

dignity and grace, with a spirit of bipartisanship, and a deep respect for the House of Representatives.

Chuck has served the committee under four different chairmen. We speak for all of them in thanking him for his dedication to the committee and a job well done. In saying goodbye to Chuck, we say goodbye to someone universally liked and respected—a very difficult compliment to obtain in our business.

We wish our friend Godspeed in his new position and will remember his excellent service to the House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO PHIL HOLLYWOOD

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 1997

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, August 23, one of the races at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, NJ, was dedicated to Mr. Phil Hollywood, a native of my hometown of Long Branch, NJ, who has distinguished himself as a business leader in our Nation's Capital. It is an honor for me to join in paying tribute to this good friend and great citizen.

Phil Hollywood was born in Long Branch, attended grade school at the Lyceum, and served as an altar boy at Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church. While attending Red Bank Catholic High School, he worked as a stockboy at the local Woolworth's and as a part-time caddie at the Old Orchard Country Club in Eatontown, NJ. After high school, he enlisted in the Navy, serving on a destroyer in the South Pacific during World War II. After the war, he took a job as a desk clerk at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, a venerable Washington landmark. He stayed there for 47 years, rising to the position of vice president and managing director, while also serving in various capacities for the Hotel Association of Washington.

During this storied and distinguished career, he had the honor of greeting many Presidents of the United States as well as many foreign leaders. Mr. Hollywood was Inaugural housing director for three Presidential Inaugurations. While he was always extremely attentive to the needs of the eminent visitors to the Shoreham, Phil Hollywood extended special care to guests from Monmouth County and especially Long Branch.

Phil retired in 1991, and he resides in Washington with his wife Brinda. Their two daughters and three grandchildren all live nearby.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to join with the many friends of Phil Hollywood in paying tribute to the many accomplishments of this Long Branch boy who made for himself a great career in Washington but never forgot his native roots.

NURSING HOME PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT OF 1997

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, when millions of Americans must make the difficult decision to

put an aging relative in a nursing home, we trust the institution to care properly for our loved ones. But as a recent General Accounting Office [GAO] study points out, nursing homes across the United States don't always treat the 1.8 million residents like family.

At a time when the nursing home industry is undergoing explosive growth as a result of an aging population, my recently introduced Nursing Home Public Information Act of 1997 would allow families to make an informed choice when choosing a nursing home. By directing HHS to publicly disseminate information currently compiled in databases maintained or available to HHS concerning nursing homes, this bill takes a step in the right direction toward educating the public.

While most nursing homes adhere to Federal and State regulations, each year billions of dollars are lost to fraud and abuse. According to the GAO, Federal Medicare and Federal/State Medicaid programs paid nursing home providers more than \$35 billion in 1995. The Department of Justice estimates that as much as 10 percent is lost to fraud and abuse.

By aggressively targeting five States, the Department of Health and Human Services [HHS], through Operation Restore Trust, has obtained 74 criminal convictions and recovered \$67.3 million for Medicare. More than four dozen civil suits have collected \$72.8 million in fines and settlements, and companies have returned another \$47.4 million.

Convicting abusive providers, levying fines, recovering overpayments, negotiating settlements—all these actions are necessary to reduce fraud and abuse. But they will never be more than the second best way to do this. The best way is to prevent fraud, abuse, and waste from occurring in the first place. This requires informing the public. As a recent Government Reform and Oversight Human Resources Subcommittee hearing revealed, the public receives little or no information relating to fraud, abuse, and quality of care in nursing homes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join my efforts to assist millions of families across the Nation by supporting the Nursing Home Public Information Act of 1997.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHEAST COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS, INC.

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 1997

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an organization in my district that serves as a unified voice of senior citizens.

It was 25 years ago this week—on September 13, 1972—that six senior citizen clubs gathered for a meeting in which they formed the Northeast Council of Senior Citizens, Inc., also known as the Region V, Archdiocesan Senior Citizen Council.

An ecumenical, nonpartisan, organization for senior citizens, their mission was simple: to develop programs which would promote the health, welfare, spiritual growth, safety and protection of senior citizens in northeast Philadelphia.

Over the past 25 years, the Northeast Council has grown to include 52 senior citizen

clubs with a membership of over 10,000 elderly citizens. Its commitment to improving the quality of life for seniors in Philadelphia grows stronger each day.

Mr. Speaker, the Northeast Council of Senior Citizens, Inc. serves as a positive role model for older Americans across the country. It consistently demonstrates that seniors can gather together, share common interests and ideas, and speak in a powerful, unified voice on issues important to this large segment of our population.

The council regularly holds meetings, seminars, brainstorming sessions, dinners, picnics, and social events. In addition, the council supplies knowledgeable speakers and distributes literature, keeping seniors well informed of current issues which directly affect their lives. In many ways, the members serve as the eyes, ears and powerful voice of the senior community—a voice I listen to frequently.

The Third Congressional District of Pennsylvania, which I represent, is the 20th oldest district, by population, in the country. Over 100,000 constituents—1 of every 5—is over the age of 65. Issues like Social Security, Medicare, nursing homes, and long-term health care are of great concern to them and their families.

An organization like the Northeast Council of Seniors brings our elderly citizens together to discuss these crucial issues. Their passionate opinions also remind me of the responsibility I have to ensure that their concerns are addressed.

The Northeast Council of Senior Citizens brings together the most dedicated and energetic members of our senior community. By uniting the most active and energetic seniors who are dedicated to improving the quality of life for their fellow men and women, these individuals are doing much to dispel stereotypes of the aging community, and encouraging people of all ages to be active and involved.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to represent the men and women who belong to the Northeast Council of Senior Citizens. I ask you and my colleagues to support this commendation and congratulate the Northeast Council of Senior Citizens as they observe their 25th anniversary as an organization, and join me in wishing them many more years as a positive and active force in Philadelphia.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2264) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to the Istook amendment and in support of the Porter substitute.