

the law has been exercised with a deep respect for the law, balanced with his respect for humanity.

Pete was one of eight children, born in 1930 in what is now Jim Thorpe, PA. Educated in local schools, he served with the 14th Division of the U.S. Army in Germany for 3 years. For 18 years Pete served as a business consultant, but turned his interests to law enforcement in the mid-1960's. He attended a local community college and studying criminal law and medical-legal investigation. Pete was appointed Justice of the Peace under Gov. William Scranton from 1968 to 1970.

In 1971, he became Chief Deputy Sheriff of Carbon County under Sheriff Louise D. Lisella. He was then elected sheriff in 1976 serving four consecutive terms in that capacity. Pete was the top vote-getter in each of his elections. During his tenure, Pete saw the need for a new correctional facility and worked hard to bring the idea to reality. In January 1995, the new facility was dedicated.

Pete's expertise and leadership was acknowledged by the Pennsylvania Sheriff's Association in the many positions he held on that board and finally as its president in 1986. He still serves on the board of trustees for the association.

Mr. Speaker, Sheriff Peter Hoherchak has been a dedicated public servant for almost 30 years. He not only serves his community in a professional capacity but also does valuable volunteer work for the community. He remains a leader in the Carbon County Democratic organization. He and his wife Claire are the proud parents of one son and four daughters and have six grandchildren. I am extremely proud of my long friendship with this outstanding public official. I join with the community in thanking Pete for a job well done and wish him many happy years of retirement.

IN HONOR OF ELEANOR
TIEFENWERTH, A LEADER OF
THE COMMUNITY WHO SERVES
THE PEOPLE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Eleanor Tiefenwerth, a citizen who exhibits never-ending dedication to the community. She will be honored by the Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation at their 30th Annual Dinner Dance on November 17, 1995.

The Bayonne Economic Foundation is a social service agency in its 30th year. The foundation is dedicated to serving the people of the community through various outreach programs, including Head Start and Meals On Wheels. The foundation's slogan is "People Helping People". Mrs. Tiefenwerth exemplifies this motto.

Mrs. Tiefenwerth, a native of Bayonne, is a graduate of Jersey City State College. While a volunteer with the Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation, Mrs. Tiefenwerth developed the skills which she retains as its executive director. She has been instrumental in increasing the level of services the foundation offers to the community. These innovations include providing crosstown transportation for both senior citizens and the disabled.

In addition to her duties with the foundation, Mrs. Tiefenwerth also serves as a commissioner on the Bayonne Housing Authority, a member of the Community Education Advisory Council, and secretary to the Community Action Programs. In 1994, she spent 2 weeks in Russia with groups from People to People International and the Russian Ministry exchanging ideas on social issues affecting the world.

Mrs. Tiefenwerth has received numerous awards for her selfless service to the community, including the Jersey Journal Woman of Achievement, the Golden Recognition Award from Hudson County and the Distinguished and Caring Service Award from the Hudson County Director of Human Services. She is a volunteer with the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Parent Teacher Associations at the municipal, county, and state levels.

I am proud to have such a dedicated woman serving the citizens of my district. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Eleanor Tiefenwerth for her service and dedication to the community.

THE MEDICARE PRESERVATION
ACT OF 1995

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 1995

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of passing this historic legislation to save Medicare from bankruptcy and preserve and protect the program for current and future beneficiaries.

There is no issue more important to elderly Americans than their health care security. Medicare gives beneficiaries peace of mind every time they go to the doctor or spend a few days in the hospital.

That is why, when I received the alarming news in April that Medicare was headed toward bankruptcy, I began meeting and corresponding with people throughout district 11.

I held 14 town meetings to listen to constituents, met with senior citizen clubs in 5 counties, reached out to our health care providers, met with hundreds of individuals in my office, and reviewed thousands of letters and telephone messages on this matter.

Our dialog enabled me to work constructively over the past eight months with my colleagues to ensure that the citizens of New Jersey will only benefit from modernizing the 30-year-old, government-run program.

I am proud of what we have accomplished. The Medicare Preservation Act saves Medicare from bankruptcy and provides elderly Americans with the same choices as individuals in the private sector have to meet their health care needs. And make no mistake about it, spending on each beneficiary will increase—from \$4,800 today to \$6,700 in 2002.

I have read in the newspaper and heard on television some disturbing and often erroneous reports about our Medicare Preservation Act.

I have been outraged by the tactics being employed by some politicians in Washington and by groups outside Washington that are funding their television and radio commercials. It is unconscionable that they would resort to distortions and half-truths in an attempt to

frighten Medicare beneficiaries about the future of a program they have come to rely on to pay their doctor and hospital bills.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare is teetering on bankruptcy, and it is important that we act now to preserve, protect and strengthen this vital program.

Medicare costs have been soaring. Medicare alone now consumes 11 percent of the entire Federal budget and is increasing at the rate of 10.5 percent a year. That's more than three times the rate of inflation and seven times faster than the 65 and older population is growing.

They've been paying taxes all their entire life to support the Medicare program. But the fact is that retirees are collecting far more in benefits from Medicare than they actually paid in taxes to support the system. An individual who turns 65 this year will, on average, receive \$129,000 more in benefits from Medicare than he or she contributed to the system. Although this imbalance is certainly not the beneficiary's fault, it helps to explain why Medicare is in dire financial condition.

Next year, for the first time in history, Medicare will pay out more money on seniors' hospital bills than it collected through payroll taxes. The reality is Medicare is teetering on bankruptcy.

Unless some action is taken now to control skyrocketing costs the Medicare hospital insurance trust fund, which pays hospital expenses for America's seniors, will be bankrupt in just 7 years. It's important to know that is not a prediction made by Congress, it is the conclusion reached by the trustees responsible for maintaining the financial stability of the Medicare program—including three members of President Clinton's cabinet.

And there is another, equally important crisis that must be addressed—the financial condition of Medicare part B, which covers doctor bills and lab tests.

Spending on this portion of Medicare has increased by 53 percent in just the past 5 year. If nothing is done, spending on part B will actually double over the next 7 years from \$37 billion to \$74 billion. The Medicare trustees have called this rate of growth in spending on part B "clearly unsustainable." Under our plan, part B spending still creases to \$6,800, just a slower rate.

Against this threat of imminent bankruptcy, our opponents want you to believe that our plan to save Medicare is actually aimed at paying for tax cuts. They're wrong.

Even if there were no plan in Congress to provide tax relief to middle-class families, the Medicare Board of Trustees confirm the need to take immediate action to preserve Medicare for today's seniors and those approaching retirement age.

Remember, the Medicare trust fund is financed exclusively through every worker's payroll tax. There is no plan, not even a suggestion, to cut the payroll tax and thereby reduce the money available to Medicare. But even leaving the payroll tax alone, Medicare will be bankrupt in just seven years.

As the Washington Post stated in a recent editorial:

The Democrats have fabricated the Medicare-tax cut connection because it is useful politically. It allows them to attack and duck responsibility, both at the same time. We think that's wrong.