

will offer the cards, what the discounts will be, when and for how long the cards will be available. These decisions will be driven by—believe it or not—the self-interest of pharmaceutical companies and other business entities. The potential card issuers are not required to pass along any resulting savings to consumers. Once enrolled, you must stay with the card for at least a year, even if the issuer stops discounting the medication you need.

It gets worse. This bill does not remotely pretend to address the fundamental issue: the crushing cost of prescription medication. Rather than leveraging the enormous buying power of millions of Medicare recipients, the new law actually bars market competition. And, let's be clear, this legislation was authored by partisans who swear by the catechism of the free market. As enacted, the bill explicitly prohibits Medicare from negotiating with the pharmaceutical industry for better prices and deeper discounts. We know negotiated discounts can work. When the VA negotiates on behalf of this country's veterans, their drug prices drop significantly. It is mind-boggling that 40 million seniors are being deprived—by law—of the same leverage.

Moreover, the bill blocks reimportation of U.S.-produced drugs from other countries at lower prices. It claims to allow Canadian imports, but only if the Food and Drug Administration formally certifies their safety, which is unlikely to ever happen. The FDA has already stubbornly resisted reimportation, forcing local Councils on Aging and dozens of cities and States to take matters into their own hands—although there is not a single documented case of injury resulting from U.S.-produced drugs that have been reimported from Canada.

In fairness, the bill postponed a scheduled 4.5-percent cut in physician reimbursement for Medicare services—easing fears of a wholesale abandonment of Medicare patients. The legislation will ensure physicians receive a 3-percent increase in payments over the next 2 years. However, this is not nearly enough to protect Medicare beneficiaries' access to quality health care providers. And, the bill actually complicates problems that oncologists face in getting adequate reimbursement for crucial cancer drugs and obstacles confronting patients who need access to inpatient rehabilitation facilities.

Despite the coverage limits and other shortfalls, the cost of the legislation is spectacular—projected by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office to exceed \$2 trillion over 10 years. At the same time, homeland security and recent tax cuts have already forced dramatic increases in the Federal deficit, now almost \$400 billion. That is a shocking number, especially when you consider that just three years ago, the budget was boasting a healthy surplus.

Moreover, many fear this new law could lead down a dangerous road toward privatization of Medicare and even Social Security. We saw a similar experiment fail dramatically with Medicare+Choice several years ago, when HMOs and other providers dropped out of the system as soon as costs escalated—leaving seniors to fend for themselves. This new law poses similar risks.

It breaks my heart that the Congress could not achieve real Medicare reform that addressed prescription drug costs. As I look back on my four House terms, very few votes

stand out as genuinely historic in consequence. Along with Presidential impeachment and the Iraq war resolution, the vote on this bill is such a watershed moment. The White House achieved this “victory” by deluding seniors about the impending relief—in the process, jeopardizing hope of genuine reform in the foreseeable future.

As the House reconvenes, I will resume my work with colleagues on both sides of the partisan aisle to address problems with the new law. Older Americans have raised their voices effectively in the legislative arena before. In 1989, a deeply flawed catastrophic benefits bill was repealed. Almost a decade ago, we struggled successfully to restore Medicare cuts that savaged home health care locally and across the Nation. This time, we can expect a steep uphill battle. In his State of the Union address this week, the President vowed to veto any amendments to the new Medicare law. To amend even the most egregious provisions of this bill will require every ounce of outrage we can collectively muster. As cochair of the Older Americans Caucus, a bipartisan group of colleagues focused on issues of particular significance to seniors, please count on my continued and vigorous commitment. I am already working with key House colleagues on specific legislation to repeal the new law's barriers to drug reimportation and negotiated discounts.

HONORING CHILTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Chilton Memorial Hospital of Pequannock Township, Morris County, New Jersey, in my congressional district. Chilton Memorial Hospital is celebrating 50 years of providing excellence in community health care.

Despite its humble beginnings, Chilton's history is a proud one. This 256-bed hospital arose from the dream of Dr. Forrest Chilton II and his registered nurse wife, Betty. During World War II, when gasoline was being rationed and people in the area did not have enough for the drive to the hospital in the city of Paterson, Dr. and Mrs. Chilton set up a small maternity hospital above his office in Pompton Plains. Soon, as more and more of his thankful patients availed themselves of his services, it became clear that a full service hospital was desperately needed in this fast-growing area in northern New Jersey.

