

For her valiant services, U.S.S. *Chandeleur* was awarded six bronze engagement stars for operations at Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Saipan, Palau, Okinawa, as well as air operations off the coasts of China, Korea, and Japan, and participation in the early occupation of Japan.

During these operations, the ship and crew survived a number of withering attacks by Japanese vessels and aircraft, including a near miss by a Kamikaze bomber off Okinawa, sustaining multiple battle casualties and deaths of her crew members and air crews.

Soon after her return from the Pacific, U.S.S. *Chandeleur* was "mothballed" at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, and later scrapped, but the ship's company and aviators have remained close.

They have gathered periodically in reunions widely separated across the United States, from Boston to San Diego. For their 27th reunion on the 50th anniversary of the victory they so valiantly helped to bring about, they have gathered in the ship's "native" city, San Francisco, where they will be together at the Marine Memorial Club from September 27 through October 1, 1995.

It is fitting that on the 50-year anniversary of this historic mission that the ship's companies and aviators gather once again in the ship's home city of San Francisco. And, on behalf of the United States Senate, I would like to extend my most sincere welcome to those gathering to remember the valiant mission of the U.S.S. *Chandeleur*.●

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF EMPIRE

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the village of Empire. The community of Empire has planned many events for this significant milestone.

The Village of Empire is known today as the home of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Park Headquarters. The residents of Empire are renowned for their friendliness in welcoming over a million visitors to the lakeshore each year. With its beautiful beaches, hiking trails, abundant natural resources, and rich history, Empire is a recreational haven known the world over.

Empire was settled in the mid 1850's. It quickly established itself as a lumbering center, the largest and best equipped hardwood mill in the State. Many Norwegians, recruited to operate the mill, settled here. With the manpower, modern equipment, and plentiful supply of wood, this mill produced up to ten million feet of lumber each year, and was a model of efficiency across the State.

The village of Empire formally incorporated on October 16, 1895. It was probably named after the *Empire State*, a steamer-sidewheeler that ran

aground nearby in 1849, and the *Empire*, a schooner that also ran aground in the area in 1865.

The lumber mill burned in 1917, and the residents of Empire quickly adapted to produce agricultural products. Lands which had been cleared by the lumbering industry were replanted with fruit trees or became grazing for livestock. Empire drew many seasonal workers anxious to work the harvest, and fruit companies and slaughterhouses sent representatives to view and buy the goods Empire produced.

In 1949, the Empire Air Force Station was established. The 752d Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron was assigned 300 personnel, almost doubling Empire's population. This station remained a part of Empire until the 1980's. The former station is now controlled by the FAA and provides essential radar services to the area.

Empire's long and rich history was recognized through the authorization of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in 1970. The National Park Service has improved the recreational resources in the area, while preserving cultural resources. The partnership between the residents of Empire and the national lakeshore will continue to draw many visitors in the years to come. Michigan is fortunate to boast of the contributions of the village of Empire.●

MEDICARE

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to address one of the most important legislative changes the Congress will be addressing this year—changes in the way we finance and the way senior citizens and persons with disabilities receive Medicare coverage. I wholeheartedly support reducing the Federal deficit, as well as, moving the Government out of the role of running a health plan, for the elderly and disabled, and into the role of contracting with private health plans. I commend Chairman ROTH and the Finance Committee for its commitment to these very important goals.

Having studied the health care system in the United States for many years I have come to the conclusion that the reason the Government's health care spending is out of control is really twofold. First, is the way we have chosen to pay for and purchase services. When Medicare was designed in the 1960's it was modeled after private Blue Cross fee-for-service plans. The Government paid providers directly for each procedure.

Paying for services rendered at a distance without any effective utilization control has been a disaster. Our failed attempts to control costs, by continuing to cut payments to providers and increasing costs to beneficiaries, is a major reason why our Federal deficit is so exorbitant.

I hope that in our efforts to reduce the deficit, we have not set ourselves up to cut too deeply into the Medicare

payment system. Many technical changes have been suggested by the Finance Committee to the reimbursement policies for hospitals and providers. Some of these changes have allocated additional funding to rural areas. I look forward to discussing the total cost impact on Vermont with both the hospital association as well as other provider groups in Vermont, as well as with my colleagues on the Finance Committee.

Second, by segregating the elderly and disabled, into separate risk pools, the Government has become responsible for providing health insurance for the riskiest members of society. This segmentation has not provided any incentives for the private sector to find innovative ways to manage the highest cost cases in the delivery system. Unfortunately, it was the private market's failure to provide affordable coverage on reasonable terms, to the elderly and disabled, that led to the political demand for the Government to create Medicare and Medicaid in the first place.

Providing Medicare beneficiaries a choice of private health plans is a wonderful idea and one that I have been advocating. Hopefully, the impact will not be the same as the greatest criticism against the Federal employee plan. One experience with this program has found adverse selection among plans—that is the people that need the most care seem to migrate to the high option Blue Cross fee-for-service plan—creating an upward cost spiral for members of this plan.

Now I'd like to turn to the two charts I have here. The first chart was duplicated from hearings on the Eisenhower administration's health reinsurance legislation back in 1954. This was before we had Medicare and Medicaid. As you can see, 41 percent of the population had no insurance protection at all and 36 percent of the population had what I would call limited coverage. More startling only 3 percent of the population has what most Americans take for granted today—comprehensive coverage.

Compare this chart with my second chart which does not emphasize the type of coverage but the source of coverage. Over 55 percent of Americans in 1993 had coverage provided through their employer. As you can see, 15 percent of the population is uninsured—compared to 41 percent in 1953. Medicare is the primary insurance for 12 percent of the population and 9 percent of the population receives coverage through Medicaid.

As we tackle one of the biggest problems for the Federal Government, our deficit, we must keep in mind a goal we all agreed to last year—the goal of moving towards universal coverage for all Americans. We must keep in mind that any changes we make to the public programs of Medicare and Medicaid must not add to the rolls of the uninsured, especially if it is due to unintended consequences of our changes to