

most effective and professional fighting force that the world has ever seen. The quality and caliber of Army soldiers continues to grow, despite increasing operational tempo and tremendous expectations thrust on the dedicated men and women who serve our country.

Thank you Sergeant Major Tilley for your leadership and values that have made our Army the most professional and effective fighting force in the world. Thank you for your ability to inform the Appropriations Committee on quality of life issues that impact soldiers and their families, and God's blessings to you as you begin your next great journey upon your retirement from the Army.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 1, I was detained due to a delay in my flight. Had I been present, I would have voted "present."

CONGRATULATIONS AND APPRECIATION TO STAFF SERGEANT CAROL S. MURRAY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring a very special person, Staff Sergeant Carol S. Murray, who has given outstanding service to our Nation and to this institution. Sergeant Murray will be honored this evening by her many friends, colleagues, and family members on the occasion of her retirement from the United States Army.

As the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge and Administrative Supervisor of the Army's Congressional House Liaison Division since 1991, Sergeant Murray has earned an excellent reputation among members of Congress for her dedication and professionalism. I had the pleasure of getting to know Sergeant Murray when she accompanied a Congressional delegation to Haiti. She impressed me with her ability to handle with grace any situation which arose, while also showing deep respect to our host country and its residents during the diplomatic mission. I always enjoyed walking by Sergeant Murray's office in the Rayburn Building, because I knew I would be greeted with the warm, friendly smile she has for everyone. In her position, she was always willing to show newcomers the ropes, inspiring a sense of esprit d'corps which is so important for the morale of those serving in our military. In addition, whenever the Army was hosting a reception or event for a senior officer, she worked tirelessly to ensure that it was well-attended and successful.

Sergeant Murray began her career in July of 1984 after completing Basic and AIT at Fort Jackson. She served in Stuttgart as the postal clerk for 139th AG Postal, Robinson Barracks. Her exceptional performance led to other assignments, including providing primary training

in office procedures and policies, and acting as a mentor for all newly assigned Military Personnel. Following her tour in Germany, she headed to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to the XVIII Airborne Corps, where she served with the "Fighting" 305th AG Postal before leaving for Honduras and other numerous field deployments with the mighty 82nd Airborne Division. In January of 1988, she began working as a Postal Clerk with the 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Casey. She later worked as an Administrative Specialist to the Chief, Enlisted Records before serving as the Senior Administrative NCO for the Adjutant General's Office in the Military District of Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in offering congratulations and best wishes for the future to Sergeant Carol Murray, a great soldier, patriot, and friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 1 I was unavoidably detained and regret missing the quorum call. Had I been present, I would have voted "present."

REMEMBERING ROBIN EDMONDS MILLER

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share some very sad news with my colleagues today. Robin Edmonds Miller, of Stonington, Connecticut, died on Wednesday, December 10, at the age of 52.

Robin's loss is both professional and personal, as she was a dedicated public servant and a dear friend of the Simmons family.

Robin was involved and respected in state politics, currently serving as chairperson of the Board of Mediation and Arbitration for the State of Connecticut Department of Labor. She was also serving as chairperson for the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services Employee Review Board.

Robin was active in social and civic affairs in the Town of Stonington, serving as the Town of Stonington Registrar of Voters. She also served as past chair, and currently vice chair, of the Stonington Town Republican Committee.

Robin Miller exemplified community action and public service. She believed that our communities, our states and our nation will function properly only when people step forward to do the hard work necessary to ensure the wheels of democracy will run smoothly. When I think of my friend I am reminded that the heart of a public servant is not measured by its size, but by the depth of commitment to make a positive contribution to the lives of others.

In addition to her parents, Robin is survived by her two children, Bianca Nardi and Curtis Miller; her siblings, Robert and Julie Edmonds of New Hampshire; and nieces and nephews.

All those who knew Robin Miller feel a profound sense of loss, but also a genuine sense of joy that we knew her.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESERVING MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT OF 2004

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to help fulfill the promise made by Congress and the President to our seniors. The "Preserving Medicare for All Act of 2004" begins with the framework of HR 1, which was passed in the last days of our first session. But it corrects the legislation's structural defects that will result in more harm than help for our Medicare beneficiaries.

