

First, let us not forget that the Medicare program was first created because the private industry couldn't provide meaningful affordable health insurance to our Nation's seniors. Even more recent attempts to use private plans have failed. Between 1999 and 2003, 2,400,000 beneficiaries lost Medicare+Choice coverage, as health plans scaled back or ended their participation in the program.

For seniors who rely on continuity of coverage, changing plans and doctors every year is really not an option. And in many areas of the country, especially the more rural areas, HMOs have been pulling out and many seniors do not have an HMO option. And claims that this will really save any money are deceptive at best. According to CBO, this whole program is expected to save at best \$1,600,000,000 over the next 10 years—less than one-half of one-tenth of one percent of Medicare spending over that period.

It does not add one year to the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund. So why this grant experiment? What's to gain by moving Medicare from the traditional government run program that has worked so well for the better part of the past four decades?

I would say nothing. There is nothing to gain by this provision. But there is plenty to lose. For the seniors who rely on this program to get the health care services they need, they could lose everything. Economic security, quality of life, their health, and even their lives. All of this for an ideological effort to dismantle the program by the very opponents who for years have wanted the program to "wither on the vine."

This is unacceptable Mr. Speaker. I urge my colleagues to reject privatization efforts, support the Capps Motion to Instruct, and stand up for our Nation's seniors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, on November 4, 2003, I missed rollcall votes no. 602 and 603 due to a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on these votes.

TRIBUTE TO LIBRARY CORPORATION OF INWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of The Library Corporation of Inwood, West Virginia for being awarded a 2003 Export Achievement Certificate in recognition of an increased focus on exporting.

The Export Achievement Certificate was created to recognize small and medium-sized enterprises that have successfully entered the international marketplace for the first time or that have successfully entered a new market.

As our economy continues to become more global, it is important for industries of all types to develop relationships and ties in the inter-

national community. As the West Virginia economy diversifies, The Library Corporation has taken major steps forward to promote the Mountain State and all it has to offer to the world economy.

By making strides to expand opportunities, The Library Corporation has in turn brought benefits to the state that will be felt far beyond the business itself. I applaud The Library Corporation for its efforts and look forward to seeing continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of The Library Corporation, and I offer them as an example to small- and medium-sized enterprises everywhere.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE BENNETT

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as the Member who currently represents Florida's third congressional district, I am proud to serve the area represented by my honorable predecessor, Charlie Bennett. He was truly a role model for anyone interested in public service. Regarded as among the most remarkable national leaders, his service to our Nation and its citizens remains memorable to this day.

Congressman Charlie Bennett was a great American who earned utmost respect in Congress. We can't even begin to thank him for what he did for us in this area and for the military. To me, Charlie Bennett is the one most responsible for making Jacksonville the military powerhouse it is today. And on a national level, Congressman Bennett, who served as the 2nd Ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, is owed a great deal of gratitude for making the U.S. military the fine institution it is today.

A role model not only as a politician, but also for those with physical disabilities, his list of accomplishments in his remarkable 44 years in Congress is seemingly endless. Even though he was stricken with polio and walked with crutches, the longest serving congressman from Florida remarkably never missed a vote. Perhaps the most noteworthy advocate for ethical reforms in Congress, he sponsored legislation that created the House Ethics Committee, and served as its first chairman.

Among the most noteworthy of his successes includes providing a hostile fire/imminent danger pay to our Nation's soldiers during combat, and making "In God We Trust" the U.S. motto. He also was instrumental in creating a strict code of ethics for government service, for co-sponsoring the Americans With Disabilities Act, for creating the Caroline National Memorial, and the Timucuan Preserve. In addition to his extensive knowledge of politics on a national level, he was also an expert in Florida history, and wrote several books on the subject.

Charlie Bennett will be missed for his service to his fellow man, his friendship and his statesmanship. He was truly the best of the best.

Members who wish to express their respect for Congressman Bennett may do so today at Arlington National Cemetery where his friends

and family are holding a memorial service at 11 a.m.

CELEBRATING THE 13TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HENRY S. REICH BUILDING OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the Henry S. Reich Building of the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, JCCNV.

The JCCNV, located in Fairfax, Virginia, is a social service organization dedicated to enriching lives through spiritual and cultural Jewish programs. The center is open to all, yet aims specifically to meet the needs of the local Jewish community by preserving and promoting the heritage and values of Judaism.

In 1977, an impressive 5,000-person turnout at the First Hanukah Happening revealed both a need and support for a Jewish Community Center in Northern Virginia. The following March of 1978, the JCCNV first opened on Dorr Avenue with Adele Greenspon as Executive Director, a part-time Program Coordinator, and a part-time secretary.

In 1980, the newly established JCCNV Board Of Directors voted to purchase the Commonwealth Christian School on Little River Turnpike to house the Center until a permanent facility could be built. Several years later in 1986, Jeffrey Karatz was appointed the second Executive Director of the JCCNV. Then in the spring of 1989, construction began for the Henry S. Reich building we are celebrating today.

Upon completion in 1990, Governor Douglas Wilder dedicated the Henry S. Reich building. This building since has provided a home for cultural, educational, recreational, and social programming for all ages, faiths, and nationalities. More than 150,000 visit the Center each year, making the JCCNV a key part of the ever-growing Northern Virginia community.

There is a myriad of programming available at the Center including: early childhood, elementary, teen, adult, new immigrant, and senior programs; camping programs; sports, fitness, and aquatics programs; art exhibits; and a JCCNV International Film Festival. The Henry S. Reich building also houses Geshet, the only Jewish Day School in Northern Virginia; The Center Company, the only Jewish professional theatre company in Northern Virginia; and an office of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

In addition, the JCCNV has a history of cooperative ventures with synagogues, local and national Jewish organizations, and Fairfax County schools and hospitals. The overwhelming JCCNV popularity motivated the Center to establish satellite programming in the western suburbs of Reston, Herndon and Springfield.

All things considered, from modest beginnings in 1977, the JCCNV has experienced great success. Its founders envisioned a center of culture, spirituality, learning, exercise, and entertainment; the Henry S. Reich building has helped make this vision a reality.