those touching on events transpiring in the Balkans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. Lucy's Croatian Church on the occasion of their 75th anniversary and wishing them many more years of important service to their community.

HONORING BISHOP ODIS A. FLOYD

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives today on behalf of not only one of Flint, Michigan's top citizens, but a man whom I am happy to call colleague and friend. On November 20, the congregation of New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church in Flint will gather to recognize and honor bishop Odis A. Floyd, and celebrate his 30 years of commitment as pastor to spreading the Word of the Lord.

Odis Floyd came to our community in 1948, and has established himself as one of its favorite sons. He served his country in the U.S. Army in 1958. And he has served the Flint community for many years as a well-respected man of God.

Bishop Floyd attended Monterey College, Pensacola Junior College, Mott Community College, Toledo Bible College, and the United Theological Seminary from which he received his DD degree in 1990.

It was in 1964 that he accepted his call to ministry, for which all of us in the Flint community are forever grateful. In 1965 he began assisting his grandfather, the Rev. L.W. Owens in the organization of the New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church. Bishop Floyd was ordained in 1969, and became pastor in November of 1969 when his grandfather retired. In 1991 the church's name was changed to the New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church. In 1993 he was consecrated to the office of Bishop by Paul S. Morton, Presiding Bishop of the Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship.

During his tenure at New Jerusalem, Bishop Floyd has presided over a growth in membership from 450 to more than 3,000. Following a terrible fire which destroyed the church, Bishop Floyd continued to serve the spiritual needs of his flock in a temporary facility. It was under his good guidance that the New Jerusalem congregation was able to construct a new, beautiful church in Flint. One need only step inside this stunning building to feel the warmth and the welcome of the people who helped make it possible.

Bishop Floyd is known not only in the Flint community, but throughout the country as a dynamic preacher, spiritual leader, moving gospel singer, and community activist. God has blessed him with a tremendous singing voice. Indeed, Bishop Floyd has been nominated for a Grammy award for the Best Soul Gospel Male Performance. His Sunday services are broadcast live on the church's radio station, and are a favorite for those in the community who are home-bound or otherwise unable to attend church services.

I and many other local political and community leaders of all levels have long sought Bishop Floyd's guidance and insight, and after 30 years, he continues to make a tremendous impact wherever he goes. In addition to New Jerusalem, Bishop Floyd has been found working with groups such as the Community Alliance, Resource, Environment [CARE] Drug Rehabilitation and Prevention Center.

Mr. Speaker, our community would not be the same without the presence and influence of Bishop Odis Floyd. I know that I am a better person and a better Member of Congress