

INTRODUCTION OF THE SENIOR
PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSIST-
ANCE EXPANSION DEMONSTRATION
ACT

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Expansion Demonstration Act of 1999. In doing so, I am offering legislation which serves as a viable first step towards addressing the serious issue of rising prescription drug costs for our Nation's seniors.

The purpose of this legislation is to provide assistance to those states which have undertaken the step to offer supplemental assistance for low income seniors to help defray the rising cost of prescription medications.

This legislation will create a demonstration project that will provide block grant funding to permit three states with an existing prescription assistance program for low income seniors to raise their income eligibility by \$5,000 for both single individuals and married couples. Should the program be successful, it can later be expanded to other states that have created such prescription assistance programs.

This legislation recognizes that the participating states have widely varying requirements with regards to the administration of their prescription-assistance plans. Consequently, it will not alter these requirements in any way, except that to qualify for the federal funds, each state must raise its income eligibility for both the single and married categories.

Mr. Speaker, the last five years have seen both a rapid increase in the amount of revolutionary drugs available on the market, as well as in the price of those drugs. The availability of these new drugs has been a wonderful result of annual advances in medical technology and knowledge. Regrettably, these advances also come with a price, one that is increasingly difficult for many senior citizens to pay.

A number of our colleagues in this House, as well as in the other body, have offered various bills designed to address the rising cost of prescription medication for senior citizens. These bills have tended to use either price controls, or the extension of free or heavily subsidized prescriptions as a new federal entitlement, as a solution to this problem.

The nation's experience with price controls during prior administrations has shown that they are not a viable tool. Moreover, while the new entitlement proposed by the current administration sounds appealing, neither the President, nor anyone in the minority has offered a viable way to pay for it. In our current budget environment, an entitlement proposal without a clear funding source is nothing more than a hollow promise.

Furthermore, price controls for prescription drugs run the very real risk of stifling future development in medical advances. While none of the major drug companies has any reason to plead poverty, the implementation of a federal system of mandatory price controls would certainly serve as a major disincentive on the

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future research and development of new prescription medications. In this sense, medical success does come with a price.

On the other hand, prices should not be so high that the target audience for which the drugs were developed cannot afford to purchase those drugs. Regrettably, this has increasingly been the case over the past several years for seniors living on fixed incomes.

The Federal Government has a vital role to play in fostering innovation in medicine, so that today's seniors can receive the benefits of tomorrow's new medical technology. The last few years have seen wonderful advances in drugs to treat osteoporosis, arthritis, and Alzheimer's disease.

At the same time, a new federally run bureaucracy is not the answer to address the needs of our senior citizens being able to afford these new drugs as they become available. Such a bureaucracy would take medical decisions on which drugs to prescribe away from doctors, dampen the overall level of medical research on new drugs, and force seniors to accept a one-size-fits-all federal program.

This legislation would avoid those problems. It sets out to expand on ideas that the states have shown do work in practice. The Epic program in New York is highly successful, and legislators of both parties in Albany have consistently voted to expand the program each year. However, these State officials understand that New York cannot afford on its own to cover every senior that it should.

By partnering with New York and other States with prescription assistance programs, the Federal Government will be able to both provide aid to thousands of seniors on fixed incomes with their monthly prescription drug bills, while leaving prescribing authority where it belongs, with the doctors. In essence, everyone wins.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this worthwhile legislation, which helps needy seniors by providing the States with resources to expand programs which have already been proven to work.

A TRIBUTE TO PAUL MATHIEU
AND FAMILY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Paul Mathieu and the Mathieu Family of Miami, Florida, for the outstanding example of faith in action and excellence which they embody in their daily lives.

Paul Mathieu is a Jackson High School graduate who will be attending Harvard University in the fall, accomplishing his parents' dream of seeing all of their children attend college. He is the ninth child of Phinelle and Teucheler Mathieu, who came to Miami from Haiti in 1974. Their incredible faith, courage, and ethos of hard work have enabled this remarkable Haitian immigrant family who fled political repression, social brutality, and physical danger in their homeland to seek, and ulti-

mately, to find, a better future for their children in their new home. Each of their children—Techeline, Firma, Fednie, Samuel, Emmanuel, Marc, Luckson, Marthe, and Paul—has contributed significantly to the family tradition of success and of active citizenship in America.

