

law, these crimes include: murder, rape, manslaughter, robbery, extortion, arson and similar severe crimes.

Mr. Speaker, we need to keep guns out of the hands of violent criminals. I am proud that my colleague ROD BLAGOJEVICH and I have reached across party lines to stand for what is right: protecting our nation's youth. Later this week, the Judiciary Committee will mark up legislation incorporating our proposals and a number of key measures to ensure that the same goal is met. We must not cease in our efforts to ensure safe, effective schools and communities our children deserve nothing less.

MEDICARE MODERNIZATION NO. 8:
SETTING THE GOAL OF MOVING
TO A SINGLE, UNITED P.P.S.
SYSTEM FOR POST-CARE HOS-
PITAL SERVICES

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, as part of a series of bills to provide for the modernization of Medicare, I am today introducing a bill to set the goal that by the year 2010 Medicare develop and use a single, united prospective payment system for post-acute hospital services.

Currently, payment for post-acute care is a Tower of Babel, with different PPS and non-PPS systems used depending on whether one goes to a non-PPS hospital, a skilled nursing home, a home health agency, or some other form of therapy. The different payment rates and systems greatly increase Medicare's complexity and makes the system vulnerable to 'gaming'—the placement of a patient where the provider will get the most money, not where the patient will get the best care.

The Congressional advisory commission MedPAC, and other health experts, have long warned that the proliferation of payment systems makes it evermore difficult for us to know what we are buying and how well patients are being treated.

But moving to a single, unified, and simpler system is not easy. In many areas, the data or basic research is not available. Therefore, my bill sets out a long-term goal for Medicare to move in this direction. I hope that HCFA can develop these simplifications and cross-comparisons sooner, but if not, the bill sets a 'hammer' of requiring the provider communities and HCFA to come together to achieve this goal by the end of the next decade.

In the long run, this effort should yield savings and improve quality measurement. My introduction of this bill is a signal that this is the direction we should be moving.

Following are some quotes from the March 1999 MedPAC report to Congress on why this wonky issue is also an important issue:

To guide the development of consistent payment policies across post-acute care settings, MedPAC recommends that common data elements be collected to help identify and quantify the overlap of patients treated and services provided. Further, it is important to put in place quality monitoring sys-

tems in each setting to ensure that adequate care is provided in the appropriate site. We also support research and demonstrations to assess the potential of alternative patient classification systems for use across settings to make payments for like services more comparable. . .

A lack of readily available data on patient function and health status limits the ability to identify where differences and overlaps in patients occur and to compare costs and payments across provider types. In particular, policymakers are concerned that payment policies may furnish incentives for providers to place patients in settings for financial, rather than for clinical reasons. A core set of common data about patients in all post-acute care settings will improve considerably the ability to monitor and make policy decisions about post-acute care.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE
LATE MAJ. GEN. WALTER A.
CHURCHILL (RET.), U.S. MARINE
CORPS, FOR HIS DEDICATED
SERVICE TO THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to a truly outstanding individual from the state of Ohio, the late Major General Walter A. Churchill (ret.), United States Marine Corps. On Monday, June 7, 1999, a special celebration will take place in Toledo, Ohio to honor the outstanding life and military career of General Churchill.

Mr. Speaker, Walter Augustus Churchill, Sr. was born on November 12, 1903. At the age of 19, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and began a distinguished military career culminating with the rank of Major General in 1962. General Churchill retired from the United States Marine Corps on December 1, 1963, after a remarkable 41 years and 8 days of service to his country.

During his career in the Marine Corps, General Churchill served the United States proudly around the world at Guantanamo Bay, Iceland, Guam, Guadalcanal, and other areas of the Pacific theater in World War II. While serving in World War II, General Churchill was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for Valor and a Gold Star as Commander of the Fifth Field Service Command, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

After his military career, General Churchill was instrumental in forming the United States Marines Youth Foundation, whose goal is to keep children free from the dangers of drugs and substance abuse. General Churchill was also the Chairman of the Board and CEO of Churchill Supermarkets, Inc., the family business of five supermarkets. His tireless dedication and innovation helped propel General Churchill's standing in the business community.

Always the community activist, General Churchill was a member of the Toledo City Council and was Chairman of the Toledo Republican Executive and Central Committees. He was a member of the Toledo Rotary Club,

National Association of Grocers, Ohio Automobile Association, and many more. Among others, General Churchill was recognized as "Marine of the Year," "Grocer of the Year," and, in 1992, he received the President's Distinguished Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying tribute to the late Major General Walter A. Churchill. For his unwavering service above and beyond the call of duty, we owe him our most gracious thanks.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID AND ELAINE
GILL

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elaine and David Gill for their almost fifty years of leadership and devotion to the Brandeis-Bardin Institute and the Los Angeles Jewish community.

Since they first attended the Brandeis Collegiate Institute in the 1950s, Elaine and David have forged a warm, longstanding relationship with the Brandeis-Bardin Institute as a whole. Both of them have served on the Board and David is a member of the Executive Committee. Elaine has served as chair of the Alonim Committee, the Women of Brandeis-Bardin, and as co-chair of the Brandeis-Bardin Associates. The Gills have recognized the important role that BBI plays in enhancing the spiritual life of Jews of all ages and levels of observance, and they have committed their time and energy to ensuring the Institute's continued success and development.

The Gills' relationship with the Brandeis-Bardin Institute exists on the personal level as well. All four of their sons have attended Camp Alonim, the youth resident summer camp held on the grounds of the Institute. Between 1971 and 1994, at least one of their sons was involved with the camp either as a camper or a staff member. In fact, both of the couple's married sons met their wives at Alonim. A third generation of Gills, grandsons Jasper, Jonah, and Micah, are all future campers.

In addition to all their efforts on behalf of Brandeis-Bardin, Elaine and David have found time to volunteer with several other Jewish organizations, showing that their dedication to the local Jewish community extends far beyond the tree-lined gates of the institute.

At Valley Beth Shalom, one of the largest Conservative synagogues in the San Fernando Valley, the Gills have both been active members. They have served as pararabbinic counselors and they have been instrumental in developing the synagogue's havurah program, which brings together families with similar interests for social and religious fellowship. David has been chairman of the Board and has led two building fund campaigns. Elaine is currently Religious Vice President.

The Gills have also devoted an extraordinary amount of time to the Los Angeles Jewish Federation which offers a wide range of activities and services to individuals throughout Los Angeles. Together, David and Elaine