

with its neighbors, commends the people of Israel for helping to create a thriving democracy, and acknowledges the strong bonds that exist between the two countries.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Israel on its 60th anniversary and wish her a safe and prosperous future. Support H. Con. Res. 322.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Con. Res. 322, a resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important resolution.

The movement to establish a modern homeland for the Jewish people launched in 1896 with the publication of Theodore Herzl's *The Jewish State*. Out of the atrocities and horrors of the Second World War, the long sought dream of re-establishing that homeland was finally realized. In 1948, Israel claimed its hard-fought independence.

Since Israel's beginnings, the United States has held a special bond with this important ally. As the only liberal democracy in the region, Israel knows all too well what it means to fight against violent agents of intolerance and religious extremism for the sake of personal freedom and fair government. From the birth of their modern state, the Israeli people have struggled to keep and maintain their homeland.

I have had the great privilege of traveling to Israel. It is only in visiting this great country, that one can appreciate the beauty, history and danger that dominate the lives of its everyday citizens. Nowhere in the world is there such a confluence of religion and faith. However, peaceful worship often gives way to violent conflict, and despite the holiness of the land, terrorism has become all too common in this region.

We have stood with Israel in its fight against terrorism, and we will continue to do so. For six decades, our shared commitments to democracy and freedom, as well as our shared cultural heritage, have kept the link between our two nations close, despite existing in very different parts of the world. With passage of this resolution, we honor that bond and look forward to our continued friendship.

NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND CHILDREN'S DAY IN TURKEY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, April 23rd of every year is celebrated in Turkey as National Sovereignty and Children's Day. The genesis of these celebrations is this date in 1920. On April 23, 1920 during Turkey's War of Inde-

pendence, the Grand National Assembly met in Ankara to lay the foundation for modern parliamentary democracy in the form of an emerging liberal and secular Republic.

Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder and later the first President of the Republic of Turkey, designated April 23 as National Sovereignty and Children's Day, in recognition of the importance of children to the country's future. This was the first time that a world leader designated a day for children.

In Turkey this day is recognized as an official public holiday. Schools participate in week-long ceremonies marked by performances by children in large stadiums that draw the attention of the entire nation. On this day children also send their own "representatives" to replace state officials and high ranking bureaucrats in their offices. The President, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet Ministers, and provincial governors all turn over their positions to children's representatives. This symbolic gesture is intended to show children that they are the future leaders of Turkey and to remind current leaders that they are serving these children and the nation that they will inherit. These children, in turn, sign executive orders relating to educational and environmental policies. Children also replace the parliamentarians in the Grand National Assembly and hold a special session to discuss children's issues.

It is inspiring to know that this tradition of celebrating children's day has been adopted internationally. World Children's Day was the idea of two classmates, Funda Karagozler and Engin Ustundag (9 and 11 years old) from Ataturk School in New York. In April 1986, in response to an assignment to comment on the nationally celebrated Children's Day in Turkey, these two friends wrote a letter addressed to the "Kids of the World", inviting them to come together with the common objective of peace and friendship.

The school principal was so impressed with the letter that she sent it to UNICEF, a United Nations body dedicated to children's issues. Through UNICEF's assistance, a copy of the letter was sent to the permanent missions of the United Nations. The response was overwhelming. Everyone wanted to participate. On April 27, 1986, the UN General Assembly was opened to children for the first celebration of World Children's Day. Later that same year, the World Children's Day Foundation (WCDF) was established to oversee World Children's Day activities. In addition to the annual celebration in New York, WCDF sponsored programs and community service projects in 140 countries around the world.

The program's goals were: (1) To equip children to make a difference in their own lives and the future of their communities and nations; (2) To bring children of different nationalities, races, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds together and to show them that, in spite of these factors, all people have much in common; (3) To establish the Fourth Sunday in April as the internationally celebrated World Children's Day to recognize the capability and potential of children everywhere to shape the future.

More than 5,300 children from 140 countries have participated in World Children's Day celebrations in the UN General Assembly. About four million children have participated in WCDF community service projects around the world. These projects have touched millions of lives worldwide.

I stand to commemorate this important date dedicated to the children of the world and remember its origins in Turkey in 1920.

