

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE ACT OF 1999

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to join Representatives RANGEL, MATSUI, POMEROY, BONIOR, FROST, DELAURO and a number of other Democrats in introducing the "Strengthen Social Security and Medicare Act of 1999." This bill represents President Clinton's proposal to protect Social Security by locking up the Social Security surplus so that it will not be available to be spent on other things and to strengthen Social Security by extending the solvency of the Trust Fund to 2050. Of equal importance, we will reserve by law one-third of the projected on-budget surpluses over the next ten years to strengthen Medicare.

This is a simple proposal that takes the first step in the direction of preserving and strengthening Social Security and Medicare so that they will have the financial resources to provide the benefits that America's senior citizens have come to rely on. Democrats created Social Security and Medicare to provide not just a retirement program, but a true safety net for senior citizens, their survivors and the disabled. Social Security is the most successful Federal government program, lifting nearly 15 million seniors out of poverty. It is the cornerstone of the entire retirement system and is the principal source of retirement income for two-thirds of the elderly. The baby-boomers and their children have been promised the support that they see their parents getting today. We have a responsibility to keep those promises.

This bill saves 100 percent of the Social Security surpluses, and ensures that the Social Security surplus will be saved to reduce the debt that was created by the profligate fiscal policies of the 1980's. Beginning in 2011 the interest payments that will not have to be made on that debt will be reinvested in the Social Security Trust Fund through 2044. The Social Security Actuary has analyzed the proposal and found that it will extend the solvency of the Trust Fund until 2050, an additional 16 years beyond current projections.

Medicare also faces a financial squeeze as the baby-boomers retire. This bill creates a special reserve fund equal to one-third of the on-budget—non-Social Security—surplus over the next ten years that can only be used for extending the solvency of Medicare or providing a prescription drug benefit to Medicare beneficiaries.

This is not the final word on either Social Security or Medicare, but it does lay the foundation on which long-term solutions to ensure long-term solvency can be built. In this respect

it stands in sharp contrast to the Republican proposals which neither add a single day to the solvency of Social Security nor make any provision for using the surplus to strengthen Medicare.

Finally, the Republican proposals have an escape hatch that would allow Social Security money to be used for anything that the Republicans want to call "reform"; even a plan that could lead to cuts in benefits or the ultimate conversion of Social Security into a privatized plan that gives little protection to average workers and their families. We reject that false promise in favor of keeping the commitments to Americans of all ages that have been the touchstone of Democratic policies for more than 60 years.

IN MEMORY OF MELISSA EMERY LANIER

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Melissa Emery Lanier, a dear friend, community leader and constituent who passed away yesterday.

Melissa brought extraordinary warmth and grace to everyone and everything she touched. Known for the groups, individuals and causes she helped, she was active in numerous organizations as diverse as the College of Mount St. Joseph, the Caracole AIDS Hospice, the Fine Arts Fund, the Taft Museum, the American Negro Spiritual Festival, Hebrew Union College Academy for Interfaith Studies, the Babies Milk Fund Association, Xavier University, Stepping Stones Center for the Handicapped, the Council on Aging, and the May Festival.

She has been described as inclusive, perceptive, generous, effective, caring and gracious. And she was well known for seeking recognition for everyone but herself.

Melissa Lanier was a Cincinnati native. Her family has deep roots in our city and a strong tradition of community service. This is the legacy she continued.

She attended Bryn Mawr College, and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Xavier University in Cincinnati.

She was devoted to her loving family, and is survived by her husband, Addison, a daughter, Melissa Murphy, three sons, Addison II, John, and Mark, and eleven grandchildren. They have suffered a great loss. Indeed, all of us in the Greater Cincinnati area have suffered a loss with Melissa Lanier's passing, just as all of us benefited so from her rich and full life.

TRIBUTE TO PAM WOOLSEY, A WOMAN WITH A POET'S HEART

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, every so often I hear a story of a constituent that touches me and makes me proud to be a Representative of the people. Recently, I heard one such story: the story of Pam Woolsey.

Pam works at Kathryn Senor Elementary School in Glenwood Springs, CO in the cafeteria. She is known for her good food, especially her chicken noodle soup. But it is the lessons that she instills in the kids that is really impressive.

As a poet, Pam is very accomplished. She has authored dozens of poems and short stories. Recently, she entered an international poetry contest and ended up traveling to Washington, DC where she was a nominee for the 1999 Poet of Year. Only a month ago she was honored at the Capitol by the International Society of Poets. For her work she received several plaques, ribbons, and medals as one of 100 semi-finalists in a field of 1,000 entries from around the world. The accolades did not stop there. One of her poems was professionally recorded and published in a book of international poetry.

The more I inquired into this woman's amazing story, the more I hear of her taking the time to inspire children to accomplish more and live their dreams. That hard work and dedication will take you where ever you want to go. She is touching the lives of so many children and making a difference in her community.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to this woman on behalf of the people of western Colorado for her dedication to the future of our children. She realized that one person can make a difference and she has. I wish her all the best in attaining the dream of publishing her collection of poems and continued success and happiness in life.

DR. SYDNEY E. SALMON ACCESS TO CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS ACT

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Sydney Salmon, who passed away recently after a three year bout with pancreatic cancer. Dr. Salmon served as the Director of the Arizona Cancer Center at the University of Arizona from its founding in 1976 until last year. During that time, he built the Center into one of the pre-eminent research

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