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1998-10-07

Honoring the retirement of Commander James E. Burd; Hon. Robert A. Borski of Pennsylvania In the House of Representatives.

Borski, Robert A

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Means and Commerce Committees. It does not create huge new tax breaks which will cost far more in out-years than they raise in the near term. It concentrates its relief on those who have been careful, cost-conscious providers and does not throw out money at the agencies which have been abusing Medicare by providing excessive and often questionable visits.

Our bill is identical (except for the pay-for) to the bipartisan bill which has been developed by the Senate Finance Committee, and which may pass the Senate at any moment. Our pay-for simply changes the limits on the Medicare Medical Savings Account demonstration project, lowering the number of participants in the early start-up years and raising them in the out-years and extending the life of the demo. Very few people are likely to participate in this program in the early years, yet CBO charges us for the cost of a full-blown program. By starting more realistically, we will not hurt the program, but can be scored for budget savings.

Attached is a description of the formula changes our bill makes.

This is a small, do-able bill in the last hours of the 105th Congress. It does not waste money on the agencies who have created so much of the fraud, waste, and abuse problem in the home health sector. It is a responsible pay-for. It is a bill that can quickly and easily be conferenced with the Senate.

We urge other Members to join us in supporting this approach.

SUMMARY OF FORMULA CHANGES

Reduces state and regional differences for "old" agency payments; brings down the per beneficiary limits for the highest cost "old" agencies; raises the per beneficiary limits for the lower cost "old" agencies and eliminates current 2% discount on per beneficiary limits applicable to new agencies. Raises the separate average cost per visit limits for all agencies.

CBO: budget neutral (through FY 2008).

Per Beneficiary Limits

1. "Old" agencies: payment is 50% BBA policy +50% (50% national mean +50% regional mean);

2. "New" agencies: payments are increased by 2% to equal 100% of the national median (about \$3,450), (which continues to be regionally adjusted for wages); and

Per Visit Limits

3. Increase the per visit limits from 105% to 110%.

4. Delays for 1 year the 15% across-the-board cuts currently scheduled to go into effect on October 1, 1999.

CBO: Cost is \$1 billion over 5 years.

HONORING RICHARD L. OTTINGER

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding leader, good friend, and beloved former member of this House, Dick Ottinger.

Dick represented Westchester County in the United States House of Representatives from 1965 to 1971, and again from 1975 to 1985. Throughout his service in the Congress, Dick was a model of integrity and energy. He

fought for the interests of working families and consumers, for the underprivileged and for seniors—always guided by a powerful sense of justice and idealism.

But Dick's greatest passion has always been the environment. He came to Congress at a time when few in Washington devoted sufficient attention to the cleanliness of our air and water, to the depletion of fossil fuels, or to the long-term relationship between economic growth and sound environmental stewardship. He left Washington with these priorities enjoying wide acceptance among lawmakers and the public alike. Without a doubt, Dick's contribution to the environmental cause was wide and deep—and today his legacy is as great as the American outdoors.

Mr. Speaker, Dick's accomplishments are not limited to the arena of elected office. Public service is at the very heart of Dick Ottinger's character, an instinct revealed in every season of his life. He was one of the founding members of the Peace Corps, a distinguished attorney, an author of numerous books and articles, and today the Dean of the Pace University School of Law as well as the Co-Director of Pace's prestigious Center for Environmental legal Studies.

For his extraordinary body of work, Dick Ottinger has been honored many times over. But perhaps the greatest tribute is the lasting affection and admiration of the men and women whom Dick so ably represented and about whom he continues to care so deeply.

I am pleased to recognize Dick Ottinger, together with his wife June, and to express my thanks to an outstanding role model and wonderful human being.

COMMENDING THE INCORPORATION OF THE SUABE NA TASI FOUNDATION ON GUAM

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the recent formation of a particular non-profit corporation known as the Suabe Na Tasi Foundation. On August 20, 1998, this foundation was officially incorporated on Guam to increase public awareness about the waters surrounding our beautiful island and to raise the necessary funding to study and implement measures to sustain our vibrant economy while protecting our precious ocean resources.

As many of my colleagues know, Guam's coral reefs as home to the most diverse fish populations in the world. Recent increased development have heightened the demand placed on our near-shore waters and, as a result, our reefs and ocean waters have not only been threatened but are becoming adversely impacted. Tumon Bay in particular, Guam's most developed shoreline, has produced signs of environmental stress and human activity is the leading apparent cause. Recent studies also point to an increase in algae growth and beach sands are turning from a pure white to an abused gray that gives way to erosion as each day passes.

