

contradiction with the interests of the Turkish Cypriots themselves. This community has recognized that they have the most to gain from reunification, and have strongly supported the U.N. plan, as demonstrated by unprecedented popular expressions of support from within the community. Mr. Denktash has thwarted the will of the people he purports to represent.

The reunification of Cyprus would help to enhance the local and regional stability of this island nation located a little more than a 100 miles from Israel, Lebanon and Syria, to the benefit of all of Cyprus, Turkey, Greece, the U.S., E.U. and the whole world body. Reunification would be a great boon economically to the Turkish Cypriots, as the Greek Cypriot community is about to join the E.U. and command the many political and economic advantages of membership in that community. A settlement would have allowed the Turkish Cypriots to join in those benefits. Failure has condemned them to suffer without.

If the civilian and military leaders in Ankara were serious about achieving a negotiated settlement on Cyprus, they could clearly prevail upon Mr. Denktash to deal in good faith. By doing so, Turkey would not only be helping the Turkish Cypriots, but would be acting in its own self-interest, as Turkey's own bid for E.U. membership hinges to a significant degree on its playing a constructive role in ending the division of Cyprus. On March 4th of this year, the E.U. warned Turkey that "if Cyprus settlement efforts failed, the E.U. would find it very difficult to start accession talks with Turkey" since Turkey would find itself in the untenable position of not only failing to recognize a member of the E.U.—Turkey still does not recognize the Republic of Cyprus—but also occupying militarily part of E.U. territory.

As in any process of negotiations, both sides have to give up something. The Greek Cypriot side has, over the years, made one concession after another in the search for peace. The most recent plan put forward by Secretary General Annan forced the Government of the Republic of Cyprus to make many difficult decisions. Still, at the end of the day, President Papadopoulos—who was just recently elected in free and fair elections—was willing to put the Plan before the people in a democratic manner.

On the other hand, Mr. Denktash, who has been in power for three decades, was unwilling to concede on his demand for two separate states—a goal completely contrary to the reunification favored by the people of Cyprus and the entire world community. Mr. Denktash is apparently afraid of what his own people would say when given a chance to express their views at the ballot box.

This latest setback need not be a fatal one for the peace process of Cyprus. President Papadopoulos has left the door wide open to resuming the process of negotiations. After the Hague meeting, President Papadopoulos said that the Greek Cypriot side will "continue the efforts for reaching a solution to the Cyprus question both before and after Cyprus joins the E.U." Furthermore, on his return from the Hague to Cyprus, Mr. Papadopoulos pledged one more time to "continue the efforts for a Cyprus settlement that would properly serve the interests of both Cyprus communities, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots," adding that there "are no last chances" for a Cyprus solution.

Our State Department has been clear in expressing its disappointment over Mr.

Denktash's rejection of the U.N. referendum proposal, and in voicing hope that the process can resume. But now it's time for our government to put the necessary pressure on Mr. Denktash and the government of Turkey to negotiate in good faith and agree to a referendum. Continued obstructionism by Mr. Denktash should trigger coordinated U.N. sanctions against the Turkish Cypriot leader. The new government of Turkey must recognize its share of responsibility in the current stalemate, and show leadership in guiding Mr. Denktash back to the path of peace. If Turkey refuses to accept that responsibility, and Mr. Denktash continues his intransigence, the government of the U.S. must consider those policy prescriptions, of the highest orders, to bring the parties back to the table. The peace of the region, and the well-being of the Cypriot people, are too important to allow Mr. Denktash to destroy all our hopes for peace.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE MENTAL HEALTH MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a group of colleagues to introduce the Medicare Mental Health Modernization Act of 2003. Medicare's mental health coverage is woefully inadequate. Instead of the standard 20 percent coinsurance payment required by beneficiaries, mental health services require a 50 percent co-payment, limited community-based treatments are covered, and there is a cap on mental health hospitalization days. The bill we are introducing today eliminates this blatant mental health discrimination from Medicare and modernizes the Medicare mental health benefit to meet today's standards of care.

In the past, the late Senator Paul Wellstone championed this effort in the U.S. Senate. This year, Senator JON CORZINE has stepped forward to introduce the companion legislation in the Senate. I want to thank Senator CORZINE for his commendable efforts on behalf of this important legislation.

One in five members of our senior population display mental difficulties that are not part of the normal aging process. In primary care settings, over a third of senior citizens demonstrate symptoms of depression and impaired social functioning. Older adults also have the highest rate of suicide of any segment of our population. Furthermore, mental illness is the single largest diagnostic category for Medicare beneficiaries on disability. There is a critical need for effective and accessible mental health care for the Medicare population. Unfortunately, the current structure of Medicare mental health benefits is inadequate and presents multiple barriers to treatment access. This bill addresses these problems.

The Medicare Mental Health Modernization Act is a straightforward bill that improves Medicare's mental health benefits as follows:

It reduces the discriminatory co-payment for outpatient mental health services from 50 to the 20 percent level charged for most other Part B medical services.

It eliminates the arbitrary 190-day lifetime cap on inpatient services in psychiatric hospitals.

