

City's eastern and southern areas, allow drainage and treatment of the two existing tunnels, and provide an alternate delivery water system in the event service is disrupted in either of the two existing tunnels.

Since the September 11 attack, Local 375 members have worked on every aspect of restoring the City's vital systems to full service. They helped restore the Cortlandt Street Subway Station and lines that had been buried by debris and flooded by broken water mains after the collapse of the Twin Towers. Hundreds of tons of debris were removed from the tunnels while engineers ensured that the rescue and recovery work could proceed safely.

Local 375 members worked arduously from the time they were dispatched to Ground Zero immediately following the September 11, 2001, attack. Dedicated professional and technical workers performed flawlessly in cleaning up the site in dangerous demolition operations. In addition to strategic planning for the job, they monitored air quality and tested for anthrax. They even assisted in recovery and rescue efforts, and conducted DNA testing for victim identification. Members inspected adjacent buildings to ensure that all fire protection systems were working.

Few people outside of New York City know who is responsible for the life sustaining work that they do, but the fact is that without Local 375, New York could not exist as a City. I commend the union's leaders and the entire membership, many of whom reside in my Congressional District, for their contributions to our City and for performing their difficult jobs in a manner above and beyond the call of duty.

IN HONOR OF POLICE OFFICER  
CHARLES J. BRONSTON, JR.

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Police Officer Charles J. Bronston Jr., on the occasion of his retirement from the Bay Village Police Division that spans thirty-five years of dedication to the Force and honor to the Badge—Badge No 1. On April 8, 1968, Officer Bronston pledged his life to protecting the safety of others and was sworn in as Patrol Officer.

Growing up on the North Coast solidified Officer Bronston's love for the great outdoors and crystallized his deep commitment to his community on the Bay. His outstanding work and personal dedication to helping others was clearly reflected throughout his tenure of service. Officer Bronston's great enthusiasm for life, his kind and friendly nature, and his immediate willingness to help others elevated him to the highest level and best example of what a police officer should be.

Officer Bronston is so highly regarded within the Bay Village Police Division that its leaders informally judge all recruits against the stellar performance of Officer Bronston. Officer Bronston consistently went above and beyond the call of duty to protect and assist those who live and work in Bay Village. A true mentor, guide and friend, Officer Bronston's professionalism, expertise, sense of fairness, superior sense of humor, integrity and genuine

concern for others have served to assist and improve numerous life situations for many people. In addition, his interest in protecting his community extends beyond Bay Village into neighboring suburbs, as is reflected in his ongoing membership of the first SWAT Team for the Westshore Enforcement Bureau.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and recognition of Officer Charles J. Bronston upon his retirement as full-time Police Officer with the Bay Village Police Division. His exceptional and courageous service on behalf of the citizens of Bay Village and beyond have served to lift the spirits and the lives of countless individuals, families within Bay Village and all along our western shores. We wish Officer Bronston, his wife Martha, children Charles III and Michael Scott and grandchildren Felicia and Cory many blessings of peace, health and happiness throughout his retirement. We also wish him many clear summer days of great fishing along the rolling waves, bays and shores of Lake Erie.

COMMEMORATING THE CAREER OF  
MRS. JANE LAKIN UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM TEACHING FOLLOWING A 40 YEAR CAREER

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2003*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the true heroes of Tennessee's Second Congressional District. For forty years Mrs. Jane Lakin has changed the lives of thousands in the Knoxville community through her dedicated service as an elementary school teacher at both the Alice Bell and Spring Hill schools. Having seriously considered a career in teaching myself and having taught briefly at T.C. Williams School in Northern Virginia, I can say without hesitation that this career is one of the most challenging and rewarding any person can undertake.

Each Member of this body understands the vital role teachers play in shaping the lives of our youth and I believe every teacher is to be commended. However, to dedicate forty years of one's life to improving and enhancing the education of children is truly exceptional.

During Mrs. Lakin's career America has experienced tremendous change. While the Nation grieved the tragedy of President Kennedy's assassination and witnessed the triumphant raising of our Flag on the Moon, Mrs. Lakin walked each morning into a classroom and changed a student's life. As America grew through the turmoil of Viet Nam and later hailed our victory of the Cold War, Mrs. Lakin taught our children, one class at a time, the value and joy of learning. The world has changed and our Country has grown during the past 40 years, but Mrs. Lakin's love of educating the young men and women of Knoxville has never wavered.

On behalf of the entire Second Congressional District, I want to thank Mrs. Lakin for her tireless work and her consistent encouragement of her students. Whether or not these students ever have the opportunity to tell her, she has changed their lives for the better and we are all in her debt.

The Knoxville News Sentinel recently published an article on Mrs. Lakin and her retire-

ment. I would like to include this article in its entirety in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I hope that women and men teaching today will look to Mrs. Lakin's example as an inspiration and a confirmation of the tremendous value they bring to our Country.