Over the past few years, I have met with thousands of seniors in my district about Medicare and their need for prescription drug coverage. They brought me their empty pill bottles and their pharmacy receipts. With the highest out-of-pocket costs of any age group in the country, they and millions of other seniors across the nation were looking to Congress for real prescription drug coverage that would give them substantial help with their drug costs. They wanted their drug benefit to be provided like other benefits covered by Medicare—administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, with a guaranteed benefit, universally available regardless of where they live, for it not to jeopardize existing coverage, and yes, they wanted the choice of their own doctor and hospital and the freedom to choose a private health plan if they prefer that option.

I believe that a clear majority of the House and Senate wanted to enact legislation that met our seniors' needs. Unfortunately, the bill that moved through Congress failed to provide seniors with what they needed or expected. The plan that became law will not be administered by CMS but by private insurers. The government is prohibited from using the purchasing power of 40 million beneficiaries to lower drug prices. There will be no guaranteed benefit, but rather an "actuarially equivalent" benefit whose components insurance companies can manipulate to discourage high-cost seniors from enrolling. It will not be universal, because these insurers can offer different coverage in different areas of the country. It will jeopardize existing coverage; the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that 2.7 million retirees—half of whom have annual incomes of less than \$30,000—will lose the drug benefits they now enjoy as a result of insufficient subsidies to employers. Under the guise of "choice" and "competition," this bill gives an extra \$12 billion to managed care plans, which are already reimbursed at rates one-fifth higher than fee-for-service Medicare. This so-called "stabilization fund" and a premium support demonstration project are not designed to offer choice, but instead to lure younger, healthier seniors away from traditional Medicare and into private plans. These features of the bill do not save money, according to the Congressional Budget Office's estimate. Instead, scarce dollars that could be used to provide a better drug benefit are used

to ensure profits for health plans. Those beneficiaries who remain in fee-for-service Medicare will be isolated in an underfunded program and they will see their premiums skyrocket as a result of phony "competition." Finally, the new law includes a "cost containment" provision that actually shifts rather than contains costs. By combining the Part A and Part B Trust Funds and creating a new definition of insolvency that caps Medicare's use of general revenues at 45 percent of total Medicare costs, this provision would force government to cut benefits or raise payroll taxes if this limit is exceeded. More than any other element of the new law, this provision would undermine the entire Medicare system as we know it, shifting the burden of the program onto those least able to afford it.

The bill I am introducing today will modify these damaging aspects of the new Medicare law. First it will authorize the HHS Secretary to use the purchasing power of 40 million seniors and disabled Americans to negotiate lower drug prices. Second, it will guarantee seniors the choice of a nationally available, defined benefit within Medicare. The premium, deductible, copays and stoploss will be set by law, not by private insurers. Third, my bill will fully reimburse employers for the cost of qualified retiree drug coverage and it will permit their costs to count toward seniors' catastrophic limits. Fourth, it will repeal the premium support demonstration and help ensure that Medicare remains a national program with equal access for all seniors. Fifth, it will eliminate the "stabilization" fund for private health insurers and dedicate these funds to strengthening the traditional Medicare program for seniors. Finally, it will eliminate the "cost containment" provision of the bill, which will harm both working families, seniors, and health care providers.

Mr. Speaker, the Medicare prescription drug provisions of this bill will not take effect until 2006. We have time to fix the structural problems that prevent this law from benefitting today's beneficiaries and those who will depend on Medicare in future years. I urge my colleagues to support this effort and help keep the promises we've made to our seniors.

POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE TO THE
LATE EUGENE "WHITEY" WHITE,
A TRACK STAR AT FLORIDA
A&M UNIVERSITY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the late Eugene "Whitey" White, a legendary track star at Florida A&M University. It is indeed a sad day for the entire Florida A&M University family, particularly those involved with the Athletic Department. He will be laid to rest on Saturday, January 24, 2004 at Dade Memorial Park in his hometown of Miami, Florida.

His untimely demise this past Thursday, January 15, 2004, leaves a great void in our historic institution. He is survived by his beloved daughter La Donna, grandson Ryan Smith, sister Cora L. White, nephew Eugene Randall White, and the rest of his loving family.

Eugene White was born in Miami, Florida on December 24, 1937, the oldest of three children born to parents, Eugene and Corine White. He attended Phyllis Wheatley Elementary School and Booker T. Washington High School where he was a star athlete. He was a running back for his school's Tornadoes Football Team, and was a sprinter and relay team track member. Graduating with the Class of 1957, he was awarded a four-year scholarship to Florida A&M University where he excelled in sports, and became an acclaimed running back for the Rattlers Football Team. Upon graduation in 1962, he was drafted by the Miami Dolphins and later played for the Oakland Raiders. His illustrious football career continued as he played with the Canadian Football League.

