

HONORING KARAN MACKEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Karan Mackey for her 22 years of dedicated service to the people of Lake County, California. Ms. Mackey is retiring on January 2, 2001 from a distinguished 16-year career as a member of the Lake County Board of Supervisors.

Karan Mackey was raised in the Sacramento area and has resided in Lake County for over 25 years. Prior to commencing elected service, her professional background was in youth counseling, casework, adult volunteer programs, and senior center development.

Karan Mackey's career in public service began with the Lakeport City Council where she was first elected in 1978. Not long afterwards Ms. Mackey was selected to serve as Mayor of Lakeport City and did so for two terms. In 1984 she was elected to her first term on the Lake County Board of Supervisors representing the Fourth Supervisorial District. She served several terms and attained major leadership positions that included Vice Chair and Chair of the Board of Supervisors (BOS), California State Association of Counties representative for the BOS, Chair of the Clear Lake Resource Management Committee, BOS representative to the Redwood Empire Association, BOS representative on the North Coast Emergency Services Joint Powers Authority, and numerous other committees and advisory groups.

Ms. Mackey has been a tireless representative of the Fourth Supervisorial District. As spokesperson for Lake County's largest agricultural district she has been a steadfast advocate of farming issues. Ms. Mackey was also instrumental in seeking out and securing funding for jail construction, a critical district issue. Other important district issues to which she has distinguished herself include water quality (including the Basin 2000 project), flood protection, transportation, seniors, economic development, enhancement of the Clear Lake Fishery, and public safety.

In addition to her considerable public successes, Ms. Mackey has been a dedicated wife and mother. She is married to Hugh Mackey and the two have four children: London, Chelsey, Cody and Tad.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my great honor to represent Ms. Karan Mackey first as her State Senator and now as her Congressman. Clearly, her life has been one of great public service, dedication and commitment. For these reasons, it is necessary that we honor this woman for her distinguished service to the people of Lake County, California.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTIAN FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as Christian Faith Baptist Church of Raleigh, North Caro-

lina celebrates its 10th Anniversary, let me congratulate the members of the congregation and their pastor, the Rev. Dr. David C. Forbes, Sr. for their dedicated work in serving the emotional and spiritual needs of Raleigh residents. I also want to recognize Sister Gladys Graves and Sister Delores Steele for their leadership in making the celebration a success.

Since Christian Faith Baptist Church was founded on February 18, 1990, your distinguished pastor and congregation have exemplified the very best in humanity through a common commitment to the Christian faith. That's why it is altogether fitting that you chose these simple words as your anniversary theme: "Remembering God's Call, Rejoicing in God's Faithfulness and Re-committing to God's Work." Christian Faith Baptist Church has lived by these words for the past ten years.

I commend you on your immense contributions during these past 10 years. Those sixty-five kindred souls, who came together at Roberts Park Center on Sunday, February 18, 1990, are a celebration of His provision in church growth and discipleship. Now, as a closely-knit church family with over five hundred disciples working diligently to support twenty-eight ministries, the established discipleship and service has been firmly established as the focus of Christian Faith Baptist Church.

Let me again offer my sincere congratulations on this, your 10th Anniversary Celebration.

"CUBA FOR KIDS" TEACHES CHILDREN ABOUT CUBAN HISTORY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on November 12, 2000 the Cuba for Kids Foundation will celebrate the official launch of "Cuba for Kids," a bilingual book dedicated to stimulating in children an interest in Cuba and Cuban history.

"Cuba for Kids" is a children's book which explains some of Cuba's most significant historical periods, teaches important historical lessons, and recounts many of the unique social and political figures in Cuban history.

Unveiled by the non-profit Cuba for Kids Foundation, "Cuba for Kids" is the product of a collaboration by noted scholars, psychologists, and social workers, including Dr. Jaime Suchlicki, Director of the University of Miami's Institute of Cuban and Cuban-American studies.

Founded by a group of young professionals and led by Dr. Ismael Roque-Velasco, author of "Cuba for Kids," the Cuba for Kids Foundation is dedicated to promoting Cuban heritage, and arousing in younger generations an interest and appreciation of Cuban culture and history.

