

honored Mr. Moore with the dedication of the "Ralph Moore Miniature Rose Garden Memorial Park."

Ralph Moore is part of the rich heritage that makes Visalia and the entire Central Valley of California an enjoyable and interesting place to live.

I sincerely wish Ralph Moore a wonderful 100th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 12; on motion to recommit (H. Res. 35). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING JOEY M. SAUNDERS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joey Saunders, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joey has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joey has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. It is with extreme pleasure that I commend the dedication Joey has shown.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joey for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am proud to represent Joey in the U.S. House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO GARY FRONTIERS SERVICE CLUB

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life, and, unfortunately, his untimely death, reminds us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our Nation. It lives

on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District will be recognized during the 28th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Monday, January 15, 2007, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

This year, the Gary Frontiers Club will pay tribute to several local individuals who have for decades unselfishly contributed to improving the human condition of others in the City of Gary. Those individuals who will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast include: Barbara Cope, the late Reverend Hezekiah Stewart Malone, Jr., Roy Pratt, and Finis Springer. Additionally, Maurice John Preston, Sr. will be honored with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award, an award given out annually to an outstanding individual of the Gary community.

Though very different in nature, the achievements of all of these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and rose to the occasion. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love. They set goals and worked to achieve them.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Gary Frontiers Service Club president, Mr. Oliver J. Gilliam, breakfast chairman, Mr. Clorius L. Lay, and all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to making Northwest Indiana a better place for all who live and work there.

FIRST, DO LESS HARM IN MEDICARE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, as we vote later this week on negotiating better prices for Part D drugs in Medicare, we must remember that the debate is about much more than prescription drugs. Requiring the Secretary to negotiate for lower drug prices is just one small step in the fight against Medicare privatization and the conservative push to end the Medicare entitlement.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the Paul Krugman Op-Ed from the January 5, 2007, edition of the New York Times be printed in the RECORD.

FIRST, DO LESS HARM

(By Paul Krugman)

Universal health care, much as we need it, won't happen until there's a change of management in the White House. In the meantime, however, Congress can take an important step toward making our health care system less wasteful, by fixing the Medicare Middleman Multiplication Act of 2003.

Officially, of course, it was the Medicare Modernization Act. But as we learned during the debate over Social Security, in Bushspeak "modernize" is a synonym for

"privatize." And one of the main features of the legislation was an effort to bring private-sector fragmentation and inefficiency to one of America's most important public programs.

The process actually started in the 1990s, when Medicare began allowing recipients to replace traditional Medicare—in which the government pays doctors and hospitals—with private managed-care plans, in which the government pays a fee to an H.M.O. The magic of the marketplace was supposed to cut Medicare's costs.

The plan backfired. H.M.O.'s received fees reflecting the medical costs of the average Medicare recipient, but to maximize profits they selectively enrolled only healthier seniors, leaving sicker, more expensive people in traditional Medicare. Once Medicare became aware of this cream-skimming and started adjusting payments to reflect beneficiaries' health, the H.M.O.'s began dropping out: their extra layer of bureaucracy meant that they had higher costs than traditional Medicare and couldn't compete on a financially fair basis.

That should have been the end of the story. But for the Bush administration and its Congressional allies, privatization isn't a way to deliver better government services—it's an end in itself. So the 2003 legislation increased payments to Medicare-supported H.M.O.'s, which were renamed Medicare Advantage plans. These plans are now heavily subsidized.

According to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, an independent federal body that advises Congress on Medicare issues, Medicare Advantage now costs 11 percent more per beneficiary than traditional Medicare. According to the Commonwealth Fund, which has a similar estimate of the excess cost, the subsidy to private H.M.O.'s cost Medicare \$5.4 billion in 2005.

The inability of private middlemen to win a fair competition against traditional Medicare was embarrassing to those who sing the praises of privatization. Maybe that's why the Bush administration made sure that there is no competition at all in Part D, the drug program. There's no traditional Medicare version of Part D, in which the government pays drug costs directly. Instead, the elderly must get coverage from a private insurance company, which then receives a government subsidy.

As a result, Part D is highly confusing. It's also needlessly expensive, for two reasons: the insurance companies add an extra layer of bureaucracy, and they have limited ability to bargain with drug companies for lower prices (and Medicare is prohibited from bargaining on their behalf). One indicator of how much Medicare is overspending is the sharp rise in prices paid by millions of low-income seniors whose drug coverage has been switched from Medicaid, which doesn't rely on middlemen and does bargain over prices, to the new Medicare program.

The costs imposed on Medicare by gratuitous privatization are almost certainly higher than the cost of providing health insurance to the eight million children in the United States who lack coverage. But recent news analyses have suggested that Democrats may not be able to guarantee coverage to all children because this would conflict with their pledge to be fiscally responsible. Isn't it strange how fiscal responsibility is a big concern when Congress is trying to help children, but a nonissue when Congress is subsidizing drug and insurance companies?