In response to these growing signs of rapid development, various local governments as well as GovGuam have attempted to take con-

structive action to restore our environment and free it from intrusive and negative impact in the future. However, there is a single impediment standing in the way of needed progress and that is a tremendous lack of funds. The Suabe Na Tasi Foundation has stepped up to act as the engine to fund important local initiatives to save our environment and help Tumon Bay.

The people of Guam are especially grateful to Telo Taitague, a local and talented vocalist who has committed to release a compact disc to facilitate a public awareness campaign and offered all the proceeds in support of the Foundation's efforts. Telo, is a true civic leader on Guam as she has devoted her singing talent to aid not only the Suabe Na Tasi Foundation but in the past helped with the Toys for Tots campaign, Rest Homes in North Carolina, the Hawaiian Save the Waters campaign, Special Olympics, and Miss Guam Universe. The Foundation has also completed plans to host a benefit concert with Telo and other Guam artists and musicians to release money for the restoration of Tumon Bay.

Mr. Speaker, it is also worthwhile to commend the work of several individuals, who with their determination and energy, worked to incorporate the Suabe Na Tasi Foundation. Mr. Paul Packbier, an advocate for protecting the environment who has over twelve years of experience in environmental consulting and chairman of the Foundation, is to be praised for his efforts in organizing the foundation as well as Mr. Sinforoso M. Tolentino, a highly respected lawyer and friend of the business community on Guam. Mrs. Beth S. Lizama, currently the Vice President of Marinas Credit Bureau and a Business Development officer for Mari-Net, also deserves recognition and are gratitude for her commitment to the Suabe Na Tasi Foundation. Without these three individuals, the Suabe Na Tasi Foundation would not have been incorporated and Tumon Bay would still be in dire need of our attention and care.

The Suabe Na Tasi Foundation is the first organization of its kind, and we on Guam eagerly await its benefits and look forward to proudly preserving our environmental resources. Let us continue as an island community to share our talents and energy for the betterment of Guam. Si Yu'os Ma'ase to the contributors and founders of the Suabe Na Tasi Foundation. May your organization and dedication to protecting our environment serve as a model for other communities across the United States to emulate.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF COMMANDER JAMES E. BURD

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest congratulations to Commander James E. Burd, the Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Technical Services Facility, on his retirement.

Commander Burd was born in Harrisburg and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1975 he graduated from the United States Naval Academy and he obtained of his pilot wings a year later.

He was initially assigned to a Helicopter Combat Squadron and flew an H-46D helicopter aboard the USS *White Plains* (AFS-4), USS *Midway* (CV-41), and USS *Niagara Falls* (AFS-3) in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. In 1980, Commander Burd received his Masters Degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School. He also attended the Defense Systems Management College where he issued over 2,200 individual engineering safety clearances for almost every aircraft and aviation weapon system in the Navy and Marine Corps inventory, in addition to the prototype and classified systems successfully employed during Desert Storm. While aboard the USS *Shasta* (AE-33), he demonstrated true heroism by helping to save an aircraft from a ditching situation. By 1984, he was appointed as an Aeronautical Engineering Duty Officer, yet he still found the time to volunteer as a Detachment Officer in Charge of a helicopter deployment aboard USS *Flint* (AE-32).

Commander Burd continued to advance his career in the Navy when he was promoted to the position of Project Officer for the Presidential Helicopter Program and qualified as Aircraft Commander in the CH-53A. Eventually, he became the Vertical Flight Program Director for the Naval Air Development Center in Warminster, Pennsylvania.

After returning to San Diego in 1994, he became the Helicopter Class Desk Officer for COMNAVAIRPAC. Commander Burd now had the enormous responsibility of being in charge of more than 700 Navy and Marine Helicopters stationed throughout the Pacific Fleet. He continued to excel in his career and by 1994 he was designated as the first 3.3 Technical Data Department Head of the Naval Aviation Systems TEAM.

Incredibly, Commander Burd's personal awards are as impressive as his career's track record. He has been honored with the Meritorious Service Medal along with two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals. He also received four separate citations for various at sea rescues and emergency recoveries while piloting both H-46 and H-53 helicopters.

I am more than honored to join Commander Burd's wife, Nancy and his son, Andy, in congratulating him for a job well done. He is an American hero who was dedicated his life to his family and community, as well as preserving the safety of our nation. I wish him the best of luck in the endeavors that follow his retirement.

WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS
WEEK

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call World Population Awareness Week 1998 to the attention of my colleagues.