As a former school administrator, and the mother of two school age girls, I am hopeful that parents, grandparents, and teachers will find "Cuba for Kids" a useful tool in making

Cuba's dynamic culture and history accessible to children.

Noted artists including actor Andy Garcia, and musicians Gloria and Emilio Estefan have described "Cuba for Kids" as an essential document in educating our children on Cuba's beautiful heritage, as well as a beautiful way to keep Cuba and its history alive in the hearts of children.

I wish to add my voice to those community leaders in Miami such as Jon Secada, Christina Saralegui, Celia Cruz, and Arturo Sandoval who are taking part in the ceremonial launching of "Cuba for Kids."

I also wish to specifically congratulate Dr. Ismael Roque-Velasco, and men and women at the Cuba for Kids Foundation, on the release of this wonderful new book.

IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH DONNELLY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sense of personal loss but also enduring respect and admiration that I come before my Colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the memory of Joe Donnelly.

Joe Donnelly was a journalist. The long-time editor and co-publisher of the Indiana Gazette in Indiana, Pennsylvania, he recently passed away at the age of 76. However these statements of fact do not begin to describe or define the man or the impact his life had on his profession and his community. His departure leaves at once both a gaping hole and an enduring legacy in the region served by the newspaper he and his late wife Lucilla published for years under the hundred-year-old daily header: "The Gazette wants to be the friend of every man, the promulgator of all that's right, and a welcome guest in the home."

That phrase could describe Joe Donnelly, the man, as well. In an age when national newspapers increasingly come under influences that are often negative and at odds with the ideals of journalistic ethics and objective reporting, Joe Donnelly remained a positive force not only through his leadership of a venerable publishing operation but through the examples he set every day in his community involvement. He was extremely well respected by his colleagues both for his ethics and his management style. And, acknowledged for his active involvement in civics and his church, he once received the Benemerenti Award from Pope Paul VI in person.

It is probably no accident that the same town that produced an American hero like Jimmy Stewart also produced a man like Joe Donnelly, a Marine combat veteran of two wars. His long list of interests, awards and achievements indicate a tireless pillar of American values, which he certainly was. In his church, his town, and his family life, he set an example that will continue to influence the values of the generations who follow him. A colleague at the Gazette recalled him, "He came up the long way, form the bottom and really

worked hard at it." The journalistic legacy of Joe Donnelly lives on in his son and daughters, who continue to run the Gazette even as they raise his four grandchildren. The broader lessons of the importance of hard work, of giving of oneself to church and community, and of humility, are what we can all take from the memory of this unique American.

Joe, we miss you and we thank you. Good-bye, Marine.

INTRODUCTION OF CORRECTED
VERSION OF DEMOCRATIC MEDI-
CARE AND MEDICAID GIVE-
BACKS BILL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Representative DINGELL and myself, we are re-introducing today the Democratic version of the Medicare and Medicaid give-backs bill, that includes the provisions in the House-passed bill of Thursday, October 26th plus the beneficiary and provider improvements requested by the President and detailed in the Administration's veto letter of October 17th.

Yesterday, a version of this bill was introduced (H.R. 5601), but because of mechanical problems in the electronic transmission of the bill, a number of errors occurred.

When considering the Democratic position on how to improve the Medicare, Medicaid, and S-CHIP programs, please refer to the bill introduced today H.R. 5612, not to H.R. 5601.

IN HONOR OF ELLEN COKINOS ON
THE OCCASION OF HER RECEIV-
ING THE DIRECTOR OF THE FED-
ERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGA-
TION'S COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
AWARD

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ellen Cokinos, Founder and Executive Director of Houston's Children's Assessment Center, on the occasion of her receiving the Director's Community Leadership Award from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Ellen Cokinos, through her leadership and unwavering commitment to protect the most defenseless in our community—children, deserves to be held up as a national role model.

For nearly a decade, Ellen Cokinos and the Children's Assessment Center have conducted a "quite revolution" in the treatment of child sexual abuse. Under Ellen Cokinos' direction, the Children's Assessment Center has set the standard for creating child-friendly intervention systems for sexually abused children by developing a comprehensive, coordinated team approach that draws from both the public and private sector. Ellen Cokinos has led a movement to change the way government agencies deal with sexually abused children by insti-

tuting a multi-disciplinary approach to the prevention, assessment, investigation, and treatment of child sexual abuse.