What should Congress do? The new Democratic majority is poised to reduce drug prices by allowing—and, probably, requiring—Medicare to negotiate prices on behalf of the private drug plans. But it should go further, and force Medicare to offer direct

drug coverage that competes on a financially fair basis with the private plans. And it should end the subsidy to Medicare Advantage, forcing H.M.O.'s to engage in fair competition with traditional Medicare.

Conservatives will fight fiercely against these moves. They say they believe in competition—but they're against competition that might show the public sector doing a better job than the private sector. Progressives should support these moves for the same reason. Ending the subsidies to middlemen, in addition to saving a lot of money, would point the way to broader health care reform.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND UNITED STATES TERRITORIES CIRCULATING QUARTER DOLLAR PROGRAM ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, for the fourth time, the House has passed a bill to afford five insular areas and the District of Columbia a quarter bearing a design of their choice on the reverse side. Inadvertently, these Americans were excluded from the 50-State bill affording this same right to the States in 1998.

We owe very special thanks to the successive committee and subcommittee chairs and ranking members on the Financial Services Committee. We especially appreciate the new Chairman BARNEY FRANK who reached out to us to put this bill for consideration by the House on the suspension calendar.

Forty States have had their State design on the reverse side of the quarter with four more States to be added before this year is ended. All the coins are minted according to the year each State ratified the Constitution of the United States or were admitted into the Union. Although States have appropriate latitude, there are limitations as to what can be used as a design. According to Public Law 105-124, the Secretary of the Treasury has the final approval of each design. The law gives clear guidance as to what is an acceptable design concept. Suitable design concepts include State landmarks, landscapes, historically significant buildings, symbols of State resources or industries, official State flora and fauna, State icons, and outlines of States. Among the examples of suitable coins already in circulation are, New York's Statue of Liberty, Missouri's depiction of Lewis and Clark as they paddled down the Missouri River with the Gateway Arch in the background and North Carolina's design depicting the first successful airplane flight. We look forward to the day when the residents of the District of Columbia and of the insular areas can see similar symbols of their jurisdictions and of their American citizenship appear on coins as well.

This bill points out the importance of including all Americans in the symbols of American citizenship. The residents of the District and of the insular areas are full and equal American citizens. To leave them out of mere exercises of citizenship is to seem to deny the citizenship they revere and share with other Americans. The Americans who live in these districts have fought and died in our country's

wars and have extraordinary records of service in the Armed Forces in considerably larger numbers than many States. District citizens, in addition, pay Federal income taxes.

We in the Congress all represent proud Americans. There are, of course, significant differences between the States and the jurisdictions covered by this bill. However, qualification to be part of a program of quarter coins to commemorate congressional districts is not one of them. Under the Constitution, all Americans are equal, notwithstanding important differences in form, structure and other significant distinctions. Today, by including all Americans, Congress avoids any appearance of differential or discriminatory treatment and any implication that these areas are colonies, never the intention when the five jurisdictions were not included in the original bill in 1998, as the House has made clear by repeatedly bringing this bill to the floor.

Today, when our country is at war and faces unparalleled dangers, this bill is yet another example of our unity as Americans and our indivisibility in honoring all of our country's citizens. By repeatedly passing this measure, the House has made it abundantly clear that we are one country and that our hope is that the Senate will join us.

RECOGNIZING PETER FEHNER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Peter Fehner, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Peter has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Peter has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Peter Fehner for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Peter in the United States House of Representatives.

LET THE BULLET SPEAK

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, A bullet tells a story . . . Tells lawmen the gun it belongs to, identifies the outlaw that fired it. In Jefferson County, Texas, it proves an attempted capital murder.

Gang thugs—with disregard to the property of others—robbed a used-car lot in Port Arthur, TX. When the owner appeared, a coward amid the cloak of darkness fired his pistol.

Unaware he was an expert marksman, the wounded owner was able to return fire, striking the hidden gunman.

The bullet, pointing to the triggerman, now lays embedded in the suspect's forehead.

Refusing its removal, search warrants were issued ordering doctors to extract it.

Doctors backed down and have ignored the Judge's order. The excuse by the doctors: the removal would require the suspect to undergo surgery.

These doctors are confused who the real victim is. Not the outlaw with the mark of Cain, but the valiant survivor who took on his would-be assassin.

In direct defiance of a judge's order, citing the criminal's alleged right to deny treatment, these doctors have thumbed their noses, like insolent children, at our Nation's criminal justice system.

Madam Speaker, this ought not to be. Justice must be served . . . the bullet must tell its story.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING BRANDON HOCHSTEDLER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon Hochstedler, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 98, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brandon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brandon has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandon Hochstedler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Brandon in the United States House of Representatives.

THE LIFE OF DR. MARY T. CHRISTIAN

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of a citizen of the City of Hampton, who has dedicated her life to making her city and the Commonwealth of Virginia a better place to live and learn. I would like to pay tribute to the contributions of retired Delegate Dr. Mary T. Christian.

In 1955, Dr. Christian graduated with highest honors from Hampton Institute, now Hampton University, with a B.S. in Elementary Education. From there she received a Master's Degree from Columbia University in