It improves beneficiary access to mental health services by including within Medicare a number of community-based residential and intensive outpatient mental health services that characterize today's state-of-the-art clinical practices. The mental health field has undergone many advances over the past several decades. Effective, research-validated interventions have been developed for many of these mental conditions that affect stricken beneficiaries. Most mental conditions no longer require long-term hospitalizations, and can be effectively treated in less restrictive community settings. This bill recognizes these advances in clinical treatment practices and adjusts Medicare's mental health coverage to account for them.

It further improves access to needed mental health services by addressing the shortage of qualified mental health professionals serving older and disabled Americans in rural and other medically underserved areas by allowing state licensed marriage and family therapists and mental health counselors to provide Medicare-covered services. Similarly, it corrects a legislative oversight that will facilitate the provision of mental health services by clinical social workers within skilled nursing facilities.

It requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study to examine whether the Medicare criteria to cover therapeutic services to beneficiaries with Alzheimer's and related cognitive disorders discriminates by being too restrictive.

The push for mental health parity is ongoing. We've made important strides forward for the under-65 population. Twenty-three states have already enacted full mental health parity and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan was improved in 2001 to assure that all federal employees are provided mental health parity. Last April, President Bush called for Congress to enact legislation to provide equivalence for private sector health insurance coverage of mental and physical conditions (though he has yet to endorse any legislation to achieve that goal). This year, legislation to enact real mental health parity for those with private health insurance already has the bipartisan support of 180 members in the House and 43 U.S. Senators. I fully support these efforts as well.

What has been too-often missing from this overall mental health parity debate is the fact that the Medicare program continues to fail to meet the mental health needs of America's seniors and those with disabilities. That's why we've introduced the Medicare Mental Health Modernization Act. That's also why this bill has received support from numerous mental health advocacy and provider organizations including: the National Mental Health Association, the American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry, the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, the American Counseling Association, the American Mental Health Counselors Association, the American Psychological Association, the National Association of County Mental Health Directors and the National Association of Social Workers.

When Medicare was created in 1965, mental health treatment was very different than it is today. Over the years, Congress has updated Medicare's benefits as the practice of medicine has changed. It is past time for us to take this action with regard to Medicare's currently inadequate mental health benefits. The Medicare Mental Health Modernization Act of

2003 removes discriminatory features from the Medicare mental health benefits and helps facilitate access to up-to-date and affordable mental health services for our elderly and disabled. I encourage my colleagues to support its passage into law.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JIM DICK AND
WIVK

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jim Dick and WIVK, the radio station he created in Knoxville, Tennessee. On Wednesday, March 19, WIVK celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Five decades ago, Jim Dick applied for and received a license from the Federal Communications Commission to build and operate a 1,000-watt AM radio station. At that moment, Dick Broadcasting Company was created.

Jim Dick is certainly a visionary. He was one of the first people in the radio business to understand the importance of broadcasting on the FM dial. He is also one of the most admired and respected businessmen in East Tennessee.

WIVK-AM debuted playing a wide range of music including gospel, country, jazz and others. The station only operated during the daytime hours in the early years. WIVK has grown immensely since then and is now a part of the Las Vegas based Citadel Communications Corporation.

Jim Dick and everyone at WIVK have always supported the community and have given so much to the citizens of their listening area. Almost everyone in East Tennessee relies on WIVK for great country music, timely news and information, as well as radio broadcasts of University of Tennessee football games.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again congratulate Jim Dick, all of the staff at WIVK, Citadel Communications Corporation and all of those people who have given so much of themselves to make this great radio station the best in the Country. I have also included an article from the Knoxville News-Sentinel that celebrates the 50-year anniversary of WIVK that I would like to call to the attention of my fellow Members and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Knoxville News-Sentinel, Mar. 16, 2003]

THE FROG HITS 50: WIVK CELEBRATES HALF A
CENTURY OF BROADCASTING

(By Wayne Bledsoe)

Radio station WIVK is as much a part of East Tennessee as UT football and the rush for bread and milk at the first hint of snow.

Through five decades of changing musical tastes, the station has unapologetically played country music and retained an unprecedented share of the listening audience. The station has helped launch the careers of country stars and even influenced the general direction of country music.

"It's hard to come up with another station to compare them to because WIVK is such a standout in the radio community," said Angela King, associate country editor of Radio & Records. "People in the industry say, 'This is a model of how a radio station should be.'"

On Wednesday, March 19, WIVK will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a gala that will include testimonials from stars like Dolly Parton, Kenny Chesney, Kenny Rogers, Travis Tritt, Charlie Daniels and Ray Price. There'll also be stories and reminiscences from the station's longtime personalities.

Few would've given the station much hope in 1953 when young radioman Jim Dick put WIVK-AM on the air with \$3,000 of his savings. At the time WIVK was just a 1,000-watt station that operated from sunrise to sunset only.

Dick initially rented space on the second floor of Greene's Hardware on North Gay Street and broadcast at 850 on the AM dial. Dick didn't think the location of the station mattered much.

"Absolutely the most important thing I did was to determine who were good people and hired them," said Dick, who is now 84.

