

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) became U.S. law on April 10, 1979 and for the last twenty-three years, has served both the U.S. and the Republic of China on Taiwan well. By deterring aggression by the mainland, the United States has protected Taiwan from being forced into negotiations with China under the threat of armed attack or other forms of coercion. The TRA maintains the stable and secure environment within which Taiwan has become one of the world's leading free-market democracies. Today, Taiwan is prosperous and democratic, a nation well recognized for its achievements worldwide.

Taiwan is the seventh largest trading partner of the United States and has imported more from the United States each year, over the past 15 years, than the whole of mainland China. Furthermore, Taiwan and the United States share similar principles of freedom, democracy, human rights, peace and prosperity. Within the guidelines of the Taiwan Relations Act, Taiwan has completed various economic reforms and become a fully democratic country.

The legal and policy framework created by the TRA has allowed the U.S. Government and the American people to enjoy substantive relations with the governments and people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. None of this would have been possible, as Ronald Reagan noted in 1980, had it not been for "the timely action of the Congress, reflecting the strong support of the American people for Taiwan."

On the eve of the 23rd anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, I am confident that our relations with Taiwan will grow even stronger and that the TRA will continue to serve as the foundation for a strong partnership between our two nations.

HONORING 50 YEARS OF THE VIENNA LITTLE LEAGUE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Vienna Little League of Vienna, Virginia as it celebrates 50 years of providing outstanding community service to the boys and girls of Vienna. In 1952, young ball players in Vienna were advised they could no longer play in the neighboring town's Little League. With a dedicated group of parents and the backing of the Lions Clubs of Vienna, the Vienna Little League was formed. One hundred and seventy-five players participated that first year. Over the years, the

League has grown rapidly, with over 1,200 children now participating in Tee-ball, Rookie, Minors, Majors and Challenger programs.

I am proud to point out that the Vienna Little League facilities and programs are among the finest in the country. The League earned a trip to the Little League World Series in 1972 and won the Virginia State Championship last season.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, what we are ultimately saluting today are the educational opportunities the League provides to thousands of boys and girls in terms of teamwork and sportsmanship. I know my colleagues join me in commending Vienna Little League on their first 50 years and look forward to it celebrating many more.

TRIBUTE TO ONONDAGA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Onondaga High School Boys Varsity Football Team for winning the Class D New York State Football Championship on December 1, 2001. This was the first team in Onondaga High School's history to win a Class D State football championship.

Four years ago Onondaga High School did not have a football team; therefore, within just a few years this team quickly took the game to new levels, surpassing all others in the state. Ending the season 13-0, this stellar team attained their goals and set league records. The Tigers set the bar high and focused upon winning their league title, sectional title, and state title. Their strategy was a success because they were the first team out of the 41-school Onondaga High School League to win the state title. They stayed focused and never let their determination fade.

This team came together, and against all odds, rose to the top. As a result of their unfettered fortitude, the Tigers, led by coach Bill Spicer, established themselves as a unified team and showed others how hard work, courage, and passion for the game can enable any team to conquer their goals.

On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York, it is my honor to congratulate the Onondaga High School football team and their coaching staff on their Class D State Football Championship. With these remarks, I would like to recognize the following players and staff. Hodges Sneed, Chad Amidon, Ryan Hotaling, Justin Graham, Ricky Bova, Kyle Bome, Adam Legg, Donald Cummings, Brandon VanSlyke, Carl Runge, John Manley, Matt Scriber, Mac Cushing, Andrew Flynn, Mike Hart, Tom Brownell, Kyle Martin, Joe DelVecchio, Marty Brunner, Shane Zehr, Jon Whipple, Dan Willis, Pete Majewski, Jacob Cummings, Cory Dill, Mike McAuliffe, James Sanford, Robert Bailey, Caleb Golembiewski,

Chris Mayotte, Travis Burton, Pat Neuman, Kurt Wasilewski, Aaron Johnson, Paul Runge, Travis Hass, Adam Goodman, Jesse Schneider, Head Coach Bill Spicer, Building Principal William Rasbeek, Athletic Director Michael Rizzi, Assistant Coaches, Paul Taylor, Jeff Pierce, Rick Bailey, and Victor Zampetti, and Volunteer Coaches Dave Pierce and Sean Colfer.

