

Star Spangled Banner” after and during the Gulf War. Or the words that she sang, “Yes, Jesus Loves Me” in the song that she sang in the first acting effort that she did in “The Bodyguard” that was so superb. And we can’t help but be reminded of that song “I Will Always Love You” that has touched everyone’s heart. Whitney touched our hearts. And my constituents, Kim Burrell, Bishop Woodard and others, are deeply saddened. And our good friend, Congressman DON PAYNE, who has been in touch with the family and is helping, he has been a comfort as well.

I simply wanted to say: Whitney, you’ve given us much joy. We’ll remember your music of the seventies and eighties. Many of us danced to it, but many of us were made happy by it. And we realize that your legacy will survive. We thank you, and we thank your wonderful family for sharing you for some more than 20 years. And we thank you for that beautiful, beautiful voice that sang “The Star Spangled Banner” like we’ve never heard it before. We will always love you. God bless you, and may you rest in peace.

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#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FORMER CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great privilege to wish a very happy birthday that will come on February 23 to one of our most distinguished Members who served for so many years, Congressman Louis Stokes of Cleveland, Ohio. He will turn 87 on February 23. And truly, he deserves recognition during this Black History Month, and I pay him his due honor.

He grew up in difficult circumstances in public housing. His widowed mother had to raise her two sons, one of which, Louis, became the first African American congressman ever elected from the State of Ohio, and his brother, Carl, the first African American mayor of Cleveland, Ohio. Can you imagine that family? Can you imagine their struggle?

I wish to place in the RECORD tonight some of his story. One of the tremendous accomplishments that he achieved as an attorney was trying many cases in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, including a case which created Ohio’s first mostly minority congressional district, and then later in life he had the opportunity to run for that seat. He changed the face of this country.

I’m just so pleased to call him our friend, and let us take the time to fully recognize the admirable and path-breaking contributions of former Congressman Louis Stokes during this year’s Black History Month. He deserves it.

[From Cleveland.com, Feb. 13, 2012]

LAWYER LOUIS STOKES BECAME OHIO’S FIRST  
BLACK CONGRESSMAN: BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
(By Grant Segall)

As part of Black History Month, we honor Louis Stokes, Ohio’s first black congressman.

Stokes, who turns 87 on Feb. 23, still practices law with Squire Sanders, mostly in Washington, D.C.

At the Outhwaite housing project, a young, widowed Louise Stokes used to display her hands, callused from maid’s work, and tell her boys to work with their minds. A calm, genial Lou helped her raise his flamboyant kid brother, Carl, who became the first black mayor of a major U.S. city.

Lou graduated from Cleveland Central High School and after serving three years in the military in World War II, earned his law degree in 1953.

He became a leading lawyer. He argued three cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and persuaded it to create Ohio’s first mostly minority congressional district in 1968. Local leaders persuaded him to represent it.

In Washington, Stokes chaired a committee probing John F. Kennedy’s assassination, dressed down Col. Oliver North over the Iran-Contra scandal and steered vast sums to health clinics, job programs and veterans care. At home, he launched a famous district caucus and Labor Day parade. After 30 years, he retired undefeated.

A dozen or so landmarks have been named for him, including a building at the National Institutes of Health.

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#### GOP DOCTORS CAUCUS: SAVE MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BERG). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, once again the GOP Doctors Caucus comes together to discuss important matters regarding health care. Tonight we’re going to focus on saving Medicare. This has been a very interesting discussion going back to the days of the ObamaCare debate where we talked about how we would finance ObamaCare. And lo and behold in the middle of the debate, we find out that the Members of the other side of the aisle decide that they’re going to help finance ObamaCare by taking out over \$500 billion—half a trillion—\$500 billion from Medicare over the next 10 years in order to help finance ObamaCare.

Now if you think about this, the CBO states that Medicare may become insolvent as early as 2016. So I think the focus right now with regard to Medicare, an important part of our entitlement program, has got to be how are we going to save Medicare. I have an array of colleagues here this evening that are going to help me develop that issue.

Again, I’ll go back to the financing of ObamaCare, and that is cutting out over half a trillion dollars from Medicare in order to help finance ObamaCare. And there are some other pieces of the financing as well—the individual mandate which is soon to go

to the Supreme Court. And if that is struck down, that will be another piece of the financing that won’t be available. Tax increases, increases of taxes, excise taxes, taxes on equipment, taxes on tanning beds, many different new taxes, as much as \$800 billion over 10 years of new taxes in order to finance ObamaCare.

Then there was the CLASS Act, which was long term health care, which the actuaries said from the beginning would not work. It would not finance anything.

And then last, but not least, is the student loan program, which was nationalized in order to siphon off profits from that in order to help finance ObamaCare. And we hear talk now about forgiving those loans which means that it’ll probably be another bailout, like the mortgage.

So, Mr. Speaker, I have to speak out tonight on the fact that ObamaCare is going to bankrupt this country if it is actually fully implemented. But more importantly, Medicare will become insolvent as early as 2016. We’re going to be talking about how that’s happening, how we’re seeing skyrocketing costs. And some of the things perhaps that will be discussed tonight will be how we can save Medicare.

Again, in closing my initial comments here, I will have to emphasize to you that our colleagues from the other side, inasmuch as they somehow want to blame us for ending Medicare, which not a single Member on the Republican side wants to do, of course, but they accuse us of this, but in fact they have yet to submit a plan that will save Medicare, will prevent it from becoming insolvent by 2016 or 2022, depending on whom you believe.

So with these opening remarks, I would like to open the floor to my good friend, Dr. HARRIS from Maryland, and would love to hear some of your comments about saving Medicare and other matters having to do with health care.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you for yielding to me to speak on this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Louisiana has said, we really have to talk about saving Medicare. Medicare is under assault in a way that it has never been under assault before. The gentleman from Louisiana mentioned quite accurately that the President’s health care bill passed 2 years ago would take \$500 billion from Medicare spending on our seniors who are currently receiving Medicare—\$500 billion. Now, how are they going to do that? What are we not going to deliver to those seniors?

Well, the way it’s done is the President appoints the Independent Payment Advisory Board, 15 appointed, not elected members, no appeal from their judgment.

□ 1900

What they’re going to do is they’re going to say in a year when it looks like we’re going to spend a little more