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel, June 9, 2003]

SPRING HILL TEACHER RETIRES AFTER 40 YEARS

(By Ed Marcum)

There's an odd thing about working with your former fourth-grade teacher, said Jackie Pena, who teaches kindergartners at Spring Hill Elementary School. Even after you have grown up, it's hard to forget that you once sat at a little desk in her classroom. Pena said that's why it was hard for her to think of Jane Lakin as just another one of the teachers at Spring Hill.

"The hardest thing was to get used to not calling her Mrs. Lakin," Pena said. Lee Ann Parker, who was a classmate of Pena's in the fourth grade, agreed. Parker, the music teacher at Spring Hill, said it felt funny to call Lakin by her first name. "You just don't say that to your teacher," she said.

Lakin has retired after 40 years' teaching in the Alice Bell/Spring Hill community. "Forty years and six months," Lakin said to be precise.

Irene Patterson, guidance counselor at Spring Hill, got to work closely with Lakin over the years.

"A lot of seasoned teachers get set in their ways, but she was always willing to try something new," Patterson said. "And she did a lot of things for children that no one knew about."

"She would come into my office and say, 'Irene, I noticed that such-and-such student is wearing her big sister's worn-out shoes, so I've bought her a pair.'"

The student would get a new pair of shoes anonymously. Patterson said Lakin brought in such gifts a number of times.

Pena remembers that Lakin was always eager to help new teachers.

"She has always made people feel welcome and has been a mentor to new teachers," Pena said.

Lakin, who lives in Ritta, moved to Knoxville in 1962 from Chattanooga, where she had taught for a year. She found a position at Alice Bell Elementary and taught there until 1991, when that school was consolidated into Spring Hill Elementary.

Lakin said when you spend your whole career teaching in the same general neighborhood, you end up teaching the children of the children you have taught, and you run into former students most every time you go to the grocery store.

"I never really meant to stay here 40 years, but it just worked out that way," she said. Teaching has changed since 1962, Lakin said. Teachers had more flexibility then.

"In those days, the things you taught were mostly by your own design. Now someone tells you what to teach," she said.

Lakin said she and other teachers stayed on the lookout for ideas to try out in the classroom. She said she became a "pack rat," always scrounging thrift stores or yard sales for craft items, plastic boxes or any materials that might come in handy in class. She said plastic boxes are essential for storing supplies.

"Teachers ought to buy stock in plastic boxes," Lakin said.

There are so many classroom requirements now that a teacher's time in the classroom is much more regimented, Lakin said.

"You just feel like you can't do something unless it will be on a test. There's no time for fun things," she said.

Pena and Parker said some of their fondest memories were of Lakin bringing in books and reading them to the class. She is a good dramatic reader, they said.

Lakin and her husband, Nelson Lakin, own a farm in Rittita, and Patterson said she will always remember the roses that Lakin grew there and brought to the school office. Lakin said some of her favorite memories are of the years her students made trees for the Fantasy of Trees holiday celebration.

"Of course, they hated to give up the tree, once we finished," Lakin said. "We would usually have to make two of everything so the students would have ornaments to take home with them."

Then there were the occasional bizarre moments, like the time a boy brought a skunk to school for show-and-tell.

"It got loose and ran all over the school," she said. "Luckily, its scent gland had been removed." Eventually the skunk was apprehended.

Lakin remembers when Pena and Parker were in her class. They were both good students, Lakin said, although Pena sometimes talked when she wasn't supposed to. Lakin said that on at least one occasion she had to have a word with Parker.

"I think Lee Ann was the more mischievous," Lakin said. "She had a club, and she was charging everyone on the playground to belong to it."

Both women chuckled, and Parker rolled her eyes.

"It only cost a nickel," she said.

"It had to be disbanded," Lakin said.

Lakin said she will miss the classroom, but she looks forward to having more time for gardening and maybe doing a little traveling.

"I might do some volunteer work, too," she said.

#### TRIBUTE TO LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' LACROSSE TEAM

### HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2003*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the high achievements of the boys' lacrosse team from Lafayette High School. After a disappointing loss 3 years ago, the Lancers finally got another shot at the state title, and came home crowned the New York State Section III Champions.

The Lafayette lacrosse program has taken home many Sectional titles in the past, but according to Athletic Director Jerry Kelly, this year's team is one of the best he's seen in ten years. After an outstanding spring season with a final record of 23-1, it seemed only fitting that this well-trained group of young men should win this final game.

On behalf of the people of the entire 25th District of New York State, I would like to congratulate the following champions on their remarkable achievement: Haiwha Nanticoke, Brendan Storrier, Pat Shannahan, Lee Nanticoke, Josh Groth, James Pierce, Blake Gale, Andrew Spack, Andrew Thurston, Jeremy Thompson, Jerome Thompson, Tyler Gale, Wes Adam, Kevin Wilkerson, Brian Gormley, Nick Lavdas, Kevin Bucktooth Jr., Matt Noble, Jaimee Loughtin, Andy Gaffield, John Paige, Brion Salitino, Randy Hadzor, Ross Bucktooth, Spencer Lyons, Pat Dwyer, Head Coach Greg Scott, and Assistant Coaches Kevin Gale, Mike Riese, and Jerome Thompson.

#### MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

### HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2003*

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I support this new, innovative Medicare prescription drug benefit, and commend Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman TAUZIN and Health Subcommittee Chairman BILIRAKIS for developing a proposal that is fiscally responsible, modernizes the Medicare program, and delivers a sound prescription drug benefit.

A prescription drug benefit in Medicare is the most important social policy that Congress can deliver this Congress. Period.

My home state of Pennsylvania has the second highest number of seniors in the country, and these seniors are living longer, healthier lives, thanks in part to modern medications. Death rates from heart disease, cancer and stroke are going down, and hundreds of new medications are now being developed to combat diseases of aging, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and arthritis.

Unfortunately, along with these new drug therapies comes a higher price to those that need them. Seniors without adequate access to these drugs will not be able to benefit from the stunning advances in health care resulting from the newest pharmaceutical products. Society will spend more money on their health care, because many new drugs actually serve as preventive measures and often prevent costly hospitalizations.

Medicare in its current form does not cover most prescription drugs. When it was created in 1965, it was a good program for its time. President Johnson, on signing Medicare into law on July 30, 1965, said, "No longer will older Americans be denied the healing miracle of modern medicine. No longer will illness crush and destroy the savings they have so carefully put away over a lifetime so that they might enjoy dignity in their later years."

But with advancements in drug treatment, modern medicine has grown increasingly expensive, as Medicare does not pay for these wonderful outpatient drugs. We need to modernize Medicare. As long as Medicare does not cover outpatient drug benefits, seniors will not be as healthy as they could be, and they will pay more out-of-pocket costs for preventive medications.

Nearly two-thirds of seniors have some insurance coverage that helps pay for prescription drugs through private employer plans or supplemental (Medigap) coverage; however, the remaining third has absolutely no coverage for prescription drugs.

This is not good enough. Seniors, living on limited income, should not be the last payers of retail prices for drugs in our great country. But we should not impose price controls so that seniors can afford their prescriptions. Instead, we need to use the tools that the private sector does, using leverage and bargaining for discounts. Medicare needs to take advantage of reduced prices that we can achieve using the tools that are used by private entities, operating in the employer-provided health care market.

We need to be careful about how we reform Medicare. Those two-thirds of seniors who

have drug coverage are pleased with what coverage they have and don't want a big government solution that could increase their costs. Congress passed the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act in 1988 with the intention of easing the cost of catastrophic events for Medicare recipients. However, instead of helping, it made things much worse for seniors who already had catastrophic coverage. They ended up paying more out-of-pocket for fewer health benefits. It was so devastating that Congress was forced to repeal the legislation the very next year.

Mr. Speaker, this bill finds the right mix. It establishes a generous prescription drug benefit, using the private sector tools that provide significant savings for seniors when they purchase prescription drugs. And, it reforms and strengthens the Medicare program in the right way.

This bill also provides significant relief to seniors in Pennsylvania by strengthening the Medicare+Choice program. Over the past few years, seniors who have enrolled in Medicare+Choice have seen programs increase their premiums, decrease their benefits, or leave the program altogether. For example, in the largest plan in my district, seniors have seen their premiums rise from \$0 to \$94 per month.

This bill stabilizes the Medicare+Choice program. And, it fundamentally reforms the program by creating the "MedicareAdvantage" program. This program provides for significantly more stability by allowing for competitive bidding by the plans. The MedicareAdvantage program will help these plans so that they remain a viable option for millions of seniors, and continue to provide a variety of health services, such as vision, hearing, and preventative care that are not offered through the traditional Fee for Service program.

Mr. Speaker, let me talk for a minute about the reforms in the bill. It provides for the creation of a new enhanced fee-for-service program that gives beneficiaries new options and choices for services. Finally, the Medicare program will incorporate the most popular option in private health insurance (and the health insurance offered in the federal employees health benefits program), preferred provider organizations (PPO). These new PPOs will create significant new options for services for seniors.

Furthermore, this bill will not only include improving access to prescription drugs, but will modernize the Medicare program by increasing the availability of wellness programs and streamlining the often cumbersome paperwork that seniors face in getting Medicare benefits.

Finally, I am pleased that H.R. 1 has included provisions to reform the payments for the drugs that Medicare does cover in part B. These reforms represent the culmination of a multi-year investigation by the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Presently, providers are reimbursed for the cost of these drugs at 95 percent of the average wholesale price (AWP). Congress and Medicare officials have wrestled for years with the difficult issue of how to set a fair and appropriate Medicare reimbursement rate for prescription drugs covered by Medicare part B. The reimbursement benchmark we have used since the early 1990s has been the AWP, which is reported by drug companies and price reporting services. Prior to that, providers were reimbursed on a cost basis, which is cumbersome and inflationary.