

relay team that had won the race. King received a gold medal for his effort on the winning U. S. 400-meter relay quartet."

Following the Olympic Games, the foursome set a New World record. In a meet with the British Empire, the U. S. team of King, Andy Stanfield, Thane Baker and Bobby Morrow set a new world mark of 1:23.8 for the 880 yard relay. The old mark was 1:24.

According to Leamon King, when he first arrived in Melbourne, he ran on grass and set a grass record. It appeared as though every time he ran, he would break a record.

Bakersfield Californian Staff Writer Kevin Eubanks stated "King's omission from the 100 meter team certainly didn't affect his moment in the spot light. The news that the world's fastest man was not competing in the 100 meter race was received as something of a shock by the rest of the sporting world." For his outstanding attributes as an athlete, Leamon King served as Grand Marshall for the Delano Cinco de Mayo Parade, was inducted into the University of California, Berkeley Hall of fame, and the Bob Elias Hall of Fame in Bakersfield, California.

During the past twenty-nine years, Leamon King served as an educator in the Delano area. Mr. King taught for two years in Richgrove prior to transferring to the Delano Union School District where he served as educator for the past twenty-seven years. Mr. King taught the sixth grade at both Terrace Elementary School and Almond Tree Middle School. During his tenure as an educator for the Delano Union School District, Mr. Leamon King proved to be an extraordinary educator and was highly respected. This educator served as an excellent example for his peers, as well as our youth.

On his sixty-fifth birthday this year, during Black History Month, the Delano Union School District named in Leamon's honor the athletic facilities at Almond Tree Middle School, which include the school gym and outside athletic facilities, including a track and basketball courts.

Leamon King will be missed by family, friends, colleagues, and the community. I offer my condolences to Leamon's family. And we say to Leamon, "goodbye, we miss you, we know God will bless and watch over you."

HONORING MICHIGAN ELKS
ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Michigan State Association of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World. On June 12-17, Elks from all over Michigan will gather in my hometown of Flint for their 75th Annual State Convention.

Attorney Benjamin Franklin Howard in Cincinnati, Ohio founded the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World in 1898. Its purpose remains to promote and enhance the welfare of its members and the communities they come from through the spirit of benevolence and inculcation in all its members. The order of Elkdom is best known for a century of give over \$2.5 million in scholarships to youth of all races and cultures throughout the United States.

Over the years, the Michigan State Association have graciously made donations to Children's Hospital of Michigan, the United Negro College Fund, and many other charities. They have also given over \$30,000 to other hospitals, as well as the Michigan Kidney Foundation.

Children have always been a focal point of the Elks, as the Michigan State Association has shown through their dedication to scholastic achievement. The Elks regularly contribute to literacy programs, oratorical contests, and other programs designed to presenting our young people with a public forum, and a chance to shine.

I would like to recognize the leaders of the Michigan State Association: Mr. Alfred Bell, State President, and Mrs. Julia M. Ford, Michigan State President of the Daughters of Elks. It is through their leadership that the Elks serve as such a tremendous group of people.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of several civic organizations, I know very well that groups such as the Elks work diligently to improve the quality of life for all those they come into contact with. I am honored that the Michigan State Association have chosen Flint as the site of their 75th Annual Convention. I ask my colleagues in the 107th Congress to join me in congratulating the Elks and wish them continued success.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE
MEDICARE WELLNESS ACT OF 2001

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleague, Mark Foley, in reintroducing The Medicare Wellness Act, which would modernize Medicare by adding common-sense health promotion and early detection services to Medicare's basic benefit package and removing financial disincentives to use current preventative care services.

I'm pleased that we were able to enact a few of the provisions in last year's Medicare Wellness Act as part of the Beneficiary Improvement and Protection Act, and I hope this will be the year that Congress finishes the job by creating a permanent, fact-based process for adding preventative care services to Medicare as science proves that they are effective.

It doesn't make any sense that, for example, Medicare will pay to treat someone who has a heart attack but won't pay to prevent the heart attack by screening for high blood pressure and elevated cholesterol. The Medicare Wellness Act would rationalize the program by adding basic preventative services to Medicare's benefit package. It would also create an incentive for beneficiaries to use the services by eliminating cost-sharing and deductibles for preventative care services, just as most private insurance plans have done.

The bill would add cholesterol screening, high blood pressure testing, hearing and vision testing, and expanded osteoporosis screening to Medicare's list of covered services. It would also add coverage of health promotion services like medical nutrition therapy for people with heart disease and smoking cessation help. It would allow us to test a depression screening benefit to see if by detecting and

treating clinical depression at early stages we could head off debilitating physical illnesses and reduce the elderly suicide rate, which is higher than that of any other age group. The Wellness Act would eliminate the cost-sharing on existing prevention services to encourage more people to use them. Most importantly, it would add a "fast-track" process by which Congress could regularly add those prevention services that were scientifically proven to be effective to Medicare.

Every day, scientists discover new early detection, disease prevention, and health promotion tools, and those tools aren't just for young people—research shows that lifestyle changes can increase life expectancy and quality of living for people of all ages. Unfortunately, the Medicare program, which was created in 1965, has not kept up with these exciting advances in health promotion. Medicare provides state-of-the-art care to sick people, but does little to keep them well.

As a result, last year Medicare spent over \$35 billion providing acute care to people with heart disease, \$6 billion treating people who had strokes, over \$5 billion treating lung disease, and \$2 billion treating severe depression. While these expenditures can't be eliminated, we believe there is significant scientific evidence that health promotion and early detection could substantially reduce them.

Representative Foley and I are pleased to be joined in this effort by our colleagues BOB GRAHAM, OLYMPIA SNOWE, and JIM JEFFORDS in the other body. We hope Congress will move quickly to pass this bipartisan, bicameral bill which has been endorsed by over 20 groups ranging from the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association to the National Council on Aging.

When you think about it, it's not surprising that The Medicare Wellness Act has such broad support. Better health care for seniors. Cost savings for Medicare. Who would oppose that?

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1836,
ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TAX
RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT OF
2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Republican tax bill. Unfortunately, this bill is a missed opportunity, and it represents misplaced priorities.

Sadly Mr. Speaker, this bill is very much a missed opportunity. The White House and the Republican Leadership have utterly failed to deliver on the President's promise of a bipartisan process that puts accomplishment for the American people above gamesmanship by Washington politicians.

More importantly, this bill falls to provide for America's priorities. We must pay down the national debt to remove that burden from our children and grandchildren and cut interest rates for items like cars and homes. This Republican tax package will return us to the days of big deficits, high interest rates, high unemployment and a struggling economy.

I support and have voted for balanced tax relief as part of a comprehensive economic