

to achieve throughout their lifetimes. This continues to be my guiding principle, inspired in me by my many great teachers, allowing me to work tirelessly for my community. Today's students will undoubtedly be inspired to even greater heights with unwavering commitment to bettering our community and our country.

For the professionalism and care that our teachers have shown in the pursuit of this most noble of professions, I thank each of them from the bottom of my heart. They have shaped the lives of countless students, and we are truly privileged to have such wonderful individuals taking on this great challenge.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I will submit in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of the teachers who have received awards for excellence in education throughout South Florida and the Florida Keys in this past school year.

From Centennial Middle School: Frederic Gabriel, Teacher of the Year.

From Citrus Grove Elementary School: Edward Slater, Teacher of the Year; Jonny Junes, Rookie Teacher of the Year.

From Coconut Grove Elementary School: Emely Yanes, Teacher of the Year.

From Coral Shores High: Nancy Ellsworth, District Teacher of the Year.

From Excelsior Language Academy: Ms. Reagan Weissenberg, Teacher of the Year.

From Fairlawn Elementary Community School: Ileana Estrella, Teacher of the Year.

From Gerald Adams Elementary: Gloria Pascual, Teacher of the Year; Michael Sommer, Inclusion Teacher of the Year.

From Glynn Archer Elementary: Terri Sims, Inclusion Teacher of the Year; Lottie Edwards, Teacher of the Year; Jalynn Frazier, Beginning Teacher of the Year.

From Horace O'Bryant Middle School: Christina Beza, Beginning Teacher of the Year; Kristen Condella, Inclusion Teacher of the Year; Stephanie Manaher, Teacher of the Year.

From Henry M. Flagler Elementary School: Marielena Lago, Teacher of the Year.

From Kensington Park Elementary School: Maria D. Reinoso, Teacher of the Year; Kendra Ceasar, Rookie Teacher of the Year.

From Key Largo School: Laura Lietaert, Teacher of the Year; Eva Brown, Elementary School Inclusion Teacher of the Year; Nicole Elliot, Middle School Inclusion Teacher of the Year.

From Key West High School: Dina Kinnune, Inclusion Teacher of the Year; Rebecca Provost, Teacher of the Year.

From Kinloch Park Elementary School: Felicia Fina, Teacher of the Year.

From Marathon Middle/High School: Andrea Rapach, Beginning Teacher of the Year; Mike Lettau, Teacher of the Year.

From Merrick Educational Center: Maude Weiss, Teacher of the Year; Krista Caballero, Beginning Teacher of the Year; Lydia Chico, Paraprofessional of the Year.

From Miami Lakes K-8 Center: Ada Romeu, Teacher of the Year; Amy Castillo, Rookie Teacher of the Year; Rosy Calvo, Miami-Dade Public Schools District Principal of the Year.

From Plantation Key School: Barbara Berry, Teacher of the Year; Amy Bence, Inclusion Teacher of the Year.

From Poinciana Elementary: Jessica Eden Lockwood, Inclusion Teacher of the Year; Martha Wyker, Teacher of the Year.

From Ruth Owens Kruse' Educational Center: Dr. Ana Menedez-Londono, Teacher of

the Year; Mr. Luis Farach, Paraprofessional of the Year.

From Sigsbee Elementary: Ellie Riley, Inclusion Teacher of the Year; Lynly Hill, Teacher of the Year; Callie Hubble, Beginning Teacher of the Year.

From South Dade Middle School: Ronald Dennis, Teacher of the Year; Susana Skinner, Rookie Teacher of the Year.

From Somerset Academy Silver Palms: Adreia Da Costa, Young Student Teacher of the Year; Alejandra Guzman, Middle and High School Teacher of the Year.

From South Florida Autism Charter School: German Garcia, Teacher of the Year; Roxana Rojas, Teacher Assistant of the Year.

From Stanley Switlike Elementary: Suzanne Terpos, Teacher of the Year; Erin Voelliger, Inclusion Teacher of the Year.

From Sunny Isles Beach Community School: Ms. Christine Peck, Teacher of the Year; Rose Belizaire, Rookie Teacher of the Year.

From Sylvania Heights Elementary School: Anna-Maria Losada, Teacher of the Year.

From Vineland K-8 Center: Ms. Laurie Sharron, Teacher of the Year.

SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS—RECOGNIZING THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, last week we celebrated the 45th anniversary of the adoption of the Older Americans Act. Later this month we will celebrate the 45th anniversary of Medicare and next month the 75th anniversary of Social Security.

Seniors are vital to our communities, having spent a lifetime building and shaping this Nation. Increasingly, our seniors have been able to continue to make important contributions throughout all of their lives, volunteering their time, mentoring our youth, and often remaining active in the workforce.

As a former Chairman of Fairfax County, Virginia, I was proud of the work I helped lead in the creation of a 50+Plus Action Plan outlining more than 60 initiatives to support our senior population. We expanded transportation opportunities, ensured communities were planned to provide housing options for all ages, pursued respite options for caregivers. And it was necessary to bring that focus to Washington.

This Congress has made strategic investments to assist these efforts through actions such as the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act that expanded opportunities for seniors to remain active. But it wasn't always this way, which is why we needed the Older Americans Act.

The Older Americans Act facilitates the provisions of necessary social services and nutritional support to seniors through a partnership with various State agencies. In addition to establishing the Administration on Aging, the act established the National Family Caregiver Support Program, recog-

nizing the critical role that family caregivers provide and the need to make sure they have the necessary resources. That act also provides for home-based services, disease prevention and wellness programs to promote better health.

The Older Americans Act was a continuation of the improvements in the quality of life begun in 1935 when Congress enacted the Social Security Act. The poverty rate among seniors in 1935 exceeded 45 percent. Today it is 10 percent. Few acts of Congress have made such a dramatic difference on a single demographic group.

In addition to the Older Americans Act, in 1965 Medicare was established to protect seniors' health. Before its enactment almost half of all senior citizens lacked health insurance. Given the traditionally higher costs of senior health care without Medicare, for many Americans there was no prospect of health insurance. Our efforts to further enhance the quality of life for our Nation's senior citizens continue to this day. The Health Care Reform Act enhances Medicare benefits.

What's interesting to me is I was a young high school debater when Medicare was adopted, and the national high school debate topic that year was, Would the adoption of Medicare constitute socialized medicine in America? Would it, in fact, discourage the private sector? Would it, in fact, make us look a lot more like the health care system in the United Kingdom or Canada?

Much of the rhetoric we hear today about health care reform was echoed 45 years ago against Social Security, and much of it came from the same sources who oppose health care reform today. They consistently opposed Medicare. Yet when you go to a retirement community, when you meet with seniors across this country, certainly in my district, I can't find one who thinks that we ought to repeal Medicare. They know that Medicare has made a huge difference in the quality of their lives, and going from being maybe the most vulnerable demographic group in America in terms of health care coverage, today they have the most protected. That's the efficacy of an effective government program that has made a difference in the quality of lives.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the anniversaries of the Older Americans Act, the Social Security Act, and Medicare, we also celebrate the adoption of the Health Care Reform Act that will make the same kind of difference in years to come in millions of lives now and in the future.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to not traffic the well while another Member is under recognition.