

American Society for Bone and Mineral Research; American Society for Clinical Nutrition; American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics; American Society for Reproductive Medicine; and

American Society of Addiction Medicine; American Society of Adults with Pseudo-Obstruction, Inc.; American Society of Clinical Nutrition; American Society of Hematology; American Society of Nephrology; American Thoracic Society; American Urological Association; Americans for Medical Progress; Arthritis Foundation; Association for Medical School Pharmacology; Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology; Association of Academic Health Centers; Association of Academic Physiatrists; Association of American Cancer Institutes; Association of American Medical Colleges; Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges; Association of Behavioral Sciences and Medical Education; Association of Departments of Family Medicine; Association of Medical and Graduate Departments of Biochemistry; Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairmen; Association of Pathology Chairs; Association of Professors of Dermatology; Association of Professors of Medicine; and

Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine; Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry; Association of Schools of Public Health; Association of Subspecialty Professors; Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine; Association of University Radiologists; American Urogynecologic Society; Center for Ulcer Research and Education Foundation; Citizens for Public Action; Cooley's Anemia Foundation; Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America; Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; Dean Thiel Foundation; Digestive Disease National Coalition; East Carolina University School of Medicine; Ehlers-Danlos National Foundation; Emory University School of Medicine; The Endocrine Society; Epilepsy Foundation of America; Foundation for Ichthyosis and Related Skin Types; Gay Men's Health Crisis; General Clinical Research Center Program Directors' Association; Gluten Intolerance Group; and

Hemochromatosis Research Foundation; Hepatitis Foundation International; Inova Institute of Research and Education; Institute for Asthma and Allergy; International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders; Jeffrey Modell Foundation; Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology; Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International; Lawson Wilkins Pediatric Endocrine Society; Lupus Foundation of America, Inc.; Medical Dermatology Society; Mount Sinai Medical Center; National Caucus of Basic Biomedical Science Chairs; National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare; National Health Council; National Hemophilia Foundation; National Marfan Foundation; National Multiple Sclerosis Society; National Organization for Rare Disorders; National Osteoporosis Foundation; National Perinatal Association; National Tuberculous Sclerosis Association; National Vitiligo Foundation, Inc.; National Vulvodynia Association; and

North American Society of Pacing and Electrophysiology; Oley Foundation for Home Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition; The Orton Dyslexia Society; Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation; Parkinson's Action Network; PXE International; RESOLVE; Schepens Eye Research Institute; Scleroderma Research Foundation; Society for Academic Emergency Medicine; Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Re-

search; Society for Inherited Metabolic Disorders; Society for Investigative Dermatology; Society for Pediatric Research; Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc.; Society of Gynecologic Oncologists; Society of Medical College Directors of Continuing Medical Education; Society of University Urologists; St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; Tourette Syndrome Association, Inc.; United Ostomy Association; United Scleroderma Foundation; University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry; Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society; and Yale University School of Medicine.

TRIBUTE TO THE SENIORS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IN HONOR OF OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 17, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating National Older Americans Month in the District of Columbia. District of Columbia seniors will come to the National Arboretum in the District of Columbia on Tuesday, May 18th for an afternoon of information about the programs Congress provides for senior citizens, for entertainment, and for lunch. Our senior citizens have earned this information and celebration I have for them each year at a place of interest in the District. We have celebrated National Older Americans Month at the National Cathedral, the FDR Memorial, the National Zoo, museums, and similarly interesting settings, some of which our seniors rarely get to visit.

The growing number of senior citizens in the District, one third of whom are over 80, have contributed to the best days of the nation's capital. As young people, they helped build this city to its strongest point, and as seniors today, they are helping to bring revitalization to the District.

Senior citizens in my District want the 106th Congress to know that the Social Security and Medicare programs have done more to make their senior years secure and healthy than any programs ever enacted by the Congress. Today, the Social Security program alone has taken one out of every three elderly Americans out of poverty and has rescued 60% of elderly women from poverty. In 1997, almost half of all elderly Americans would have had incomes below the poverty line without their Social Security benefits.

Today's seniors have fought hard to preserve their Social Security. Those who worry most about Social Security are younger baby boomers and their children. This Congress must make sure that the progressive benefit structure with annual increases is available for generations to come.

Far more problematic and worrisome for the District's seniors is the future of Medicare. At my Senior Legislative Day, I want to focus my own constituents on the immediate problems of Medicare, which runs out of money in 2008. Seniors, like other Americans, are being directed to HMOs in order to allow the program to achieve cost savings. Yet, already, we see

many of the HMOs dropping seniors because the federal government has been unwilling to fund sufficiently these HMO senior programs. We have not met the challenge of doing what must be done for Medicare—making the savings necessary to save the program while assuring seniors that the benefits are sufficient to make the programs worth saving. Passage of the President's Patients' Bill of Rights is a crucial part of this effort.

On May 18th, the District's seniors will also be discussing the intolerable costs of prescription drugs not covered by Medicare. The Congress has not yet faced the challenges of the increasing use of costly medicines which are being used instead of more costly invasive procedures. The burden of these costs has been put entirely on seniors. It is a burden they cannot bear and should not bear.

Medicare has been a virtually universal program, with virtually all Americans covered, regardless of income. The need for healthcare tends to increase with age. It is certain that Medicare has saved and lengthened millions of American lives. On May 18th, at my Seniors Legislative Day, I intend to assure the seniors of the District of Columbia that I will have no greater priority than preserving Medicare. I ask the 106th Congress to help me keep that promise.

HONORING EDWARD ABRAMOWITZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 17, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about an extraordinary man of medicine, Dr. Edward Abramowitz, Attending Physician, Division of Cardiology, Department of Internal Medicine at Long Island College Hospital. Dr. Abramowitz is being honored on May 22nd by the Long Island College Hospital Board of Regents for his commitment to quality patient care and his medical leadership.

Born in New York City, Dr. Abramowitz received his B.S. degree from City College of the City University of New York and his M.D. from the Faculty of Medicine, Copenhagen University, Denmark in 1975. After graduation, he did rotating internships in OB/GYN, Surgery and Psychiatry in the Danish health care system.

Returning to New York, Dr. Abramowitz finished an Internal Medicine internship at Maimonides Medical Center and went on to complete a two-year internal medicine residency at Long Island College Hospital. In 1981, he completed a two-year fellowship in Cardiology at LICH and established a private practice in Cardiology and Internal Medicine. In 1991, Dr. Abramowitz was one of the founding members of Diagnostic Cardiology Associates, a premier diagnostic testing center for cardiovascular disease.

A longtime resident of Cobble Hill, Dr. Abramowitz was a member of the Board of Directors of the Brooklyn Heights Center for Counseling. Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Dr. Abramowitz is an active member of many professional organizations, including the American College of Cardiology, the American