

cardiovascular disease and its prevention. The U.S. Surgeon General considers over 61 percent of the American public overweight. We must continue to stress the need for including a healthy diet and regular exercise into our daily living. Education will lead to increased prevention.

Healthcare will be an important issue facing Congress this year. We must continue to provide funding for preventative education programs in addition to funding for research to stop the number one killer of Americans this year—cardiovascular disease.

I will continue to work as Co-Chair of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition in order to increase the awareness of strokes and heart disease among the Members of Congress and the Administration.

IMPROVING CALCULATION OF FEDERAL SUBSIDY RATE

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 141, and to commend Chairman MANZULLO and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for their leadership in bringing this much needed legislation to the floor.

Passage of S. 141 will be the first step in correcting the SBA lending problems plaguing our nation's small businesses. This measure encourages the Administration to use a 7(a) subsidy rate model that would more accurately reflect the true cost of the small business loan programs to the taxpayer. Specifically, it permits the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) to use a recently completed econometric model to calculate the credit subsidy rate for the 7(a) small business loan guarantee program.

Once enacted into law, this measure will allow SBA's flagship loan program to meet the borrowing demands of our nation's small businesses. Without this legislation, the program would limit 7(a) loans to less than \$5 billion for FY 2003. Currently, the 7(a) program is operating at a very reduced capacity, with a loan size cap of \$500,000, to avoid exceeding the program limitations. According to a recent GAO study, the current model has also resulted in overcharges or taxes of \$1.5 billion over the last 10 years. By limiting the 7(a) guaranteed small business loan program, we are unnecessarily restricting capital for America's small businesses to expand and create jobs.

In 2002, this crucial program backed 51,666 loans worth over \$12 billion to small firms nationwide. Last year, 21 different financial institutions in Rhode Island approved 932 7(a) loans for a total of over \$75 million to Rhode Island's small business community. In fact, 7(a) loans make up nearly one-third of all long-term loans made to U.S. small businesses. This program is important to every small business in America and deserves our continued support.

Small businesses are the backbone of Rhode Island's economy and account for more than 98 percent of the jobs in the state. As a proud member of the Committee on Small

Business, I have been extremely concerned about the ability of small businesses to start and grow in the current economic climate. Now more than ever, Congress must support the growth of America's small businesses and help stimulate the real engine of this nation's economy. For these reasons, I rise in strong support of passage of S. 141 and urge my colleagues to support it as well.

TRIBUTE TO LETTY L. CARPENTER

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the exemplary career of Letty L. Carpenter of Jefferson, Maryland, on the occasion of her retirement from the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS) after 30 years of Federal service. At a time when the need for dedicated public service to our nation is more critical than ever, it gives me great pleasure to honor the commitment Letty has demonstrated to such service, particularly for the low-income and vulnerable populations served by the Medicaid program. Her commitment is even more impressive when you realize that Letty regularly has arisen at 4:00 am to make the long commute from her home in lovely, rural western Maryland to her position with CMS in Washington, DC.

Letty was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. She received a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Illinois in Urbana, Illinois, and a Masters of Arts in Geography, as well as a Masters of Public Health from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Letty entered Federal service as a volunteer and later a recruiter for the Peace Corps, serving from July 1965 to May 1968. As a volunteer in Senegal, she introduced aural-oral techniques of language instruction to local schools to replace traditional rote teaching methods, wrote instructional materials, and also participated in laying the groundwork for a maternal and child health outreach program through the local hospital. As a recruiter in the United States, she conducted advertising and advance work for the Peace Corps recruitment drives at 40 midwestern universities and colleges. From 1970 to 1974, she worked for the University of Michigan, first as a Community Coordinator then later as a Research Assistant.

Letty continued her Federal career in Washington, DC, in 1974 when she was selected for the Management Intern Program with the Department of Health and Human Services (then HEW). Through this program, she had several rotational assignments to different agencies throughout the Department. From 1977 to 1979, she was a program analyst in the Medical Services Administration of the Social and Rehabilitation Services agency in HEW.

Letty started in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (formerly the Health Care Financing Administration) in the Medicaid Bureau in January 1979 and has worked for CMS until the present time. She has worked in the Office of Legislation for the last 23 years, where she has played a critical role in the passage of legislation through her assistance to senior managers in HHS, OMB and

the White House, as well as Members and staff of Congress and their support agencies.