IN MEMORY OF DAN ROSS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, last week, South Carolina honored a favorite son and patriot, Daniel Iradell Ross, Jr., of Blackville, South Carolina.

As a World War II veteran of the China-Burma-India Theatre, he championed a strong military to promote peace as State Commander of the American Legion. He courageously worked as a pioneer in the modern Republican Party establishing not only a two-party system in South Carolina but also the rise of Republicans from virtually no elected positions to majority status across the state.

In 1970, Mr. Ross chaired the campaign of legendary Greenville advertising executive Jim Henderson for Lieutenant Governor. Mr. Henderson was only the second Republican to run for the position in the 20th century.

In 1974, Mr. Ross co-chaired the campaign of oral surgeon Jim Edwards of Mount Pleasant for Governor with Julia Ravenel Dougherty of Charleston and William B. "Rusty" DePass, Jr., of Columbia as manager. Governor Edwards became the first Republican governor since 1876.

In 1980, as State Party Chairman, Mr. Ross was the Father of the First in the South Republican Presidential Primary. With the leadership of Executive Director Wayne Adams, the primary produced lists of new Republican recruits which fueled the Reagan Revolution with California Governor Ronald Reagan's victory in the primary, victory in the general election, and ultimate victory in the Cold War.

The following is the obituary as published by "The State", of Columbia, South Carolina on April 17, 2008:

BLACKVILLE.—Daniel Iradell Ross Jr., 84, died Tuesday, April 15, 2008. Services will be held 11 a.m. Saturday, April 19, 2008, in the Folk Funeral Home Chapel, Williston. Interment will follow in Blackville Cemetery with military honors accorded. The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 18 at the funeral home. Memorials may be sent to American Legion Post #91, 5130 Reedy Branch Road, Blackville, SC 29817; Blackville Cemetery Fund, P.O. Box 365, Blackville, SC 29817; University Library, Thomas Cooper Library, USC, Columbia, SC 29208; or Ashleigh Place, 4435 Ashleigh Road, Blackville, SC 29817.

Born in Blackville, he was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Daniel I Ross Sr. His wife, Jeannine Prater Ross of Johnsonville, preceded him in death. Ross graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1943 with a degree in geology and later achieved a master's degree from the University of Texas. Ross was a proud American veteran, having honorably served in the U.S. Army during WW II. He was devoted to public service, serving in various political capacities in both local and statewide positions for many years including state commander and state chairman of the Republican Party. He was also campaign chairman for former Governor James B. Edwards. Ross is most remembered for his patriotism, his service to others, and his generous spirit.

Survivors include: Helen Halford Barnes Ross, Dawn Ross Hollingsworth, Lauren Hollingsworth, Jessa Hollingsworth, Michael Hollingsworth; stepchildren: Bettis Richister, Charlene Barrett, and Maree Shay; 9 stepgrandchildren, 22 stepgreat-grandchildren, and 6 stepgreat-great-grandchildren.

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support of H.R. 5613, the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008. This important legislation will prevent the implementation of seven Medicaid regulations before April 2009. Passage of H.R. 5613 is vitally important to my home state of New York. These regulations are estimated to cut Medicaid funding by nearly \$20 billion over five years and will impact payments for safety net providers, hospital clinic services, rehabilitation services, graduate medical education and case management services. In my home district, the New York

City Health and Hospitals Corporation, HHC, the largest municipal hospital system in the country, would lose over \$500 million a year, 10 percent of the HHC budget. To give perspective, HHC operates 11 acute care hospitals and more than 80 community clinics which serve 1.3 million patients, 400,000 of whom are uninsured.

Another of the proposed regulations would eliminate Medicaid funding for graduate medical education, GME. My district is a center for graduate medical education. If the GME proposed regulation goes into effect, the impact would be devastating to New York teaching hospitals which educate a disproportionate number of our nation's doctors. New York trains one of every seven doctors in the country. The loss of Medicaid funding for physician training would be \$590 million a year for all of the hospitals in New York City and \$675 million a year for all of the hospitals in New York State. Reducing the GME would not only dramatically impact New York, it would negatively impact the entire country which relies on New York trained doctors.

We must not rush to cut services to beneficiaries. Instead, Congress must have the opportunity to thoughtfully and deliberately evaluate what is happening in the States and address any concerns.