Dick's "good people" became regional icons: "Big Jim" Hess, Claude "The Cat" Tomlinson, and later, Bobby Denton, Ed Brantley, Mike Hammond, Mickey Dearstone, Dave Young and other personalities became part of Knoxville's cultural landscape.

In its infancy the station aired programs hosted by gospel music impresario the Rev. J. Bazzel Mull and millionaire grocer Cas Walker, who began broadcasting musical shows in 1929 to promote his grocery stores.

The station also hired A. C. Wilson, one of the city's first black disc jockeys in 1954. Wilson hosted "The Acey Boy Show," which featured jazz and hot rhythm and blues.

"He was a super guy," recalled Dick. "If he hadn't have died, he could've really gone places."

Hess and Tomlinson were the first two disc jockeys to establish themselves at the station with the team "Big Jim" and "Little Alf." The duo's mischief on the air was but a pale shadow of the trickery they pulled off it.

They particularly delighted in playing jokes on Rev. Mull, whose eyesight was so poor he was classed as legally blind. Once Hess and Tomlinson put Mull's car up on blocks just barely off the ground while the preacher and his wife were on the air. When the Muls attempted to leave the station with Mrs. Mull at the wheel, the car's tires simply spun in the air. Thinking the vehicle was somehow stuck, Mull got out and pushed it, knocking it off the blocks and sending it and Mrs. Mull sailing.

On another occasion the pranksters rigged the studio so that when Mull's program went on the air, what the preacher heard in the studio was Elvis Presley singing "All Shook Up," while the radio audience listened to the gospel number that was actually on the turntable.

One of the pair's jokes riled Mull so badly that he promised to go to Dick and get them fired. But Tomlinson, who was a master mimic and could imitate Dick perfectly, slipped into the boss' office before Mull got there. The preacher's eyesight was so poor, he didn't detect the impersonation, and Tomlinson promised Mull that severe punishment would be dealt to Hess and himself.

"The Rev. J. Bazzel Mull was very important to WIVK's early success," said Dick, who could be both amused and frustrated by his employees' antics.

It wasn't the jokes, though, that finally drove Mull from WIVK; it was a referendum to legalize liquor in Knoxville in the early 1960s.

Both Mull and Cas Walker were vehemently against the measure and campaigned vigorously against it on shows. But Dick read an editorial on the air supporting legal liquor, and his comments were reprinted in the News Sentinel.

The measure passed, and "the next morning Mull was packing up his records and he left the station," Dick remembered.

Rock 'n' roll did serious damage to country music's popularity in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Stations across the country abandoned the format for Top 40. Local country favorite WNOX had already abandoned country music when WIVK followed suit in 1961.

That was about the time a young announcer named Bobby Denton was trying to break into radio.

"I started in radio by announcing drag races from Maryville Drag Strip after school on WSKT," said Denton, who is now officially retired but still serves as a consultant to current WIVK owner Citadel Communications.

Denton became acquainted with Tomlinson, who then persuaded Dick to give Denton a job at WIVK. But Dick was not impressed with his new hire's broadcasting skills.

"He said, 'This guy is so bad we have to get him off the air!'" Denton recalled.

During the station's three years of playing Top 40, they found the field crowded. WNOX and WKGN dominated the Top 40 format, and in 1964, WIVK moved to all-country programming.

In 1965 two pivotal events took place. WIVK was granted permission to increase its AM signal from 1,000 to 50,000 watts and an FM sister station was established. FM's replacement, because of its clearer signal, of the AM radio format was still years away, but Dick had the foresight to promote FM heavily from the outset.

"We would sign off at sunset and say, 'If you just have half a radio, we'll have to say goodnight until tomorrow morning. But if you have a whole radio, you can tune us in at 107.7 FM.'" Dick recalled. "Car dealerships would tell us that people came in wanting to buy a car with a 'whole radio.'" By the mid-1970s, however, FM was the dominant frequency.

With its new, more powerful signal, WIVK-AM shifted into high gear. Longtime morning disc jockey Tomlinson created the characters "Ol' Man Schultz" and simple soul "Lester Longmire." The characters would remain regional favorites for the next 25 years.

The station also began hosting a series of country concerts and championing country performers. In its early days the station had had young singer Dolly Parton performing in its small downstairs auditorium on Cas Walker's program. She had also recorded early demos after hours in the station's studios.

By the mid-1960s the station was beginning to wield enough influence to have a big impact in the country music field. For example, Denton has long been credited with persuading Jerry Lee Lewis to give country music a shot when his rock 'n' roll career was at an ebb.

"We became good friends, and he would come to my house," Denton recalled. "I think I just said 'Jerry Lee, I think if you would record country, people would buy it.'"

Lewis replied that he was country and was a far sight better country singer than some of the current country stars. Shortly thereafter, in 1968, Lewis began a string of country Top 10 hits.

Other stars have credited the station with helping establish their careers. Alabama's Randy Owen has long recounted how he and his wife stopped at the station with the first single recorded by the group, which was then calling itself Wild Country. Owen went inside and asked then-program director Denton if he would take time to listen to the record.

"We listened to it," Denton recalled, "and I said 'That's pretty good!'"

Owen and his wife then drove down Kingston Pike and were on their way to the