

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG
AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003.

We're hearing a lot about the year 1965 today. Let me remind my colleagues of some of the other things from that year. Herb Alpert and Tijuana Brass won a Grammy for 'Album of the Year' and Tom Jones earned one as 'Best New Artist'. Sonny and Cher had a hit song in 'I Got You Babe' and 'Bonanza' was the top show on television. A postage stamp cost a nickel and a gallon of regular gasoline was 31 cents. And the Dow Jones Industrial Average reached a high of 969 points.

We've come a long way since then.

Also in 1965 Medicare, which has provided health care security for millions of Americans for almost 40 years, was created. When it was launched, the program was designed to focus on a different set of needs, needs that did not include prescription drug coverage and preventive care. It was designed to fit the needs of 1965.

Well my friends this isn't the mid-sixties anymore. Just as a postage stamp is no longer a nickel, the Medicare program which doesn't provide a prescription drug benefit doesn't work in today's world.

My friends, times change.

In 2003, we must honor our commitment of health care to seniors by ensuring that seniors have access and when needed assistance to prescription drug coverage. Additionally, H.R. 1 allows for other modernizations by adding an entry physical, cholesterol screening and offers disease management.

I am pleased that this bill works to address the needs of our rural communities. Long overlooked, H.R. 1 provides a permanent fix to formulas that have discriminated against health care providers in mid-Michigan and other rural areas. This is a policy change that goes to the heart of the problem and its benefits will be multiplied for years to come.

This legislation will increase to every small urban and rural hospital, equalizing their base payment rates with that of large urban hospitals. Additionally, H.R. 1 adds a five percent bonus for primary and specialty care physicians working in areas where such care is scarce; creating a new category of hospitals that are the primary hospital in the community to receive payments covering costs plus two percent; allowing rural and small-town hospitals that provide graduate medical education to receive additional direct medical education and indirect teaching hospital funds by moving unused residency slots to these hospitals; and adding a five percent increase for all rural home health agencies for two years.

Put simply, it is past time to modernize and improve the Medicare system. H.R. 1 will be able to better serve the needs of seniors. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 1.

RECOGNITION OF EDITH JAMES
AND SARAH LOCKHART

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Edith James and Sarah Lockhart of Mt. Vernon, Illinois. Edith and Sarah recently led the Jefferson County African-American Heritage Committee's Research Committee in publishing the booklet, *We The People—Past Present and Future*, a look at local African-American history.

I thank and commend them for their tireless work in preserving and documenting history. Their work will lead to a better understanding of those who have come before us. It will also help to better educate us on one of the most divisive and shameful periods of American history; slavery and racial discrimination.

Edith and Sarah have spent much of their lives giving back to Jefferson County. I am honored to take this occasion to recognize them for their devotion and commitment to their community. We are grateful.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2555) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 2555, the FY 2004 Homeland Security Appropriations Act.

The National Security Subcommittee, which I chair, has examined port security and found the volume of containerized cargo and the openness of our massive, complex port areas represent inviting vulnerabilities that must be secured.

Our ports are key commercial entry points, serving as the gateway for 95 percent of international cargo. Each year, nearly 10,000 vessels make 68,000 port calls and unload more than six million containers in the United States.

But, according to a GAO report published in August 2002, "Ports are inherently vulnerable to terrorist attacks because of their size, generally open accessibility by water and land, location in metropolitan areas, the amount of material being transported through ports, and the ready transportation links to many locations within our borders."

H.R. 2555 includes \$100 million for Transportation Safety Administration port security grants and \$61.7 million for the Container Security Initiative, which will help DHS protect what could be one of our Nation's most vulnerable access points—our ports. It is imperative that we adequately fund efforts by the Department of Homeland Security to scale-up port and container security.

I also support the funding in this legislation for State and local first responders. H.R. 2555 will provide \$4.4 billion for the Office of Domestic Preparedness, which includes \$1.9 billion for domestic preparedness formula grants and \$750 million for firefighter grants.

Before September 11, the firefighter grant program was funded at \$200 million, but the changes our nation has undergone since that horrific day have made clear the need for a dramatic increase in funding. This bill provides that increase.

The bottom line for me is our ports are still vulnerable and our first responders need strong financial support to protect our Nation. This bill provides significant assistance in both areas and strengthens national security.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote for this vital funding bill.

MR. JIM WITT

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and praise Jim Witt of Meridian, Idaho, for his steadfast commitment to safety. Mr. Witt is a professional truck driver who recently celebrated a remarkable career achievement: driving 1 million miles without a preventable accident. That's the equivalent of driving safely around the world 40 times.

Fatal accidents involving large trucks occur most frequently in rural areas like those throughout Idaho. On U.S. Highway 95—the major north-south route through my district—the long and tragic history of traffic fatalities is a constant reminder of the need to make highway safety foremost among our public policy considerations.

The U.S. Department of Transportation cites the danger posed by trucks on our highways as a growing concern for citizens. Professional, safety-conscious drivers like Mr. Witt provide an important public service as they navigate our corridors of commerce by helping to alleviate those concerns and setting an example for everyone who gets behind the wheel. I hope my House colleagues will join me in congratulating Mr. Witt and encouraging others to follow his lead in helping to make our roads safer.

RECOGNITION OF MAJOR GENERAL
DAVID HARRIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Major General David Harris, The Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard. Major General Harris will be retiring from his position after more than thirty-three years of military service.

Maj. General Harris was appointed Adjutant General in 1999. During his service as leader of the Illinois National Guard, he oversaw its largest mobilization since World War II. The military operations in Iraq saw more than 2,600 soldiers and airmen mobilized or alerted

for duty. Mobilizations also took place in large numbers for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan as well.

