

and business opportunities. He went on to build bridges. He continued to pastor the Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia. They loved him greatly. He challenged the establishment. He continued to work on behalf of us all, and he did something even greater, beginning to put major conferences and summits on the continent of Africa, insisting that we travel to Africa to talk about the issues of health care, business opportunities, education, and yes, to enhance these developing nations.

Reverend Leon Sullivan knew what the 21st century would have to do. It would have to fight the war of HIV/AIDS and win that war. He was a champion of those issues. To the end, he was aware that the Continent was rich in resources and human resources and that in order for it to grow and thrive, we must embrace it, we must help it and enhance it but it must help itself. And yes, he embraced the fight against HIV/AIDS and helped Members of Congress to raise their voices against that terrible pandemic. He was a warrior and a lion. I will always remember his smile but most of all his fight for justice and equality and his love for humanity.

HONORING HELENE H. HALE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Helene H. Hale, a distinguished citizen of Hawai'i, whose extraordinary example of public service truly sets her apart.

I reprint here a copy of a Proclamation issued by County of Hawai'i Mayor Harry Kim on April 10, 2001, honoring Helene's many contributions to Hawai'i and recognizing a truly unique and remarkable woman.

COUNTY OF HAWAII PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Helene H. Hale has served the people of Hawai'i in various elective capacities for almost 50 years, and in at least one office in each of the past six decades: in the 50's and 60's as a County Supervisor, in the 60's as Chairman or Mayor of Hawai'i County, in 1978 as a delegate to the State's Third Constitutional Convention, and in the 80's and 90's on the County Council; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 82 years young, in the year 2000, she was elected to the State House of Representatives on the slogan "Recycle Helene Hale," becoming the oldest freshman ever elected to the State House, and she has taken State government by storm; and

WHEREAS, far from being a career politician, she has combined government service with other vocations, including wife, mother, college lecturer, bookstore manager, coffee grower, realtor, U.N. supporter, and founder of the Merrie Monarch Festival, and she has brought to each of these the same intelligence, wit, energy, and dedication which have marked her service in government; and

WHEREAS, Helene Hale has claimed many "First," including first female government official in Hawai'i since Queen Liliuokalani, first African American elected official in Hawai'i, first resident of Hawai'i on the cover of *Ebony*, first female chief executive of a

county in Hawai'i, and the first octogenarian in Hawai'i to campaign for public office in a bathing suit, and

WHEREAS, Jeremy Harris, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, proclaimed March 23, 2001, as "Helene H. Hale Day" in the City and County of Honolulu; and

WHEREAS, Helene Hale is a resident of the County of Hawai'i, and her political career has been here, not in Honolulu, and we cannot allow Honolulu to steal credit for our Helene.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, HARRY KIM, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim (belatedly) March 23-29, 2001, as HELENE H. HALE WEEK in the County of Hawai'i, and extend belated best wishes for a Happy Birthday and many more in the future.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused The Seal of the County of Hawai'i to be affixed. Done this 10th Day of April, 2001, in Hilo Hawai'i.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAYNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this evening I would like to talk about health care and my concern that in the first 100 days of the Bush administration, we have seen no action, effectively, on the major health care concerns that affect the American people, that my constituents are talking to me about and that many of my colleagues in Congress, in the House of Representatives, not only on the Democratic side but also on the Republican side, have identified, issues that we have identified as important that need to be addressed in this Congress. I want to mention three tonight. There are many, but I want to mention three, if I could: one is the need for a Medicare prescription drug benefit; the second is the need to reform HMOs, the so-called Patients' Bill of Rights; and the third is the mounting problem of so many Americans, maybe 45 million Americans at this point, who have no health insurance.

Before I get to those three points, though, I probably should point out that the President's budget sends sort of a defining message with regard to health care by essentially not only dealing with some of these problems effectively but also by threatening through the size of the tax cut that he recommends, which is primarily for the wealthy and corporate interests, to possibly raid or effectively raid the Medicare as well as the Social Security trust fund.

So I guess there is no reason why we should be under any illusions, if you

will, that President Bush effectively wants to address some of these health care issues when the reality is that his budget probably would harm health care, particularly for seniors, by tapping into the Medicare trust fund and certainly doing nothing that would improve the future viability of that trust fund. I know that we may be addressing the budget tomorrow or Thursday or sometime in the next week or so, and that is one of my major concerns, that the budget proposal through the tax cut proposal would dip into the Medicare trust fund and affect its future.

But I want to get back to the three issues that I wanted to address tonight that are health care-related and talk a little bit about each of those, if I could. One of the major problems that my constituents talk about, and I know it is true for all my colleagues because we have talked about it on the floor and we have had many discussions, the fact that so many seniors today are negatively impacted due to the cost of prescription drugs.

In my own State of New Jersey and in many States, we have enacted legislation that would provide prescription drug benefits, some more generous than others, depending on the State, for low-income seniors. But Medicare, which, of course, is the main health care program, the health care program that most seniors rely upon, that is universal, does not include a prescription drug benefit. You may be able to get it if you have an HMO, but increasingly the HMOs do not provide prescription drug benefits or very limited benefit.

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So what we see is more and more seniors taking money out of their pockets to pay for increasingly high costs for prescription drugs.

I happen to chair our Democratic Health Care Task Force where we took up this issue, but many of my colleagues on the Democratic side, and certainly some on the Republican side as well, felt that we needed to provide a prescription drug benefit in the context of Medicare so that all seniors, not just low-income seniors but middle-income seniors who are impacted probably more than anybody else, because in most States there is no benefit for them, there is no protection for them, need to have this kind of a benefit.

The Democrats came up with a bill which we introduced in the last Congress, and I just want to summarize that if I could, the major features of that bill, to get an idea of the type of prescription drug benefit that I think we need.

First of all, the Democratic bill, called the Prescription Benefit Act of 2000, was universal and voluntary; established a voluntary prescription drug benefit program for seniors and disabled in Medicare beginning in 2002.

Enrollment is voluntary when a senior or disabled person first becomes eligible for Medicare or if and when they