

June 29, 1999

THE MEDICARE DIABETIC FOOT
ULCER CARE IMPROVEMENT AND
SAVINGS ACT OF 1999

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce the "Medicare Diabetic Foot Ulcer Care Improvement and Savings Act of 1999" with my colleague from New York, Mr. LAFALCE. This bill represents an important step forward toward providing people with diabetes with the advanced treatment they need to combat some of the complications experienced due to diabetes. We expect that it will also result in savings to the Medicare budget.

The legislation would extend Medicare coverage to include advanced new therapies to treat diabetic foot ulcers (DFUs). Diabetes affects nearly six million Medicare beneficiaries and treatment for people with diabetes makes up about one-quarter of the Medicare budget—with \$1.5 billion per year of that cost emanating from DFUs. The inclusion of such advanced therapies under Medicare would not only significantly improve the quality of care for beneficiaries with debilitating lower extremity wounds but also result in programmatic savings to Medicare.

The Lewin Group study found that treatment with recombinant human growth factor gel results in faster and more complete wound healing. They estimate that Medicare would save at least \$22 million in the first year alone in reduced DFU-related costs. This potential savings is in addition to the direct benefit to patients of better wound healing and less exposure to the risks of some of the more serious and expensive complications, such as hospitalizations, disability and amputations.

A cure for diabetes is within our reach. In the meantime, the Federal government must avail itself of advances in treatment knowledge. In the private sector, new technologies have reduced both diabetes specific complications and overall health care costs. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation which would apply this knowledge to our Medicare program and benefit our Nation's seniors.

TRIBUTE TO CRAIG OLIVE

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mr. Craig Olive, a fellow North Carolinian who has dedicated his life to public service.

Born on February 18, 1965, Craig Olive is the son of Mrs. Pearl T. Olive and the late James Clee Olive.

He currently resides in Clayton, NC where he is a member of the Little Creek Primitive Baptist Church, serving as a Trustee, Clerk, and Deacon.

He also serves as a member of the Finance Committee for the Little River Primitive Baptist Association.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

At an early age of 11, Craig became involved in politics by helping to put up signs for local and statewide candidates.

After graduating from Smithfield-Selma High School, he studied Business Administration at Johnston Community College in Smithfield, NC.

His interest and concern for his fellow man inspired him to get involved as a volunteer in many community activities to make a difference as a community leader.

He has truly made an outstanding mark in the community and has gained statewide recognition, earning numerous awards.

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143C-4, Craig was recently appointed to the North Carolina Government Completion Commission by Harold J. Brubaker, Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives.

The purpose of the Commission is to be the catalyst for the use of competition to improve the delivery of State government services, to make State government more effective and more efficient, and to reduce the costs of government to taxpayers.

Craig is currently a member of the Johnston Community College Foundation Board.

His commitment to the education of young adults is outstanding.

Craig is dedicated to the Johnston Community College Foundation, helping to raise money in order to provide scholarships for young adults.

Also, he saw a need to help finance young adults by establishing the James C. Olive Scholarship, named in his father's memory.

Mr. Olive is a member of the Board of Advisors for the Paul A. Johnston Auditorium at Johnston Community College and is also a member of the Johnston County Heritage Center Committee.

He is Vice President of Selma Parks and Recreational Board, a member of the Clayton Chamber of Commerce, a volunteer with the Special Olympics program, a volunteer with Johnston County Senior Citizens program, and also serves as a volunteer with the American Cancer Society.

In 1992, Governor James G. Martin presented Mr. Olive with the "Long Leaf Pine" Award as an outstanding North Carolinian.

Additionally, Mr. Olive has been the leader of the Republican Party in his county, district, and the state.

Craig is a charter member of the Johnston County Young Republicans and is currently Vice-Chairman of the Johnston County Republican Party.

In 1997, Mr. Olive was presented the "James E. Broyhill Award" and was inducted into the North Carolina GOP Hall of Fame for his outstanding grassroots service.

Craig Olive has made and continues to make a major contribution in North Carolina and the nation.

He has a strong commitment to his family as well as to his fellow citizens.

Thank you to Craig Olive for his tireless work to improve the quality of life for all citizens

And for working with his friends and neighbors to provide an effective government for the people.

I salute you.

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IN HONOR OF THE WORLD
CHAMPION SAN ANTONIO SPURS

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his outstanding coverage of the San Antonio Spurs, I hereby enter this column by Buck Harvey into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This column appeared in the San Antonio Express News on the morning after the Spurs beat the New York Knicks to claim the NBA title.

[From the San Antonio Express News, June 26, 1999]

TIME OF THEIR LIVES? JUST REPLAY THE TAPE

(By Buck Harvey)

NEW YORK.—Within minutes Tim Duncan aimed a camcorder, which is just like him. He's young, but he's already old enough to know to value these moments.

So at midcourt in Madison Square Garden, Duncan turned his camera and caught Avery Johnson and Gregg Popovich hugging. He captured the celebration of three generations of Robinson men. And then he panned this scene and created something he should stash in a vault.

Even with so much still awaiting him—with a Hall of Fame career really just beginning—Duncan will someday look back at this tape and wonder how such a special group ever came together.

Nice guys, finally, finished first.

San Antonio already knows as much. The city waited more than a quarter of a century for a title and, when one arrived, it came unexpectedly, from a 6-8 nadir, with a coach everyone wanted to impale. Even after a three-month march across the country—proving night after night and in city after city they were the best—everything stood oddly quiet when Latrell Sprewell drove baseline one last time.

When Sprewell stumbled, the city felt as Popovich did. "Kind of stunning," Popovich said late Friday. "You wonder if it's really true.

Duncan can always go to his VCR for verification, and he'll be somewhere in the picture, too. At one point he gave his camcorder to Malik Rose.

Then he will see a few frames of the league's best player, as smooth with his feet as he is with his mind. The Knicks were as made for Duncan as the Lakers were, with little size to contest him, and his three-basket spurt to begin the fourth quarter showcased every skill.

As for the MVP of the 1999 NBA Finals: Wouldn't Karl Malone rather have this award than his?

But the film will drag just about then, as two, bullish defensive teams clawed at each other. And that's why the Spurs had a reason to be scared. As Sprewell jumped back for jumpers—as he felt it—the Knicks looked capable of jumping back to the Alamodome.

That's where other clips will be necessary. Splice in some footage from Salt Lake City when the Spurs took home court, then from Minneapolis, Los Angeles and Portland. Show how the Spurs closed out everyone on the road, with toughness, with defense.

Why should this one have been any different? The Spurs' defense held the Knicks without a point the last three minutes, which is no shock as to those who listened to Popovich's huddles during that time. "We