New military construction projects were also a major part of Harris' tenure. Working with the Illinois congressional delegation along with state leaders, funding was secured for new armories and for the upgrade of existing armories throughout the state.

Major General Harris began his military career in 1970. In 1971 he successfully completed Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He joined the Illinois Army National Guard in 1979 where he has held numerous positions. During the 1980's he served as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives representing his home in the northwest Chicago suburb of Arlington Heights.

I want to thank Major General Harris for his many years of service to his country and state. He is a man of great ability, but more importantly a man of integrity who has devoted his life to protecting the citizens of his country and state. I wish him the best as he enters retirement. He will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALLAN R. JONES

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who devoted his life in service to our nation. Mr. Allan R. Jones passed away on May 7th, and I am certain he will be missed by all who knew him.

A graduate of the College of William and Mary, Mr. Jones is a decorated Korean War veteran. Due to his service with the 45th Division of the United States Army during the war, he received the Purple Heart and Silver Star Medal.

Mr. Jones was not only a veteran of the Army, but he was also a noted journalist for several newspapers. He began his career with the Daily Times News in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. While there he served as sports editor, reporter and photographer. He also worked at the Richmond Times-Dispatch as a reporter who covered Henrico and Chesterfield counties. As a reporter he covered several important stories involving state politics and school desegregation.

After working as a journalist, Mr. Jones started a new career on Capitol Hill as a researcher for the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Oceanography and Merchant Marine. After his time with the committee, he served as a legislative assistant with Senator William Spong. During his tenure with Senator Spong, Mr. Jones and a colleague earned a national award from the National Association of Independent Insurers for research they did on auto insurance in Virginia.

In 1973, he joined the American Trucking Association Legislative Affairs department. Through his efforts, he helped push legislation which created the commercial drivers' license, and helped craft the landmark Intermodal Surface Transportation Act of 1991.

Retiring after twenty years with the ATA, Mr. Jones moved to Florida and became immediately involved with his community. He served as Vice President of the Flagella County, Flor-

ida Education Foundation, and served on the Flagella County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Action Committee.

In honor of his service to the United States during the Korean War, Mr. Jones was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on June 10". Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Allan Jones for all that he has achieved during his life, both for his country and for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHILDREN'S CREATIVE FESTIVAL

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Children's Creative Festival of Orange County, California and support their efforts to educate and enlighten the community.

Last month, the Children's Creative Festival wrapped up their weekend-long street painting festival, Fun with Chalk. Hundreds of artists from around the world descended on to my district to transform the streets around the Mission Viejo, California civic center into a colorful, interactive art gallery.

The art of street painting and the carnival that follows it dates back to sixteenth century Europe when villagers decorated the cobblestone paths surrounding their town square to celebrate a harvest or other important occasion. The Children's Creative Festival continues this tradition as a way to educate, entertain and inspire young people, and to foster a small town atmosphere reminiscent of old Europe.

The Children's Creative Festival uses funds raised at this annual street painting faire to help local schools with art education and other cultural activities. Last year, more than 79,000 children benefited from year round programs and classes sponsored by this all-volunteer organization.

The Children's Creative Festival was also the key sponsor of my 2003 Congressional art competition, which awarded scholarships to five young artists.

Dr. Frank Lieberman and his wife, Elaine, founded the Children's Creative Festival five years ago to inspire creativity, teach art appreciation and provide supplemental funding for quality visual and performing arts experiences for school children, thus developing creative and imaginative adults. I believe they have achieved their stated goals and wish them and their organization continued success in future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL URBAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mr. Michael Urban, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in national government.

Michael is a junior political science major at the University of Missouri-Columbia and has

distinguished himself as an intern in my Washington office by serving the great people of the 6th District of Missouri. Michael joined my staff for the 108th congress as part of the House of Representatives intern program at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., a program designed to involve students in the legislative process through active participation. Through this program, Michael has had the opportunity to observe firsthand the inner workings of national government and has gained valuable insight into the process by which laws are made.

During his time as an intern in my office, Michael has successfully demonstrated his abilities in the performance of such duties as conducting research, helping with constituent services, and assuming various other responsibilities to make the office run as smoothly as possible. Michael has earned recognition as a valuable asset to the entire U.S. House of Representatives and my office through the application of his knowledge and skills acquired prior to his tenure as an intern and through a variety of new skills he has acquired while serving the people of Missouri and our nation. I would also like to commend his interviewing skills and his solo singing rendition of happy birthday for other staffers.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mr. Michael Urban for his many important contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives during the current session, as well as joining with me to extend to him our very best wishes for continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNITION OF BAYAUD INDUSTRIES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bayaud Industries, a non-profit corporation that enables disabled individuals to contribute to their communities by providing them job training and placement.

Since 1969 Bayaud Industries has provided job training and placement to thousands of individuals with mental, emotional, and physical disabilities. Even after placement, Bayaud Industries continues its support, making sure that each of their clients has a case worker they can turn to even after they start their first job. Bayaud's mission is simple—to provide hope, opportunity, and choice by using employment as a means through which people with disabilities can participate in mainstream life.

Many working individuals find satisfaction in their jobs because they feel they have the opportunity to do something useful everyday. Groups of disabled Americans and advocates for individuals with disabilities have told me that employment can provide a sense of worth and accomplishment that many people with disabilities live without. In addition, they say that disabilities can keep people isolated from their communities, creating a sense of loneliness and dulling social skills. Employment can take individuals with disabilities off of the sidelines, provide them an opportunity to be involved in daily life, and a chance to interact with members of the community.