During her tenure in CMS, Letty has served nine agency Administrators and ten Department Secretaries all of whom have recognized her contributions with numerous awards, including Administrator's Achievement Awards and the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service.

Letty is recognized nationally, within and outside the government, as a renowned expert in the intricacies of Medicaid law, regulations and policies, particularly those related to the extremely complex area of Medicaid eligibility requirements. She possesses exceptional abilities to skillfully analyze complex situations, focus attention on the key issues, develop practical options to address them, and explain it all in clear, concise and understandable language.

Letty has also skillfully trained numerous current and former colleagues in the complexities of Medicaid policy and part of her legacy in CMS will continue through the knowledge she has imparted to the current employees of the Office of Legislation and other parts of the Agency. Many people call her from around the country, from Federal, State, and local government agencies, as well as the private sector, for assistance because of her expertise in the Medicaid program.

All of Letty's colleagues in CMS and HHS will sorely miss her knowledge, insight, and can-do attitude, as well as her encouragement and lively sense of humor. Letty always has taken her responsibilities to the low-income and other vulnerable beneficiaries of the Medicaid program very seriously, but not herself. I join her colleagues and friends in congratulating her on her impressive achievements and wishing her well as she retires from Federal service. We expect that she will continue to be a valued participant in many important issues, as well as an even more active member of the Jefferson, Maryland, community, where she and her husband, Jim, have long resided.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALT RIVER PROJECT

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, in the sun-soaked regions of Arizona, the most precious natural resource is not gold, nor is it silver. It is a priceless commodity, whose worth is not determined by its luster or quality, but by its volume and quantity. Even the world's most talented scientists are unable to replicate it, and it cannot be manufactured by machine.

It is water that sustains us and shapes our future to come. Without this gift of life, in the form of summer monsoon rain and high-mountain snowmelt, our lands would be uninhabitable and our lives impossible.

The Salt River Valley, which runs from eastern through central Arizona, is a main artery that carries within it the life-blood of the state. More than 2000 years ago, its lush banks were the home of the first people of Arizona, the Hohokam, who created an intricate network of irrigation canals that gave life to their communities.

Today, after countless natural cycles of alternating seasonal drought and flood, life, death and renewal, the early ingenuity of the Hohokam people lives on through the vision of the founders and 4,300 employees of the Salt River Project, the largest provider of surface water in Arizona and the nation's third-largest public power utility.

The Salt River Project began in 1903 when an association of landowners in the Phoenix area, frustrated by their inability to manage the water supply for their crops and cattle, incorporated their properties as collateral toward a federal loan under the National Reclamation Act. This community corporation led to the construction of the Theodore Roosevelt Dam, the largest structure of its day, and the foundation for a prosperous local economy and municipal infrastructure that was able to control the source and supply of its most valuable natural commodity.

In the century following this initial project, the focus and scope of the Salt River Project has grown to include a number of major power plants and generating facilities in Arizona and the Southwest that use thermal, hydroelectric and nuclear reaction for power production. Every day, Salt River Project's modern network of dams and power generating plants deliver water to more than one million residents and serve electricity to more than 780,000 customers at some of the lowest prices among major utilities in the Southwest, according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. This attention to customer needs has earned Salt River Project accolades inside and outside of the energy and water industry.

As a result of the region's continuing capacity for development and efficient water management, census figures have shown Arizona's growth rate to be one of the fastest in the nation, with a 40 percent increase in population during the 1990's. The prosperity and quality of life that is presently enjoyed by every citizen of the great state of Arizona, is a testament to the vision of the founders of the Salt River Project and a legacy that has endured for the past one hundred years through the actions of its current and past employees.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Salt River Project on the hundredth anniversary of its founding and to honor those individuals who have participated in bringing the precious gift of water to our desert environment.

IN RECOGNITION OF SOME
EVERYDAY HEROES

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize four outstanding individuals who helped me resolve a matter involving one of the youngest constituents of the Fourth District of Virginia.

Jacquelyn Dominguez is the one year old daughter of a servicemember stationed at Ft. Lee. Jacquelyn was born with Cystic Hygroma on the right side of her neck. At the time of her birth, the cyst was diagnosed as "free floating." Last September 2002, the Army flew the family to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC, for Jacquelyn to be seen by a

specialist. The specialist did several MRIs and determined that the cyst was growing inward on Jacquelyn's neck, cutting off her breathing. The best option for treatment on this tender child would be an experimental drug, Picibanil Sclerotherapy, also known as OK 432.