HONORING MS. JENNIFER HANSON

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Jennifer Hanson for her service to our community.

Jennifer Hanson, an educator with the Boulder Valley School District, has been an instrumental leader in the development of online safety protocols for our local schools and com-

munities. Ms. Hanson has played an active role in uniting our educators, business leaders, law enforcement officials and parents in a collaborative effort to protect our youth from online predators. Jennifer Hanson should be commended for her leadership and commitment to enriching our children's educational opportunities in a safe and dynamic online environment.

Jennifer Hanson was recently presented with The Spirit of Online Safety Award in appreciation of her work as the President of the Internet Safety Foundation. The Internet Safety Foundation mentored nine youths in their creation of a cutting-edge public awareness campaign about safe online practices. The culmination of their hard work will have a positive impact on our communities for years to come.

Upon graduation summa cum laude from the Metropolitan State College of Denver, Jennifer taught in the Cherry Creek Public Schools for seven years. She completed her master's degree work at Adams State College in educational technology leadership and would lend her expertise as an active participant for Project Safe Childhood and Qwest's Online Safety Coalition. Ms. Hanson has also played a vital role in the establishment of the Internet Safety Summit; a statewide assembly focused on giving our communities the knowledge and tools necessary to protect our children from the dangers of the World Wide Web.

Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to Jennifer Hanson for her willingness to devote herself for the betterment of our children's education and safety.

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to H.R. 5613, legislation halting the implementation of a package of new Medicaid rules. The proponents of H.R. 5613 are correct that halting some of these rules will protect needed Medicaid reimbursements for health care providers. However, some of the rules that H.R. 5613 blocks address abuses of Federal Medicaid dollars that should be halted. Greater efforts to ensure Medicaid resources are properly spent will help those health care providers most in need of continued support from the Medicaid program, since a Medicaid dollar lost to fraud and abuse is a dollar that cannot be spent helping hospitals and physicians provide health care to the poor.

Had members been given the opportunity to offer amendments, we could have fashioned a bill that would have protected needed reimbursements for legitimate health care expenditures while addressing legitimate concerns about misuse of Medicaid funds. Unfortunately, the House leadership chose to deny members the ability to improve this bill, and have a meaningful debate on how to ensure Medicaid's financial stability without denying care to those dependent on the program, by putting this bill on the suspension calendar.

According to some estimates, failure to implement the proposed regulations could cost

the already financially fragile Medicaid system as much as 10 billion over the next several years. Yet, the sponsors of this bill refuse to make a serious effort to address these costs. Mr. Speaker, instead of rushing H.R. 5613 into law, we should be looking for ways to shore up Medicaid by making cuts in other, lower priority programs, using those savings to ensure the short-term fiscal stability of federal entitlement programs while transitioning to a more stable means of providing health care for low-income Americans. I have been outspoken on the areas I believe should be subject to deep cuts in order to finance serious entitlement reform that protects those relying on these programs. I will not go into detail on these cuts, although I will observe that in recent weeks this Congress has authorized billions of new foreign aid spending, yet today we are told we cannot find the money to address Medicaid's long-term financial imbalances.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5613 may provide some short-term benefit to Medicaid providers, however, it does so by further jeopardizing the long-term fiscal soundness of the Medicaid program. Thus, this passage of this bill will ultimately damage the very low-income Americans the bill aims to help.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was not present on April 22, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: Rollcall No. 205, Rollcall No. 206, Rollcall No. 207.

A TRIBUTE TO SAM HILL

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sam Hill of Wilmington, North Carolina, for his 51 years of service on the Wilmington Fire Department.

Since Hill joined the Wilmington Department in February 1957, he has improved and strengthened the department, which has nearly doubled in size. Hill has overseen construction of numerous new stations, and even helped to design new facilities. Most importantly, he has protected and served his community, often putting his own life on the line to save others. Many are impressed by his dedication and courage, and his strong religious faith; Hill is also an ordained Advent minister. In recognition of his dedication to public service, Hill was recently inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest civilian honor.

Madam Speaker, let us honor Sam Hill's inspirational commitment to his fellow citizens as his tenure as Fire Chief comes to a close. May his 51 years of enduring service remind us of what it means to be dedicated to one's community.