

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 38th anniversary of Medicare.

Medicare has faithfully provided health care to nearly 40 million Americans. However, as Medicare nears its 40th year it is in a terrible crisis; a crisis of confidence, a crisis of finance, and a crisis of direction.

You see, Mr. Speaker, medical care is not the same today that it was 38 years ago. That is why I supported H.R. 1, legislation that will finally grant America's seniors the health care choice and prescription drug benefits that they have waited almost 4 decades to enjoy. It is time for action. I urge my colleagues to join with me in protecting, preserving, and enhancing Medicare.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL DEBAKEY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Michael DeBakey is a friend of mine, a friend of the community. The renowned House surgeon is a cherished member of the Houston community, the State of Texas and this Nation. That is why I was so proud as a Texan to be able to carry legislation that would name the Houston Veterans Hospital in my Congressional district after this great American. In so doing, I sought the support of all of the members of the Texas delegation and carried the legislation in both the 107th and 108th Congress.

Lo and behold, everyone signed to be a co-sponsor except the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY). Although we asked on several occasions, his sponsorship did not occur. But yet I pursued because I believe that the honor was owed to Dr. DeBakey. I would think that Texans would be able to work together. But in the dark of night, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON), I understand, a colleague, offered a late night amendment in the VA-HUD bill without contacting our office, without talking to my constituents, without working in a collaborative effort.

I did not know to what level we would get in breaking collegiality in this body, but I believe it has gone to its lowest level. I pay tribute to Dr. DeBakey. I will continue to work to make sure this legislation is passed and signed, but I will not stand and have my constituents or the 18th Congressional District so disrespected by colleagues in this body. It is a shame and a disgrace to the way we have worked together on behalf of Texas.

To Dr. DeBakey, I salute you. We will get this legislation passed and it will be passed with the love, admiration and respect of the people of the 18th Congressional District, not with underhanded tactics to undermine indi-

viduals who are working on behalf of their constituents.

INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend India on its annual celebration of Independence Day on August 15, 1947. Happy 56th birthday, Republic of India, the world's largest democracy and friend of America, the world's oldest democracy.

On that day, India became a free nation modeling its constitution after our own. For nearly 56 years the people of India have faithfully adhered to democratic principles. During the Cold War we were not allied as closely as we should have been. However, times have changed now. India's economy is rapidly reforming and historic joint military exercises are taking place between our two great nations.

According to Ambassador Lalit Mansingh, trade between India and America soared 20 percent last year. Also, importantly, the Indian American community should be recognized for their leadership, entrepreneurship, family values and faith. Many Indian Americans left their homelands, immediately assimilated and have achieved great success in America. As cochair of the India Caucus I am so proud of this dynamic community in South Carolina and nationwide.

It is my sincerest hope that this new friendship between the United States and India blossoms into a solid, serious relationship between mutual allies.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

PATRIOT ACT ABUSES

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, when the PATRIOT Act was enacted in the aftermath of September 11, civil rights advocates expressed great concern about the potential for abuse of the law by law enforcement officials. Unfortunately, many of their concerns were warranted.

The Inspector General recently delivered findings of a new government investigation to Congress. In it he states that his office acted on 34 credible PATRIOT Act violations in the first half of 2003 alone and that he received over 270 allegations of abuse.

The complaints are diverse. They range from an officer holding a loaded gun to the head of a detainee, to a prison guard ordering a Muslim inmate to remove his shirt so that the guards could use it to shine his shoes. These incidents are intolerable and they demand further review, and I commend the Inspector General for bringing them to our attention.

The PATRIOT Act was intended to enhance our homeland security, not to create an atmosphere of bigotry and abuse towards our immigrant communities.

While the safety of our citizens is paramount, we must take caution to find a balance that preserves our civil liberties on which our great Nation was founded.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice and to honor all of the brave veterans who served in this conflict. On July 27, 1953, the Korean War Armistice Agreement took effect ending a 3-year war that was a crucial step in stopping the spread of communism and Soviet influence. U.S. troops, along with their allies, turned back North Korea's aggression and protected South Korea from falling into communist rule.

Today South Korea stands as a beacon, an economically prosperous republic, and a part of the world where stable democracies are not usually the norm.

We all know by reading the headlines that things are not so good just across the 38th Parallel.

Mr. Speaker, this Sunday marks the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War. It is important that we be eternally grateful to the men and women who took part in this campaign, for without their sacrifices the fall of the Soviet Union may never have been possible.

WHEN DO WE GET THE INVESTIGATION

(Mr. MCDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the White House is beginning to sound more and more like Animal House, in that you have a bunch of adolescents over there and they keep running forward saying, I did it, I did it.

First it was Mr. Tenet and now we have Mr. Hadley. When are we going to get the truth? When are we going to have an investigation, not in secret, done by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, but out in the open. They did it in the British Parliament. They were not afraid of democracy there. But here we have to have everything secret. We need an investigation about who did it.

Where was Condoleezza Rice? This guy Hadley worked for her. Does she make the decisions or does he? I have not heard her stand up and say, well, if I had only put my hand up and said no, it would not have happened.