In 1947, the good doctor and his wife donated 8 acres of land to build a hospital in memory of their son, Forrest Chilton III, and other heroes who served our country and made the ultimate sacrifice for American's in World War II. That same year, Dr. Chilton formed a board of directors to help prepare a building plan. Seven years later, in 1954, thanks to the efforts of Dr. and Mrs. Chilton, the Board of Trustees, the 20 women who were the original members of the Chilton Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and 20,000 community volunteers who gave of their time and financial resources, the Chilton Memorial Hospital, with 31 employees and 50 beds, opened its doors for the first time in Pompton Plains.

Within 2 months the hospital was operating near capacity and expansion plans were already underway. In that first year, Chilton Memorial admitted 2,536 patients, delivered 787 babies and treated 3,317 people in its emergency room.

Fifty years later, Chilton Memorial's 1,400 employees and 575 associated physicians admit more than 11,000 patients each year, deliver 1,200 newborn babies, perform nearly 6,000 same day surgeries, treat 36,000 people in its state-of-the-art emergency department, and treat an additional 81,000 citizens on an outpatient basis.

Indeed, Chilton Memorial Hospital's tradition of caring and its commitment to the surrounding communities has made it one of New Jersey's best hospitals. Today, Mr. Speaker, Chilton Memorial Hospital is credited with being the first hospital in the State of New Jersey to be awarded a perfect score by the Joint Commission Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, whose surveyors evaluate facilities and procedures at 18,000 healthcare facilities worldwide. Chilton's nursing staff has also won national acclaim for consistently receiving the highest ratings for their competence, compassion, response time, and teamwork.

The future will be no different for Chilton as it continues following in the footsteps of its founder and provides state-of-the-art healthcare to a grateful community. Services like Chilton's family-centered obstetrics program that features home-like labor, delivery and recovery rooms, its renowned pediatric care, free standing same day surgery center, and centers for pain management, endoscopy, cardiac care, sleeping disorders, sports medicine and cancer care, among others, and its strong commitment to health and wellness for older men and women, have helped build Chilton's lasting legacy as a premier quality healthcare provider.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues in the House of Representatives join with me in congratulating Chilton Memorial Hospital, and all of the hospital's outstanding staff, employees, and volunteers, upon celebrating its 50th anniversary.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DON SUTTON

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of one of my constituents, a 1998 Hall of Fame inductee and now a respected broadcaster for the Atlanta Braves, Mr. Don Sutton.

The Los Angeles Dodgers signed Don as an amateur free agent in 1964. He ended his career in 1998 with 324 wins and struck out 3,574 batters, while never missing his turn in the pitching rotation for the Dodgers, Astros, Brewers, Athletics and Angels.

Don, a four-time All Star and the 1977 All-Star Game MVP, reached double figures in wins in 21 of his 23 seasons and struck out over 100 batters in each of his first 21 campaigns. He pitched in four World Series and posted five career one-hit games.

Don, who never spent one day on the disabled list, kept this body and mind in tip-top

shape, enabling him to start at least 30 games in 20 of his 22 seasons.

Sutton started all but 18 of the 774 career games he pitched, which has led many current and former alltime greats to refer to him as one of the most durable and consistent players of all time. He ranks second alltime to Cy Young in games started.

Don has pitched in over 100 innings through 15 games of postseason play. He pitched in a 10–2 win for the Milwaukee Brewers in the final game of the 1982 season to defeat the Baltimore Orioles and win the American League Eastern Division title.

The tall, lean right-hander put away many of his opponents by throwing his feared fastball and signature sweeping curveball. There have been many drawn comparisons by the games top players, writers, and announcers, who have compared him to other legendary pitchers such as Bert Blyleven and Gaylord Perry. To the hearts and minds of Northwest Floridians, Don will always be second to none.

Sutton came full circle in 1988 when he retired in a Dodgers uniform. This spring, Don will begin his 15th season with the Braves, continuing his highly successful career as a broadcaster.

Don is also known as a great family man and showed his pride during his Cooperstown induction when his final thanks went to his wife, Mary, and their daughter, Jackie. Don was surrounded by many of his close friends, former teammates and coaches, including one of his best coaches, his father Howard Sutton, who taught him how to pitch.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to recognize this special person, Don Sutton, for the example he has set in the sports world, his country, and for Northwest Florida. I offer my sincere thanks for all that he has done for Northwest Florida and the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES G.
HAIGHT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Spc. Charles G. Haight, 23, of Fort Lewis, Washington, died on December 26, 2003 in Iraq. Spc. Haight was a member of the Army's 14th Engineer Battalion, 555th Engineer Group based in Washington, and was killed when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device. He is survived by his wife Michelle and his 10-month-old son of Fort Lewis, Washington. He is the son of Donald G. and Lilian Haight of Piedmont, Alabama.

