

once again be forced to cover 80 percent of the cost of its Medicaid program—a burden that would be unfathomable and fiscally unsustainable if placed on the states. If hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans have willingly served in the U.S. military with honor, wearing the U.S. flag proudly on their uniform, then surely we can treat the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico fairly in Medicaid.

When Puerto Rico Governor Fortuño took office in 2009, he inherited a \$3.3 billion budget deficit. A true fiscal conservative, he made the difficult choices necessary to reduce this deficit by 90 percent in FY2013. Failure to replace this Medicaid funding would not only have dire consequences for the neediest residents of Puerto Rico, but would also jeopardize the Island's economic recovery and marginalize the tough choices and sacrifices made by Governor Fortuño and the 3.7 million U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico over the past 3½ years. With this in mind, I would like to express my commitment to work with my colleagues to ensure we restore this vital funding.

HONORING THE 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF TELSTAR

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2012*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the first successful transatlantic television signal between Andover Earth Station, Maine, and Pleumeur-Bodou Telecom Center in Brittany, France, which took place on July 12, 1962.

As a Co-Chair of the Congressional French Caucus, it is often my great honor to commemorate special moments in history that recognize the historical relationship of the United States and France. It is a particular honor to recognize an event that my home State of Maine played a key part of.

Five decades ago, Andover, Maine, and Pleumeur-Bodou, France, were connected for a short 22 minutes. In our digital world, sometimes it is hard to believe how far we have come. But that short bond, less than a half an hour, played a historical role in advancing science and telecommunications forever.

Former Senator Margaret Chase Smith is synonymous with statesmanship across Maine

and the United States. How proud Senator Smith, who played an important role in Telstar's success, must have been when the first image shown across the Atlantic Ocean was a live shot of the American flag being held in Andover, Maine.

Because of the unique partnership formed between Maine and France five decades ago, the world saw the potential in space and satellite communication, and in the power of sharing information around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this special occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2012*

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 413, I was absent due to personal reasons.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."