Though he was merely a freshman, Mr. White's most salient feat in the annals of Track and Field competition was that then-Coach Pete Griffin marveled at his amazing speed by winning the 100-yard dash at the Florida A&M Relays in a record 9.4. As he went about garnering many more excellent records, he entered the South Carolina State Invitational Meet. He was clocked by six official timekeepers at an unprecedented 9.5 for the warm-up, and, before the official hundred run, Mr. White pulled a muscle. Despite this apparent debacle that would have incapacitated many an athlete, he was able to finish second, clocking in at 9.7.

White's magnificent contributions to the personal and professional growth of countless youth in his native Miami are well-known, as he was admired for his quiet spirit and loving demeanor, always exuding a great many gentlemanly virtues that endeared him to the community and to his church family. His records on the athletic field have become legendary, and they now emblazon the fond memories of countless FAMU alumni. Young men and women who came to admire his athletic prowess also found him to be a caring professional who personified an indomitable example of excellent discipline and genuine compassion for his fellowmen. His colleagues highly regarded him as a confidant and the epitome of utmost urbanity and gentlemanly behavior. Nowhere has this advocacy role played out succinctly in the lives of many youngsters than in the indelible mark he left on many students, who were inspired by him to excel both in their academic pursuits and athletic endeavors.

Indeed, our FAMU family is genuinely touched and comforted by the undaunted leadership, resilient example and personal warmth he exuded to those who came to know and admired him. This is the genuine legacy he bequeathed to those of us he left behind. In a special way, I am privileged to be a grateful alumnus of Florida A&M University, a great institution of learning graced bountifully by his remarkable contributions, both on and off campus.

HONORING DR. ESSIE L. BAILEY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the Great Lakes Baptist District Woman's Auxiliary of Michigan, to

honor Dr. Essie L. Bailey for 33 years of dedicated service as President of the Great Lakes Baptist District Woman's Auxiliary, an auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. On Saturday, January 10, 2004, the Great Lakes Baptist District Woman's Auxiliary will recognize Dr. Bailey's accomplishments during a dinner to be held at the Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle, A.J. Pointer Family Life Center located in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Dr. Essie L. Bailey was born and raised in Mississippi. Upon relocating to Flint, Michigan she became a faithful member of the New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, where she is currently serving as a Sunday school teacher, leader of the Missions Union and a Deaconette. Dr. Bailey was granted an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Humanities from the Urban Bible Institute of Religious Studies. She has served the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. as the President of the Great Lakes Baptist District Woman's Auxiliary for thirty-three years, President of the Wolverine State Baptist Woman's Auxiliary for eight years, Chairwoman of the Great Lakes Baptist District Foreign Mission Board, and Chairwoman on the District Presidents' breakfast committee. These roles have allotted Dr. Bailey with the opportunity to spread spiritual enrichment to women throughout the world. Her work has taken her to Africa, where in 1973, she served as the Great Lakes Baptist District Association General Ambassador to Africa. She also traveled on missions to Canada, and Israel. Dr. Bailey faithfully served the convention until failing health caused her to recently step down from her position as President of the Great Lakes Baptist District Woman's Auxiliary. During her tenure, Dr. Bailey was, and still is a positive religious influence within the Christian community. She is a true foot soldier for the Lord.

Dr. Bailey has received numerous accolades for her dedicated service. To name a few, she received the City of Flint Drum Major Award, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Woman of the Year Award, and the State of Michigan Outstanding Service Award. Aside from being an outstanding leader and role model, Dr. Bailey is also a loving wife, mother and grandmother.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in honoring my constituent and friend Dr. Essie L. Bailey for her outstanding service to the Christian community.

RECOGNIZING CAROL BRILL, PH.D

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Carol Brill, Ph.D., an exceptional woman who is retiring after serving as Executive Director of the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) for 32 years. I am proud of Dr. Brill's many accomplishments and would like to recognize her contribution to the field of social work and her community.

The overall mission of the Massachusetts Chapter of NASW, the professional organization in the field of social work, is to provide human rights, social and economic justice, and unimpeded access to services for everyone. Under Dr. Brill's leadership, the membership of the Massachusetts Chapter grew from