

HONORING RETIRING CHEEKTOWAGA TOWN SUPERVISOR JAMES J. JANKOWIAK

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor James J. Jankowiak, who concluded decades of faithful public service by serving one year as Supervisor of the most populous town in the 27th Congressional District, the great town of Cheektowaga.

Jim Jankowiak is, above almost anything else, a man of the people. Jim is a regular guy who worked hard, loved his family and his community, and did everything he could to give back to that community he loved so well. From his career beginnings in the highway garage to his career as the most effective Parks Commissioner in the history of Erie County government, Jim Jankowiak consistently led by example, and the taxpayers of each respective jurisdiction within which he served were better for it.

Jim's service on the local level—first as Chairman of the town's Democratic Committee and later as a Councilman and finally Supervisor, demonstrates clearly his love for the town in which he lived his life. Where I come from—in South Buffalo, NY—we like to say that we're a community of neighborhoods; South Cheektowaga is no different. Differentiated as it is by parishes or by fire districts, it's still a collection of neighborhoods, and Jim Jankowiak is, at heart, a kid from the neighborhood—and he never forgot from whence he came. That's high praise.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring and congratulating Jim Jankowiak upon the conclusion of his official service to the taxpayers of the town of Cheektowaga. I know that you join me and the rest of our colleagues in wishing Jim, his wife Donna and their entire family the very best of good luck and Godspeed in the months and years to come.

DIRECT GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PAYMENTS UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, with my friend and colleague Congressman RON LEWIS, which will bring equity to an unjust Medicare compensation formula currently used to reimburse teaching hospitals.

Under current law, Medicare uses an antiquated formula to determine payments for hospitals with Direct Graduate Medical Education, DGME, programs designed to educate and train physicians. The formula, which was created in the 1980s no longer serves as an accurate reflection of the actual costs of operating training programs in the 21st century.

Currently, more than 600 hospitals that train physicians are paid less than the national av-

erage, meaning that Medicare pays less than its fair share for the costs of educating doctors in these hospitals. In my home State of New Jersey alone, teaching hospitals have lost about \$6.9 million.

The current system stymies these hospitals' ability to train a workforce sufficient to care for the growing Medicare population.

Despite congressional efforts in 1999 and 2001 to make incremental improvements in DGME payments, hospitals still receive only 85 percent of the cost of the national average that teaching hospitals incur today for operating costs.

Bringing the effort to fruition, this legislation requires Medicare to at least pay the average cost of operating a training program. It would increase the DGME payment—for hospitals whose historical costs are less than the national average—to 100 percent of the national average per resident amount.

The floor should be increased to the national average so no hospitals receive less than Medicare's fair share of the costs of operating a medical education program. This bill does not affect hospitals whose historical costs are above the national average.

I have introduced this measure in the interest of America's hospitals, medical students, and the Medicare patients who will one day depend on their doctors to have the highest level of training and expertise.

As it stands now, hundreds of teaching hospitals are being reimbursed by Medicare at an inadequate level for their work in training America's doctors of tomorrow. Too many hospitals, students, and patients are depending on us to equip teaching hospitals with the financing they need to produce a corps of well trained, experienced physicians.

Without it, I am concerned that these unsustainable losses are a real threat to the future of this nation's healthcare infrastructure.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation to provide a DGME level that accurately reflects of the actual costs of operating physician training programs in the 21st century.

RICHARD HATCHER

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to honor one of northwest Indiana's most distinguished and honorable citizens. I have known the Honorable Richard Hatcher for many years, and he is one of the most influential citizens I have ever known, especially when it comes to the progress he made for residents of northwest Indiana and the entire United States. Forty years ago, Richard was elected mayor of Gary, Indiana, and in doing so, he, along with the late Carl Stokes of Cleveland, Ohio, became the first African American individuals elected to serve as mayors of major metropolitan areas. Since this time, Richard has been a constant fixture in not only Gary, but throughout northwest Indiana. Today, as we celebrate this significant

event in our Nation's history, we reflect on the magnitude of his election and the progress that has been achieved since that time. In Mayor Hatcher's honor, as well as in honor of Carl Stokes, a celebration will be taking place on Saturday, February 23, 2008, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana.

Richard Gordon Hatcher was born on July 10, 1933, in Michigan City, Indiana. Following his graduation from high school, Richard went on to complete his bachelor of science degree in business and government at Indiana University. Subsequently, he also earned his bachelor of law and juris doctorate degrees from Valparaiso University. After completing law school, Richard relocated to Gary and began practicing law in East Chicago, Indiana. This was the beginning of his remarkable legal career, which included service as a deputy prosecutor for Lake County, Indiana. From there, his political career began when he was elected to the Gary City Council. Then, in 1967, he was elected mayor of Gary, the office he would hold for an astonishing 20 years.

Throughout his political career, Richard was always involved with various commissions and councils, including: the United States Conference of Mayors, for which he served as a member of the executive board and as vice president and president of the conference, the National League of Cities, the National Conference of Black Mayors, for which he was elected its first president, the National Urban Coalition, and the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, for which he served 4 years as president. He also received Presidential appointments to serve on two commissions: the United States Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations and the United States Commission on Education. Richard has also had a great impact on American society through his involvement with several civil rights organizations, both locally and nationally, including: the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Urban League of Northwest Indiana, TransAfrica, the National Civil Rights Hall of Fame, the Martin Luther King Center for Non-Violent Social Change, and the Operation PUSH/Rainbow Coalition.

Throughout his illustrious career, Richard has been honored time and time again for his dedication and steadfast efforts in improving the quality of life for all people. To name a few of his accolades, Richard was honored in 1974, by Time magazine as one of the "200 Outstanding Young Leaders in the United States," as well as one of the "100 Most Influential Black Americans" by Ebony magazine. He was also awarded the "President's Award" by the National League of Cities in 1987, the "Adam Clayton Powell Award" by the Congressional Black Caucus in 1977, the Operation PUSH "Award of Excellence" in 1980, and the Roy Wilkins Award from the NAACP in 1989. In addition, he has been honored with the "Urban Leadership Award" by the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, the "Distinguished Mayor Award" by the National Urban Coalition, and the "Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom Award" from the National Conference of Black Mayors.

Madam Speaker, through his election as mayor of Gary in 1967, Richard Hatcher has been a cornerstone in the building of a better