IMPROVING THE MEDICARE SYSTEM

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will improve equity in the Medicare system and help to alleviate the growing problem of physician retention and recruitment in many areas.

The current physician fee schedule for Medicare has several components, one of which is a geographic index supposedly to adjust for cost differences in different areas. While this makes sense for a physician's expenses for office rent and other costs to vary by region, the time spent evaluating and treating a patient should not depend on where a senior lives.

My bill equalizes the physician work component of the Medicare physician fee schedule. The physician work component measures the physician time, skill and intensity in providing a service. Two additional components account for practice expense and malpractice expense. While practice and malpractice reimbursement should reflect differences in geographic costs, significant differences in physician fees in a national market for health care providers directly creates shortages in some communities like New Mexico, and excesses in other communities because they pay more.

This bill would eliminate the impact of the adjuster on physician pay by making it equal across the country. The physician work geographic practice cost index (GPCI) for New Mexico is 0.973. Bringing New Mexico to a 1.00 geographic adjuster whether through a floor or making all physician fees equal would translate into about a \$2,592,203 annual increase in Medicare payments to New Mexico physicians.

More and more seniors are learning that their physician has moved to a neighboring state because salaries are dramatically higher. New Mexicans don't pay into Medicare based on where we live, and we should not be denied access to health care because of where we live. Seniors in rural areas or "low cost areas" have seen increasing numbers of doctors leave for higher paying areas. Keeping doctors in rural states is extremely difficult because of the pay gap driven by discriminatory Medicare reimbursement. The disparities are very large. In 2000, average Medicare payments per beneficiary in New Mexico were

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

\$3,726, while in Texas average payments were \$6,539—70 percent more.

I urge my colleagues, especially those in rural states to consider this bill and its intent to bring equity and access to the outdated Medicare system.

A BILL TO PERMIT THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO HONOR ITS CITIZENS WITH STATUES IN STATUARY HALL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to permit statues honoring citizens of the District of Columbia in the same manner as statues honoring citizens of the States are placed in Statuary Hall in the Capitol. This legislation would amend two acts of Congress governing the submission and placement of statues in Statuary Hall to allow the District of Columbia to offer two statues to the Congress on behalf of D.C. residents. The District of Columbia was born with the nation itself after the War for Independence. The city has more than two centuries of its very own rich and uniquely American history. It goes without saying that the almost 600,000 American citizens who live in the nation's capital deserve the honor of having two of its history makers represented in the halls of the nation's Capitol just as citizens who live in the 50 states have long enjoyed.

This bill would allow the Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia to devise the method for determining the identity of the honorees. Mayor Anthony Williams has already agreed to find funds in the District's budget for these statues upon the passage of this legislation. While D.C. residents have not yet obtained full political equality with the states, they have all the responsibilities of the states, including paying all federal taxes and serving in all wars. D.C. residents are second per capita in federal income taxes. They have served in every war since the Revolutionary War. In World War I, the district suffered more casualties than three states, in World War II, more casualties than four states, in Korea, more casualties than eight states, and in Vietnam, more casualties than in 10 states. These responsibilities and sacrifices speak best to some of the important reasons for this bill.

After more than 200 years, this bill offers District residents the opportunity to enjoy the same pride that all other citizens experience when they come to their Capitol—the opportunity to view memorials that commemorate the efforts of deceased local residents who have made significant contributions to American history. I ask for prompt passage of this mark of simple dignity and respect to the residents of the District of Columbia.

COMMENDING THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA ON THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in commending the service of the Girl Scouts of America on their 90th Anniversary. I salute them for their dedicated service to the young women of this nation.

Girl Scouting began in March of 1912, when founder Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, for a local Scouting meeting. Ms. Low strongly believed that all girls should be given opportunities to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. These ideals continue in the organization today as girls acquire self-confidence, take on responsibility, and are encouraged to think creatively while acting with integrity.

