

and the lack of detailed effort will ultimately translate to a series of tax hikes and spending cuts in future years that will negatively impact the middle class and the poor.

I have serious reservations about any attempt to cut benefits in Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. I am committed to evaluating the impact of the funding used to pay for the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR or “doc fix”). I strongly oppose cuts to services for diabetes, end stage renal disease, and other illnesses disproportionately impacting my constituents. As a non-practicing registered nurse, I know how devastating these cuts would be for medical services in underserved communities.

Another worthy program that is very important to my constituents is the Qualifying Individual (QI) program. The program allows Medicaid to pay the Medicare Part B premiums for low-income Medicare beneficiaries with incomes between 120 percent and 135 percent of poverty. Under current law, QI expired December 31, 2012. The agreement extends the QI program until December 31, 2013.

Mr. Speaker, I have five major hospitals in my congressional district that not only serve my constituents, but the entire North Texas population. The measure states that qualifying low-volume hospitals receive add-on payments based on the number of Medicare discharges. To qualify, the hospital must have less than 1,600 Medicare discharges and be 15 miles or greater from the nearest like hospital. This provision extends the payment adjustment until December 31, 2013. The Medicare Dependent Hospital (MDH) program in the bill provides enhanced reimbursement to support rural health infrastructure and to support small rural hospitals for which Medicare patients make up a significant percentage of inpatient days or discharges. This greater dependence on Medicare may make these hospitals more financially vulnerable to prospective payment, and the MDH designation is designed to reduce this risk. This provision extends the MDH program until October 1, 2013.

I am pleased to see that the Senate approved a one-year extension of unemployment insurance benefits, providing necessary support for those looking to return to work as the economy recovers. I am also pleased to learn that deep cuts for many important programs that support the most vulnerable and provide pathways to prosperity for millions of Americans, including Head Start and WIC, were delayed. I would have preferred to see a long term extensions to these critical provisions.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned before, I do not agree with many of the details of the compromise, but I cast my vote for the bill for the greater national interest. I will continue to mitigate any negative impact of cuts on communities of color and other vulnerable populations in the ongoing negotiations on sequestration and the debt ceiling.

We must ultimately find a way not to fall into a deep economic crisis, and to further strengthen our middle class. I hope all of my colleagues as well as the Leadership continues to work on these issues and that it ultimately reflect solid bipartisan collaboration for the incoming 113th Congress.

SHARING A NEWS STORY ON THE PROUD TRADITION OF INCLUSIVENESS FOUND IN RESTON, VA.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with my colleagues a poignant story from a local newspaper about the experiences of a prominent African-American veteran and corporate leader in our community who was an early pioneer in breaking down the barriers of segregation. When Carlos Campbell and his family settled in Northern Virginia in the late 1960s, they found a certain amount of intolerance, but they were pleasantly surprised by the welcome they received in the new town of Reston, which at the time was a rare “open” community in Virginia. This story about Mr. Campbell, as reported by Gregg MacDonald of The Fairfax Times, is just one of the many things that make Reston such a wonderful community, which I am proud to represent.

[From the Fairfax Times]

NAVY PILOT, BOARD DIRECTOR RECALLS LIFE IN RESTON AS AN AFRICAN AMERICAN

(By Gregg MacDonald)

As a young African-American boy growing up in Harlem, Carlos C. Campbell, now 75, lived two streets down from Brooklyn Dodgers baseball player Jackie Robinson and used to wave at Robinson as he left his home on the way to Ebbets Field.

He later befriended jazz and football legends Dizzy Gillespie and Jim Brown, and worked as an actor with Charlton Heston and Robert Wagner and as a musician with jazz drummer Buddy Rich. He has written books, made films, flown planes for the U.S. Navy, worked for former President Ronald Reagan and the Defense Intelligence Agency, for the Department of Housing and Urban Development as a city planner, and was elected to the D100 as one of the most influential directors of corporate boards by the National Association of Corporate Directors.

But when Campbell moved to Northern Virginia in 1968, he said that because of segregation and discrimination, he could not buy a home.

“I looked at 39 different places and it was always the same line,” he said. “I’m sorry, sir, we do not practice open occupancy. It was very humiliating to be turned down for a residence for someone who had served his country during the Cuban Missile Crisis and had resolved to die if that’s what it took to protect it.”

Campbell said that while he was looking, he remembered a place called Reston that he had read about while a Navy aviator. “In 1965 or so, Reston had gotten a lot of ink as an open community, so I eventually remembered hearing about it and decided to check it out.”

Chuck Veatch, an early Reston sales employee, remembers that time well.

“Because Reston in the 1960s was an ‘open’ community within a segregated state that had no fair housing laws, we had a hard time with market resistance in terms of blacks,” Veatch said. “We in Reston had no issues at all, but because Realtors did not sell our homes there was some resentment, and the real estate brokerage community used the race card against us, to sell against us, and tell people they didn’t want to live in Reston.”

Married and with two daughters, Campbell purchased his first Reston home, in Vantage Hill, in October 1968. He soon went to work for the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C.

“It was great to finally be able to find a community in which we were tolerated,” he said. “But it was still no piece of cake.”

Campbell estimates that at that time, Reston consisted of about 1,500 people, about four percent of whom were African American.

“There was a group of Reston African Americans formed back then who called themselves the Reston Black Focus. I wasn’t initially a part of the group, but they would have get-togethers and invite everyone. Afterwards random people would come up to me and say, ‘Man, you guys throw great parties’ and I would say, ‘OK, thanks.’”

According to Campbell, although Reston was an open community, the surrounding areas of Fairfax County still were not quite there yet.

“Leaving Reston, we would be reminded of what it was really like,” he said.

“Everywhere I went, people in their cars slowed down and asked me if I was a Washington Redskin, but I guess that was better than them yelling ‘nigger’ out of the window as they went by, which also would happen.”

Campbell said his family also felt the effects of discrimination.

“Beauty parlors would refuse to style my wife’s hair, and a swimming pool once closed down, rather than let my little girl get in the water,” he said.

Campbell said that even in Reston during that time, African Americans often were under a microscope, and whites were not sure how to interact with them. On several occasions he said he discovered people rifling through his garbage cans, who then ran off when confronted.

“I would also occasionally get a knock on my door and someone would ask me what I did for a living, or ask me if I needed a job,” he said. “I also used to jog and would invariably get stopped by police who would often say they were looking for a robbery suspect.”

But overall, Campbell said life in Reston was always positive. He later moved to Golf Course Island in 1970, but has remained in Reston for 44 years.

“Reston was always a great place,” he said. “As an African American here, I was always tolerated, and as the years went by, Reston transcended that tolerance into acceptance. I felt less like a guinea pig and more of a citizen and a member of this community. Discrimination and intolerance still exist, but it is not as overt as it once was. I am glad Reston existed when it did and I’m content to continue living here and giving back.”

HONORING JENNI RIVERA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jenni Rivera. On December 9, a plane crash took the life of the singer and six others on board. Jenni Rivera was known as “La Diva de la Banda,” the queen of Banda music. But she was much more than a music superstar; she was “una guerrera,” a warrior for her family, and a role model to many. She faced monumental challenges in life, but tackled them with dignity and determination. At the