HONORING ROBERT A. CHAPMAN
HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a South Texas educator, Bob Chapman, who will retire on July 1, 2000, after 29 years in vocational and adult education. Bob helped make Corpus Christi a better place by virtue of his lifetime commitment to education.

After completing his military experience, his education and a stint in business, Bob worked as a training instructor at a Texas high school, then went to work for the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in 1983.

He served there as an area specialist, providing assistance to teachers, schools and administrators in a 26-county area in South Texas. From there, he went to Austin as a specialist in vocational education. In 1986, he came to Corpus Christi as a vocational education consultant in the Corpus Christi Independent School District (CCISD).

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a South Texas educator, Bob Chapman, who will retire on July 1, 2000, after 29 years in vocational and adult education. Bob helped make Corpus Christi a better place by virtue of his lifetime commitment to education.

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It was at CCISD that Bob spent the better part of his professional life and in 1993 he became coordinator of the Adult Learning Center for CCISD, the position he will soon leave to seek another career in private industry.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending a special patriot, one who spent a lifetime in pursuit of education and teaching, Bob Chapman.

A WAY TO SAVE MEDICARE, BENEFICIARIES AND TAXPAYERS BILLIONS
HON. FORTNEY PETE STAARK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, even in an era of unprecedented budget surpluses, wasting Medicare dollars is unacceptable.

The same procedures, carried out in a physician's office, an ambulatory surgical center or in a hospital outpatient department are reimbursed at widely different rates. These differences exist across medical specialties and do not consistently relate to the setting in which the service is provided and may vary up to 179%. (Table 1).

The disparity in payments for equivalent services, regardless of setting, needs to be eliminated and payments reduced to the lowest levels.

Mr. Speaker, there is simply no reason in the world for us to pay $1001 for glaucoma surgery in a hospital outpatient setting, when we can provide the same service for $415 in an ambulatory surgical center.

The taxpayers, beneficiaries and Medicare can save billions of dollars in the years to come if we simply pay at the lowest of the hospital outpatient, ambulatory surgical center or doctor's office rate. We should pay at the lowest rate a service can be safely provided, regardless of setting. I have proposed this in H.R. 2115, and I urge the Members to consider this legislation as a way both save money and help beneficiaries.

HONORING SEYMOUR NAIDICH
HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I warmly congratulate Seymour Naidich who is celebrating his eighty-first birthday. This is a double commemoration for a wonderful man who recently celebrated his Golden Wedding anniversary of a half century of love, warmth and affection with his wife, Blanche. Seymour and Blanche have two daughters, Donna and Michelle, who are joining with the extended family, of which I am happily a member, to wish Seymour the happiest of birthdays as he enters his ninth decade.

Seymour and Blanche met in 1947 after he returned from serving in World War II in the African and Asian theaters. It is emblematic of the closeness of Seymour and his friends that he met Blanche through a friend who had dated her. They spent the day at the friend's house and on the way home he impulsively asked if they could meet again the following day. The rest is a story for everyone who believes in love.

Seymour's celebration of his eightieth birthday was deferred for a year because of illness. But now he is well and we all look forward to celebrating this wondrous event with the promise of more golden years to come.

TABLE 1—COMPARISON OF PAYMENT RATES ACROSS SETTINGS FOR SELECTED HIGH VOLUME AMBULATORY CARE SERVICES, 2000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of service</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>ASC rate</th>
<th>OPD rate</th>
<th>Practice expense rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gastroenterology</td>
<td>45380</td>
<td>Colonoscopy and biopsy</td>
<td>$475</td>
<td>$387</td>
<td>$260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ophthalmology</td>
<td>66170</td>
<td>Glaucoma surgery</td>
<td>$425</td>
<td>$367</td>
<td>$292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthopedics</td>
<td>68720</td>
<td>Create tear sac drain</td>
<td>$405</td>
<td>$347</td>
<td>$279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otolaryngology</td>
<td>23420</td>
<td>Repair of shoulder</td>
<td>$385</td>
<td>$335</td>
<td>$267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dermatology/Reconstructive Surgery</td>
<td>29860</td>
<td>Knee arthroscopy/surgery</td>
<td>$345</td>
<td>$299</td>
<td>$238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dermatology/Reconstructive Surgery</td>
<td>30520</td>
<td>Repair nasal septum</td>
<td>$325</td>
<td>$279</td>
<td>$218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastroenterology</td>
<td>60436</td>
<td>Create ear drum opening</td>
<td>$205</td>
<td>$174</td>
<td>$139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic</td>
<td>15129</td>
<td>Removal breast lesion</td>
<td>$165</td>
<td>$143</td>
<td>$119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic</td>
<td>13131</td>
<td>Repair of wound or lesion</td>
<td>$135</td>
<td>$118</td>
<td>$99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic</td>
<td>91500</td>
<td>Duplex scan, extracranial arteries</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>$392</td>
<td>$329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic</td>
<td>91307</td>
<td>Echo exam of heart</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$130</td>
<td>$110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiology</td>
<td>70405</td>
<td>CAT scan of brain/head</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$225</td>
<td>$195</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: OPD (outpatient department), ASC (ambulatory surgical center), Practice Expense Rate (physician’s office), CAT (computerized axial tomography).