It is not standard procedure for medical health providers to provide for experimental procedures. It is certainly not standard for them to read, and reread, and reread the rules again until they can find an exception. These four individuals, who neither I nor my staff had ever met before the plight of this little girl, took on my cause and made a difference.

They helped me save this little girl's life. For that I, and Jacquelyn's active duty family will always be grateful. It is at this time that I would like to recognize Ms. Mary Dix, Vice President of the Uniformed Services University of Health Science (USUHS), Colonel Charles C. Partridge, the Legislative Counsel for the National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS), Dr. Stephen K. Scroggs, Ph.D., the Vice President of Government Affairs at Sierra Military Health Services, and the most valuable player of this team, Ms. Christine Van Cleave, of TRICARE Management Activity—Aurora, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and Jacquelyn Dominguez' family in saluting these four outstanding Americans. Their willingness to help young Jacquelyn is the very embodiment of our country's spirit, and it is fitting that the House of Representatives honors them on this day.

TRIBUTE TO MS. OLA RICHBOURG

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor one of Florida's most cherished and dedicated citizens, whom over the course of her life has given an immeasurable amount of time and effort to the community that she has worked so hard to build. On February 15, 2003, the city of Laurel Hill will honor Ms. Ola Richbourg as its Citizen of the Year for 2003, recognizing her long and distinguished period of service to the Laurel Hill community.

Born on March 27, 1921 in the same wood frame home where she lives today, Ola is described by her peers as a lady that will go out of her way to help others. The daughter of John Franklin and Katie Haynes Richbourg, she learned the value of working for her community at an early age from her father who served three terms as a state representative, beginning in 1907. In 1977, she was appointed to the position of County Clerk of Laurel Hill and was subsequently elected, in 1979, to the City Council, where she remained for thirteen years.

Even more remarkable is her history of service to her country. Upon graduating from Laurel Hill High School in 1939 and attending a government-run school in Ocala where she learned shorthand and typing, Ola joined the United States Marine Corps on November 5, 1943, during the height of World War II. It was at a movie that Ola saw a commercial asking women to join the military in order to free up men to fight overseas. To Ola, it was an easy decision. She was simply doing whatever she

could to help her country in a time of crisis, but her decision would have a profound impact on the future of our nation. It was her, and many other women's, choice to fight for her country, that would open up all kinds of new doors for women. Following World War II, Ola returned to Laurel Hill, believing she was done with military service. However, shortly thereafter, the Korean War broke out and she reenlisted without hesitation. Dedicating herself to the Marine Corps for nearly two decades, Ola retired as a Tech Sergeant in 1966.

Her strength and determination led her to fight for her country in one of the most important world conflicts of the 20th century and to personally win a battle against cancer of the larynx. Her smile is contagious and her heart as big as they come. She remembers how a nickel could once buy a big RC Cola and lots of candy and that fateful day when she learned where Pearl Harbor was, changing her life forever. It is his kindness and humility that have allowed her to do so much for so many during her life and I know she will continue to do so in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Ola Richbourg as she receives this special recognition as Laurel Hill's Citizen of the Year. Her contributions to the citizens of Laurel Hill and the United States of America are significant and impressive and I consider her a patriot of the highest order. On this such occasion, we honor a great soldier, civil servant, and neighbor; one of America's greatest citizens.

EAGLES CELEBRATE 100TH
ANNIVERSARY IN SCRANTON

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the 100th anniversary of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The Eagles Aerie No. 314 will celebrate this anniversary with a dinner-dance on February 22, 2003.

The Scranton Aerie began on Wyoming Avenue at a four-story building with two large concrete eagles at the top. The fourth floor was a magnificent dance hall; the third floor was used as a meeting hall by the Eagles as well as many local unions; and the second floor housed a social room with a wide, white marble staircase as its entrance. The first floor housed various businesses over the years. Throughout the early years, the Aerie had drill teams that performed in parades.

The 300 members of the Scranton Aerie are part of a national organization founded in 1898 that is now one million strong, with members in every state and parts of Canada as well. The Scranton Aerie moved to its present building in 1977 and takes pride in being the only fraternal organization with its own building in Scranton.

The Scranton Eagles are active with numerous charity projects, having donated several thousand dollars over the years, and with hosting state tournaments and conferences that bring hundreds of people to Scranton.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the