October 25-31, 1998 marks the 13th annual celebration of World Population Awareness Week. More than 300 family planning, environmental educational, community and service organizations in 61 countries are co-sponsoring the week in an effort to raise awareness of the need or universal voluntary family planning.

I commend to the attention of my colleagues the following proclamation, made by the Gov-

ernor of Minnesota, the Honorable Arne H. Carlson:

WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK
PROCLAMATION-1998

Whereas world population stands today at more than 5.9 billion and increases by more than 80 million per year, with virtually all of this growth in the least developed countries;

Whereas the consequences of rapid population growth are not limited to the developing world, but extend to all nations and to all people, including every citizen of the State of Minnesota concerned for human dignity, freedom and democracy, as well as for the impact on the global economy;

Whereas 1.3 billion people—more than the combined population of Europe and North Africa—live in absolute poverty on the equivalent of one U.S. dollar or less a day;

Whereas 1.5 billion people—nearly one-quarter of the world population—lack an adequate supply of clean drinking water or sanitation;

Whereas more than 840 million people—one-fifth of the entire population of the developing world—are hungry or malnourished;

Whereas demographic studies and surveys indicate that at least 120 million married women in the developing world—and a large but undefined number of unmarried women—want more control over their fertility but lack access to family planning;

Whereas this unmet demand for family planning is projected to result in 1.2 billion unintended births; and

Whereas the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development determined that political commitment and appropriate programs aimed at providing universal access to voluntary family planning information, education and services can ensure world population stabilization at 8 billion or less rather than 12 billion or more.

Now, therefore, I, Arne H. Carlson, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of October 25-31, 1998 as World Population Awareness Week, and urge citizens of the State to take cognizance of this event and to participate appropriately in its observance.

A JOB WELL DONE

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, in a matter of days, Adam Sachs, an outstanding member of my Committee staff will return to Kansas City, Missouri. As Adam begins this new chapter in his life, I wish Adam, his wife, Julana Harper-Sachs, and their two daughters, Haleigh and Maggie Harper, happiness and success in the coming years.

Adam began his government service in 1987, when he joined the staff of my congressional office. While a member of my personal staff, Adam served as my legislative assistant for national defense issues and other key issues until 1989. Adam then returned to school and received his law degree from Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, in 1992.

Last year, after he had established a successful law career in Kansas City, I was fortunate to prevail upon Adam to return to Washington to join the Democratic staff of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. As a member of my Committee staff, Adam has

served as the Chief Counsel and Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. While Adam's tenure with the Committee has been short, his accomplishment have been significant.

Among his achievements, Adam was instrumental in the establishment of a new process by which the Department of Veterans Affairs responds to allegations of employment discrimination, including sexual harassment in the VA workplace. When inaccurate allegations were made that burials in Arlington National Cemetery were being sold in exchange for political contributions, Adam determined the facts which refuted the improprieties which had been so eagerly alleged. To ensure Arlington National Cemetery continued to be our Nation's most honored final resting place, Adam worked in a bipartisan fashion to develop legislation to maintain the integrity of burials at Arlington National Cemetery. As an indication of Adam's legislative abilities, this legislation was overwhelmingly approved by the House of Representatives.

Adam is blessed with many outstanding attributes. He has a passion for fairness and justice, an unflinching sense of good humor and a willingness to always take on one more task. Adam, those of us who have come to know you and work with you, will miss you. We wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you again in the future.

HONORING SUNNY YEDDIS
GOLDBERG

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a remarkable individual and good friend, Sunny Yeddis Goldberg.

There are few people as well named as Sunny. Active in an extraordinary number of causes, ranging from education to neighborhood beautification, from promotion of the arts to prevention of illness, Sunny brings to each challenge her unique blend of bright optimism and boundless energy.

Professionally, Sunny has devoted her life to children, earning degrees in education and acquiring an expertise in overcoming learning disabilities. As a private therapist and as an expert with the Board of Cooperative Services, Sunny has helped countless young people overcome obstacles to achieve their potential.

In Mamaroneck, New York, where Sunny lives, she is regarded as a community treasure. Indeed, one of Sunny's passions has been Larchmont-Mamaroneck Community Television, an exceptionally well-regarded local station with a rich array of programming a central place in the life of the villages it serves. Sunny has been a Board Member at LMC-TV for twelve years, including nine during which she served as President.

This month, LMC-TV will not only recognize Sunny's exceptional contribution, but will name its annual award after her. There can be no more deserving recipient of the "Sunny" than Sunny herself.

Mr. Speaker, Sunny Yeddis Goldberg is one of those individuals around whom burdens seem lighter and joys even more sweet. We are enriched by her work and inspired by her example.