The Mathieus have earned their educations through scholarships, grants, and work study programs. Techelene Mathieu-Murray, the eldest of the children, is a fourth-grade teacher at Toussaint Louverture Elementary School. Firma Mathieu is a teacher at Dunbar Elementary School. Fednie Mathieu is a nurse at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Samuel Mathieu works for an agency that helps disadvantaged youth. Emmanuel Mathieu is studying criminal justice and elementary education at Florida Memorial College. Marc Mathieu is graduating from Northwestern University with a degree in journalism. Luckson Mathieu is a pre-Med student at Harvard University. Marthe Mathieu is a psychology major at the University of Florida. Paul Mathieu plans to pursue a career in medical research at Harvard University.

Mr. and Mrs. Mathieu have imparted to their children a strong religious faith, self-discipline, and an immense love of family. When the children were growing up, their father made a habit of regularly visiting their schools and knowing their teachers before he left for one of his night shifts at work. An example of the level of religious faith exhibited by the family is a quote by Mrs. Mathieu: "If you don't have God in your life and you have children, I don't know how you can sleep." Mrs. Mathieu also mentioned, "You want to know our secret? The only secret we have is prayer, prayer, prayer. We showed them how to serve God. God is the leader. . ."

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a privilege to pay tribute to such outstanding and inspiring Americans as the Mathieu Family of Miami, Florida, who are working at the marvelous task of handing over their country not less but even better and greater than they received it.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL
GARY ANTHONY CORREIA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and I are pleased today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Gary Anthony Correia, a man whose life exemplifies the meaning and spirit of leadership. Gary is being honored for 20 years of distinguished service in the United States Marine Corps.

Gary has set an outstanding example for his colleagues in the Corps, where he has served with intelligence, skill and dedication. He is highly regarded by his peers as an involved, devoted and effective Marine.

Gary is a man of action and accomplishment. A native of New Bedford, Massachusetts, he graduated from Boston College in 1979 at the top of his class and soon after

began his military career. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant through the Platoon Leaders Class program and following basic school, was designated a Naval Aviator. His hard work and tenacity paid off with his rapid advancement through the ranks.

Gary's notable missions include the "Flying Tigers" of VT-26, "Crusaders" of VMFA-122, "Aggressors" of H& MS-31 and the "Black Knights" of VMFA-314. While assigned to the VMFA-314, he was deployed to Turkey for Display Determination and SWA for Operations Desert Shield/Storm from August 1990 to March 1991.

Promoted to Major in July of 1991, Gary joined the 7th Marines. In December of 1992, he deployed as part of the Ground Combat Element to Mogadishu, Somalia for Operation Restore Hope where he was the Officer-in-Charge of a joint/combined multi-national security force and ten Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that provided humanitarian relief to Mogadishu.

His dedication to duty, his integrity and sense of fair play were demonstrated in his role as Executive Officer for a 48 aircraft F/A-18 Hornet Fleet Readiness Squadron, the largest in the Marine Corps/Navy inventory. Gary was instrumental in the squadron achieving over 140,000 hours of mishap free flight time, a first in the F/A-18 Hornet history.

Lieutenant Colonel Correia has accumulated more than 3,600 mishap free flight hours. His personal decorations include Meritorious Service Medal and Gold Star, Air Medal w/combatt "V," Strike Flight 1, Navy Commendation Medal W/Combat "V" and the Navy Achievement. He is the 1st Cape Verdean Naval Aviator and Marine Aviator and the first Black American promoted to rank of Lieutenant Colonel that is an F/A-18 Hornet Pilot.

He is married to Tracey, father to Chloe and Chase and the proud son of the late Joseph and Eva Correia. It is our distinct honor to ask our colleagues to join us in saluting Lieutenant Colonel Gary Anthony Correia, a man whose dedication and achievements are a credit to our country.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE CAPTAIN
WILLIAM Y. CLARK

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an entrepreneur, Captain William Y. Clark, a Long Island businessman who recently passed away at the age of 86.

Ask any parent and I am sure they will agree that leaving a legacy such as the reins of a family business is of great significance. Skillfully maintaining and expanding such an enterprise demands the infusion of innovative ideas which was William's specialty.

Captain William Clark was born in West Babylon, Long Island, in 1913. He was educated at Shelter Island schools and Mt. Hermon College, in Massachusetts. Trained as a youth on diesel engines, the company he inherited has been in the Clark family continuously since 1790, when the first ferry ran.

