to pay tribute to a personal friend of mine who

has become one of northeastern Pennsylvania’s most important and influential political and community leaders, Rena Baumgartner. I am proud to have been asked to participate in a tribute to Rena and to be able to tell my colleagues of her contributions and accomplishments.

As an active member of her community, Rena has participated in numerous clubs and organizations which work diligently to promote the betterment of and ensure safety to the general public. Rena works with the West End Ambulance and West End Fire Company Auxiliaries as well as the Pocono Township Fire Company Auxiliary. She is a member of the Exchange Club of the Pocono Mountain. In addition to these organizations and others, Rena remains an active member in the United Ethed Methodist Church.

Rena may be best known for her leadership positions within the Democratic Party organization. She has served in this arena, beginning as a Democratic township committee person. From that position, Rena graduated to become the Assistant Secretary of the Monroe County Democratic Committee and eventually the Chairperson of the Monroe County Democratic Committee, a position which she still holds today.

Rena’s involvement in the Democratic Party was not limited to local politics. On the statewide level, Rena was appointed Deputy Chairperson of the Democratic State Party and in 1984 was made Vice-Chair of the party.

On the national level, her involvement in the Democratic Party is deserving of even more recognition. Rena has been a member of the Democratic National Committee since 1979 and has taken a leading role in every national election since becoming a member. During the last three presidential elections she served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. She has also served on the executive committee of the Democratic National Women’s Caucus and has been the Treasurer and Secretary of the Democratic National Committee’s Eastern Regional Caucus. Presently, Rena is helping to select the delegation which will be sent to the 1996 Democratic National Convention. No one can question Rena’s commitment to the Democratic Party.

Certainly, an accomplishment that Rena can be extremely proud of is her family. With her husband William, Rena has raised two wonderful children, her daughter Robin and her son Bryan. In addition to having such a positive role on her own children, Rena is also able to play an active role in the upbringing of her two grandsons. Throughout all of her other undertakings Rena managed to keep her family at the center of her attentions and in a position of importance above everything.

Mr. Speaker, my close friend Rena Baumgartner has been a caring mother and wife. She also has been a strong leader in her community and throughout Monroe County. Finally, Rena Baumgartner has been a true leader in the Democratic Party. I salute and thank Rena for everything she has contributed to the betterment of northeastern Pennsylvania and the Democratic Party.
do not have a Medicare HMO option available to them. It is difficult to understand how bene-

ficiaries who paid into the Medicare trust funds at the same rate and pay the same part B pre-
mium now receive very different AAPCC pay-
ments. This is not equitable or fair. Improving the AAPCC payment formula is critically im-
portant to fulfill our legislative promise of pro-
viding health care choices as well as equity and fairness to all beneficiaries.

Why can some beneficiaries today choose to receive their Medicare services from the tra-
ditional fee-for-service Medicare or an HMO and others cannot? HMO's and hospital associations sug-
gested that a monthly payment between $325 to $350 begins to provide them with the op-
portunity to offer Medicare managed care services. For this reason, it was necessary to 
craft an AAPCC payment formula that would support the establishment and operation of an 
HMO or the new options of a provider-sponsored organization [PSO] or medical savings 
accounts [MSA's].

The Balanced Budget Act improves the 
AAPCC payment formula by setting a payment 
floor of area wage index. This floor is extremely beneficial for counties in 43 States with below average pay-
ment rates between $177–$300 and offers 
help to the more than 4 million beneficiaries in rural and efficient markets that they may 
soon have the choice to receive Medicare services through an HMO, PSO, MSA, or 
PSO. Other important rural health care provi-
sion is incorporated into the Balanced Budget 
Act only enhance the care and services avail-
able to rural America.

Clarifying the Medicare payments to essen-
tial access community hospitals/rural primary 
care hospitals.

Implementing a new Rural Emergency Ac-
cess Care Hospital Program.

Increasing by 10 percent the Medicare bonus payments to 20 percent for rural, primary 
care physicians practicing in health personnel 
shortage areas.

Reinstating the Medicare Dependent Hos-
pital Program for facilities with 100 or fewer beds and at least 60-percent Medicare patient 
discharges or days.

Establishing of a uniform reimbursement rate for physician assistants and nurse prac-
titioners at 85 percent of the physician fee 
schedule payment for outpatient services.

Setting a floor for the area wage index used in determining prospective payments to hos-
pitals.

Prohibiting the Medicare Geographic Re-
classification Review Board from rejecting ap-
plications of rural referral centers on the basis of area wage index.

Extending the rural referral center classifica-
tion for any hospital previously classified.

The health of rural health care and services 
to Medicare beneficiaries will only be improved with the enactment of these very important 
provisions in the Balanced Budget Act. I am 
pleased to lend my support to this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO COACH EDDIE G. 
ROBINSON

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON 
OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 
Friday, November 17, 1995

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, we have 
honored many legends on this floor—men and 

women who are revered and who will be so 
revered for generations. I come to this historic 
floor today to add still another name to this 
long list of distinguished Americans who we 
can truly call a legend of out time—one whose 
singular contributions will separate him from 
everyone else who has toiled in his profes-
sion.

Our Nation has produced many, many great 
football coaches. Men like Paul "Bear" Bryant, 
Woody Hayes, Ara Parseghian, Joe Paterno, 
Knute Rockne, Amos Alonzo Stagg, Bud 
Willkerson, to name a few. But today I rise to 
pay tribute to the historical accomplishments of Coach Eddie G. Robinson of Grambling 
State University—the winnigest football 
coach of all time, the best that the game of 
football has to offer.

During a period spanning 55 years, Coach 
Robinson has led his Grambling State teams to 
more than 400 victories. No other coach 
has reached the 400 win milestone. Along the 
way, he has won 17 SWAC championships or 
cochampionships. Coach Robinson started 
modestly at Grambling. Nevertheless, he grew 
to a giant in his profession. Yes, he has be-
come the greatest coach of all time, but his 
first priority always was the development of his 
players. Coach Robinson nurtured his athletes into great athletes. He was, not not in game of football but in game of life. 
He has touched our hearts, our very souls. His 
achievements will stand forever.

We are left to wonder what Grambling State 
University would have been like had Eddie 
Robinson not walked through the doors of the 
then Louisiana Negro Normal and Industrial 
Institute in 1941. Would there have been the 
mentoring, that steady hand guiding countless 
young athletes to exalted levels of achieve-
ment? Would such players as Paul "Tank," 
Younger, Willie Brown, Willie Davis, Buck Bu-
chanan, Doug Williams, Charlie Joiner, Frank 
Lewin, Essex Johnson, Billy Newsome, John 
Mendenhall and over 200 other players have 
ever been to leave their mark on the National 
Football League? No. A Grambling State Uni-
versity, indeed the American way of life, with-
out the contributions of Coach Robinson is not 
imaginable.

Coach Robinson, served as a coach, father 
and tutor to thousands of students at Gram-
bling who have gone on to make great con-
tributions to this Nation. Through his tenacity 
and guidance, he influenced countless young 
men and women who crossed his path. For 
this and for all that Coach Robinson through 
his success has meant to our country, we in 
the Congress offer our most heartfelt con-
gratulations to him. All Americans are ex-
tremely fortunate to have had the opportunity 
to experience the influence of this great man. 
Coach Eddie Robinson is a winner, and be-
cause he is, so are we all.

The Congress salutes Coach Robinson 
today not only for winning more football 
games than any other college coach, but for 
who he is.