An internationally-recognized expert in her field, Ellen Cokinos deserves praise for her role in educating the larger community about violence prevention through establishing programs to foster greater awareness of child sexual abuse. I have had the great privilege of working with Ellen Cokinos on initiatives to promote the health and safety of Houston's children. The impact of the Children's Assessment Center, Ellen Cokinos' brainchild, reaches well beyond the more than 38,000 children it has served. This award is recognition of the invaluable contribution Ellen Cokinos has made to bringing about a fundamental change in how abused children are treated.

Mr. Speaker, as one who has worked closely with Ellen Cokinos, I know what she is a child advocate without equal and one of our community's great leaders. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pleasure to honor Ellen Cokinos, on the occasion of her receiving the FBI's Director's Community Leadership Award.

MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND SCHIP
BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT AND
PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to consider the fate of the tax bill passed by the House of Representatives last week, I would implore the President not to veto this bill. As you know, this package includes the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 that provides much needed relief from the unintended consequences of the Balanced Budget Act of 1977 to a variety of Medicare providers including: hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies, hospice services, and Medicare+Choice.

Among the various provisions included in the Medicare relief portion of this package aimed at improving the quality of care our nation's seniors depend on, I would like to call your attention to an important public health issues that is in the Medicare relief portion of this package. We have all heard from our nation's hospitals about the unintended consequences of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and its effect on their ability to provide a variety of services to their patients. One area that has been hard hit is hospitals' ability to treat patients with state-of-the-art blood products. In testimony before the Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health, the American Hospital Association specifically cited the costs associated with blood as one of the reasons that Congress should restore the full market basket index.

Patient access to a safe and adequate blood supply is a national health priority and has been recognized by members of this body, the American public, and the nation's public health leaders. Yet, many of us have

heard from the American Red Cross, America's Blood Centers, and the American Association of Blood Banks over the past year about hospitals having trouble affording new, innovative blood therapies that help to ensure that the nation's blood supply is safe for patients. Additional funding is needed if we are going to remain committed to providing the safest blood supply possible.

The blood banking and transfusion medicine communities are constantly working to assure that safety improvements for blood are implemented as soon as they become available. Two recent initiatives have been introduced to increase the safety of the blood supply—Nucleic Acid Testing and leukoreduction. Nucleic acid testing allows for early detection of infectious diseases (such as HIV and hepatitis C (HCV)) in blood by detecting the genetic material of viruses. Leukoreduction, the removal of leukocytes (white cells) from blood components can reduce the frequency and severity of complications from transfusions. Unfortunately these new screening protocols significantly increase the cost of blood products. Nucleic Acid Testing and Leukoreduction increase the cost of blood products by over 40 percent for both hospitals and blood banks.

Our Nation's nonprofit blood collection centers operate in the same managed care environment as our hospitals. While volunteers freely give the gift of blood, our nonprofit blood centers must recover the cost associated with providing a safe, state-of-the-art product. This includes the cost associated with collecting, testing processing, storing, and distributing blood for patients in need.

Nonprofit blood centers pass these charges onto hospitals, which, in turn, must get timely and adequate reimbursement for these life-saving and life-enhancing products. Unfortunately, the current system by which the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) determined hospital inpatient reimbursement rates does not account for these new and improved safety measures in a timely manner.

The Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act directs HCFA and MedPAC to review how hospitals are reimbursed for blood and to make the necessary changes to provide for fair and timely reimbursement. While those studies will not be complete, nor will the recommendations be acted upon during the current fiscal year, we must act now to ensure that patients are receiving the safest possible blood products.

The American Hospital Association along with the American Red Cross, America's Blood Centers, and the American Association of Blood Banks have all recognized the importance of this legislation. By restoring the full inflationary update to the Market Basket Index for hospitals, Congress is providing the nation's hospitals and blood centers with the means to afford new blood therapies and to ensure that patients are treated with the safest possible products.