As many of us know, the mission of the Girl Scouts is to help all girls grow strong. The organization works hard to empower our nation's young women to develop to their full potential as leaders and to set a foundation of values for sound decision-making. The Girl Scouts have continued to expand programs to address contemporary issues while still maintaining their core values.

Membership in the Girl Scouts has reached 2.7 million, making it the largest organization for girls in the world. Well over 30,000 girls are involved in the Girl Scouts in South Florida alone. The numbers continue to grow as more girls across the nation are exposed to the incredible experiences that the Girl Scouts provide.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank and commend the Girl Scouts for their efforts over the past 90 years in providing invaluable opportunities for girls' growth and development as citizen leaders.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES LIFE-SAVING SERVICE HERITAGE ACT, H.R. 4115

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the United States Life-Saving Service Heritage Act, legislation to celebrate one of the most inspiring periods in America's maritime history. This legislation would establish a comprehensive program to inventory, evaluate, document, and assist efforts to restore and preserve surviving historic lifesaving stations. I am pleased that my Jersey Shore colleague Representative Frank LoBiondo has joined me in this effort.

The history of lifesaving in the United States dates back to 1785, when the Massachusetts Humane Society began building huts along the Massachusetts coast to aid shipwreck victims. These huts were later fitted with surfboats, beach-carts, and other lifesaving equipment. Beginning in 1847, the Federal government recognized the importance and necessity of lifesaving efforts when Congress provided a

series of appropriations to establish lifesaving stations equipped to render assistance to shipwrecked mariners and their passengers. These stations were first established along the Atlantic coast with the assistance of Representative William Newell, who during the 31st and 39th Congresses represented some of the same areas of New Jersey that I represent today. Representative Newell's efforts contributed to the establishment of a network of lifesaving stations along the Jersey Shore from Sandy Hook to Cape May. In 1871, Congress approved the first appropriation for the Federal government to employ crews of lifesavers. On June 18, 1878, the "Act to Organize the Life-Saving Service" was enacted. In 1915 the Life-Saving Service merged with the Revenue Cutter Service to form the Coast Guard. At that time, there were over 275 lifesaving stations to aid shipwreck victims on the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf, and Great Lakes coasts.

The volunteer and professional lifesaving personnel who staffed these stations risked their lives to prevent shipwreck casualties. Winslow Homer immortalized these great heroes of the American coast in his painting *The Life Line*. Walt Whitman celebrated their inspiring actions in the following excerpt of his poem *Patrolling Barnegat*:

Through cutting swirl and spray watchful and firm advancing,
(That in the distance! Is that a wreck? Is the red signal flaring?)
Slush and sand of the beach tireless till daylight wending,
Steadily, slowly, through hoarse roar never remitting,
Along the midnight edge by those milk-white combs careening,
A group of dim, weird forms, struggling, the night confronting,
That savage trinity warily watching.

An outstanding example of this period survives today in my district. The historic Monmouth Beach lifesaving station, established in 1895, is a Duluth style station designed by the architect George Tolman. On one occasion, every member of the station's crew was awarded a gold lifesaving medal for rescuing victims of two shipwrecks on the same evening. Recently, this historic structure was slated for demolition to make way for a new parking lot for beachgoers. Fortunately, the entire community came together to save this important structure. However, much work needs to be done to preserve the station's history and the inspiring stories of those who served there.

It is not certain exactly how many stations like the one in Monmouth Beach remain. Many surviving historic lifesaving stations are of rare architectural significance, but harsh coastal environments threaten them, rapid economic development in the coastal zone, neglect, and lack of resources for their preservation. The heroic actions of America's lifesavers deserve greater recognition, and their contributions to America's maritime and architectural history should be celebrated.

That is why I have proposed the United States Life-Saving Service Heritage Act. This legislation would provide the resources necessary to inventory, document, and evaluate surviving lifesaving stations. It would also provide grant funding to assist efforts to protect and preserve these maritime treasures.

The United States Life-Saving Service Heritage Act would authorize the National Park