He spent his life serving the community at the helm of South Ferry, Inc., the ferry service that runs from North Haven (outside Sag Harbor) to Shelter Island. Under Captain Clark's watchful eye, the company has become what it is today, a fleet of four boats which can hold up to 16 cars apiece.

Captain Clark was a longtime member of the Lions Club, East End Church of Christ and, when not on call with his company, a member of Shelter Island Fire Department. He also served on the board of Timothy Hill Children's Ranch in Riverhead.

The night before he passed away, he laid in a deep sleep. He would open his eyes, struggle for a breath, and then fall peacefully asleep again. However, when his family began to sing "God Bless America," he would awake and spread a truly joyous smile on his tired face. He could not speak very well, but he summoned the strength to share a few more laughs with his family. He fell asleep soon after, waking to greet his youngest grandchild, Shelli, who had flown in from college to be with him.

To his three children, 13 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren, Captain Clark will be remembered as the patriarch of a family business spanning more than two hundred years. To a great number of those in the community, he will be looked upon as a man who quietly helped to maintain their precious quality of life.

Captain Clark embodied the type of role and innovator that all would have enjoyed being around and looked up to.

Colleagues, Mr. Clark is a community leader who will be sorely missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF MASTER SERGEANT RANDOLPH J. SAUNDERS, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the great state of Alaska and all Americans, I extend heartfelt thanks to Master Sergeant Randolph J. Saunders, who gave more than twenty years of dedicated service in the United States Air Force. He entered active duty on 11 July 1978 and, after less than four years as an administrative specialist, Randy became an enlisted historian. Even before his formal retraining, he demonstrated noteworthy capability as a researcher and writer. Consistently outstanding histories became his hallmark, and these provided senior leaders with the data and analysis they needed to make informed, well reasoned decisions. The recipient of numerous command and Air Force-level awards over the next sixteen years, Sergeant Saunders earned a reputation as one who could quickly rebuild faltering unit history programs. He did this from Alaska to Texas, Idaho, Korea, California, and Colorado. Ultimately, Randy was hand picked to become the first-ever senior enlisted historian at Headquarters, Air Force Space Command in Colorado Springs, Colo-

rado. In a matter of months, Randy's unparalleled leadership rendered that command's field history program the best in the entire Air Force. We deeply appreciate Sergeant Saunder's contribution to the preservation of the United States Air Force history. I personally wish him and his entire family all the best as they return to civilian life.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. LUIS JOSE MOREIRA DA SILVA BARREIROS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, today Boston is experiencing a great loss. It is losing the services and expertise of a man who not only helped to increase civic involvement within our Portuguese community but also played an integral role in its economic and social evolution. Dr. Luis José Moreira da Silva Barreiros' tireless work as the Consul General of Portugal in Boston has enriched this area in so many important ways that his presence will be sorely missed by all who had the pleasure to work with him.

Dr. Barreiros' distinguished work with the Portuguese foreign service began two decades ago and since that time, he has consistently demonstrated his devotion to the development of a strong Portuguese community. Dr. Barreiros has worn many hats during his career, serving first as the Embassy Secretary in Maputo, Mozambique and later with the Advisory Council for Economic and Development affairs to the Portuguese delegation at the United Nations in New York. His economic expertise led him to other key posts with the Institute for Economic Cooperation and the Secretary of State for Economic Cooperation.

Since December 1994, Dr. Barreiros has served as Consul-General in Boston. It is for his work in this post that all of us here are profoundly grateful. The extraordinary relationship that Dr. Barreiros has forged with the Portuguese-American organizations in this area has been remarkable. He has worked with various committees in Boston to increase both Portuguese-American pride and civic engagement.

Dr. Barreiros leaves Boston having changed it for the better, and it is for this reason that all of us here are so sorry to see him go. It is a fitting commemoration of his work here and of the ties he has forged between our two republics that the United States State Department this month extended the ninety day visa waiver program for citizens of Portugal. The people of Portugal will be fortunate to have him back in Lisbon, and we all know that he will flourish in his new assignment. Dr. Barreiros, we wish you nothing but the best, and on behalf of all my constituents, Portuguese-Americans and other Americans whose lives you have touched, I would like to sincerely thank you for all that you have accomplished during your time here. You will be missed.