Charles Haight was eager to serve his country, Mr. Speaker, and dreamed of becoming a nurse after college. He attended Pleasant Valley High School in Calhoun County, and was known for his musicianship in the band and his athletic ability on the football field. Like every other soldier, he dutifully left behind his family and loved ones to serve our country overseas.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude

our country feels for his service. Spc. Haight died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty, on a noble mission to help spread the cause of freedom in Iraq and liberate an oppressed people from tyrannical rule.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this mournful day.

IN HONOR OF THE GREATER JACKSON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL DINNER AND CITIZEN AWARDS

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise now to recognize an important celebration in my district and the individuals who are being recognized for their special contributions to the community. The Greater Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce, under the leadership of President Susan Milhoan, is hosting its annual awards dinner to honor its 95th year, in addition to the anniversary of the founding of the Republican Party in Jackson in 1854, and the founding of the City of Jackson 175 years ago. At this celebration, several men and women will be recognized with a variety of awards for personal achievement, character, and service to the community.

The Athena Award recognizes women who demonstrate excellence in their profession, assist other women in realizing their leadership potential, and contribute their time and efforts to improving the community. Many D. Otis, owner of Financial Sales and Seminars, is this year's winner, and her involvement in the community includes the Rotary Club, Disability Connections, and her church.

This year's Small Business Person of the Year is Al Cavin, owner of Great Northern Sentry Company. Since founding his business in 1991, Al has expanded the company from a humble three employees to five separate divisions. Al is an expert and author on security matters and holds seats on the Board of Directors of the National Council of Investigators and Security Specialists and the Michigan Council of Private Investigators. He is also President of the Michigan Contract Security Association.

The 2004 Youth Citizen of the Year is Anthony Ramsey, Jr., a senior at Jackson High School. In addition to being an honor roll student and a member of the football and track teams, Anthony has made time to serve on the United Way Teen Advisory Panel, the Jackson Community Foundation Youth Advisory Committee, and volunteer at the Lily Missionary Church that he attends with his family.

Finally, the Citizen of the Year award goes to Maclay "Mac" Gwinn. After retiring from Consumer's Energy 20 years ago, Mac has given his time and efforts to countless community organizations including the Alzheimer's Association, the Jackson County Historical So-

ciety, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Jackson Kiwanis Club. He is the Big Sisters Big Brothers Board President and he has his own "little brother." Mac also helped form a support group for men who care for loved ones stricken with Alzheimer's disease. Other Distinguished Citizens of the Year include Nancy Seydell, Steve Volker, Lisa Lazaroff, Mary L. Miller, and Bob Richardson.

I am very pleased to stand here today before my colleagues in the U.S. Congress to recognize these important milestones in the Jackson community as well as all of these great citizens. Each person is a wonderful role model who has expended a great deal of effort on behalf of the community in a selfless and humble manner. I challenge us all to strive to match their level of commitment and dedication.

COMMENDING SCOTT MALAN

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a true advocate for Pennsylvania's hospitals and patients. For over twenty-five years Scott Malan has tirelessly advocated for increasing the quality of health care available to Americans. He has done so quite successfully, Mr. Speaker.

Most recently, Mr. Malan served as vice president for legislative services at the Hospital Association of Pennsylvania. In this capacity, Mr. Malan directed federal advocacy campaigns, saving Pennsylvania hospitals hundreds of millions of dollars and increasing the quality of care for Pennsylvanians. Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Malan on numerous initiatives over the past few years. In fact, we worked closely to include in the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 provisions which will ensure that Pennsylvania hospitals in rural areas are able to continue to provide quality care to Pennsylvanians. We also worked to include provisions to increase indirect graduate medical education payments to hospitals in order to ensure Americans have access to the most innovative care available. Mr. Speaker, due to Mr. Malan's diligent efforts and the steadfast work of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation, these provisions will be signed into law today by President Bush.

While it may seem, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Malan is at the top of his game, in fact he is currently soaring to new heights. Mr. Malan has brought the expertise and knowledge he has amassed over the past twenty-five years to Triad Strategies, one of Pennsylvania's largest government relations firms. While at Triad Strategies, Mr. Malan will undoubtedly continue to advance policies which will enrich the lives of every American by working to ensure affordable, quality health care in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Mr. Malan the best in his future endeavors and thank him for the dedication he has displayed over the past years to making the lives of my constituents better.