

The Jewish Federation of Greater Rockford is commemorating Remembrance Day by paying tribute to the "Righteous Gentiles," those non-Jews who risked death to help save the lives of Jews and others from Hitler's killing machine. These courageous people acted out of a conviction that they simply could not stand by and witness so great a crime perpetrated against fellow human beings. We are privileged to have one of those surviving Righteous Gentiles, Irene Opdyke, addressing the Jewish Federation of Greater Rockford, IL.

#### COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACT

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, in our Nation's inner cities, minority communities are being victimized by toxic polluters, creating an environmental crisis, a health crisis, and a civil rights crisis in this country.

In my district in New York there are over 2000 industrial facilities, a radioactive storage yard and a huge sewage treatment plant. The effect of this pollution is discriminatory. The children in my district are dying of cancer, suffering from asthma, and have toxic levels of lead.

Study after study has shown that minority communities bear the brunt of toxic pollution in this country. Today I introduced the Community Environmental Equity Act, which will apply title VI of the Civil Rights Act to toxic polluters. I urge you all to cosponsor this important legislation. It is time to realize that we cannot have social justice until we first have environmental justice.

□ 1115

#### A CALL FOR BIPARTISAN MEDICARE REFORM

(Mr. NEUMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, the Medicare trustees released their report last week and issued a warning that the Medicare System will be bankrupt in 4 years. When I tell seniors back in my district of that and when I tell my own mom and dad of this, they ask me, how can this be? They say, my husband and I contributed into the system every year since 1965. How could the system be going bankrupt?

Perhaps the best response would be that you should ask those who created the system why they created a system that has brought us to this point. But that aside, the answer lies in the fact that Medicare is a pay-as-you-go system. Your contributions do not go into a fund for your use. The contributions you made during your working years

go to support those who are ahead of you, those who have already retired. When you retire, money from the current workers, not money from your contributions, will pay your benefits.

So where do we go from here? We need to sit down and in a bipartisan manner decide how to reform the system and make it solvent. There is no other choice for our seniors in America today.

#### AN 11TH COMMANDMENT FOR CONGRESS: WE SHALL START TO WORK NOW ON ISSUES THAT ACTUALLY MATTER TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. BLAGOJEVICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, recently I voted in favor of a resolution supporting the Ten Commandments. I voted in favor of a resolution to study the economy of American Samoa. I voted for a resolution banning Federal funding for physician-assisted suicide, even though assisted suicide is not legal at all. In fact, let me firmly assert, I am against Federal funding for any activities that are not yet legal.

But is it not time, Mr. Speaker, that we started working on issues that are more important to people, things like making student loans more available and affordable, or providing health care for the 10 million American children without it? We should be working to make our streets safer. And what about our crumbling schools, many of which were built before World War II? When will we address the long-term health of Medicare and Social Security?

Why does this Congress not agree to an 11th Commandment: We shall start to work now on issues that actually matter to the American people.

#### LET US WORK TOGETHER TO SAVE MEDICARE

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, I was raised by my grandparents, and then by a great-aunt who lived on her Social Security. They relied upon Medicare for health care. Mr. Speaker, when I ran for Congress last year as a Republican, one of the things that was important to me in my campaign was to make sure that Medicare was preserved and protected for future generations, as well as for this generation of seniors. We Republicans campaigned to save Medicare, while our opponents accused us of trying to destroy Medicare instead of trying to save it.

Last week, the President's own Medicare Trustees came forward with a report that validated every single thing Republicans said last year about Medicare. There is one lesson I have learned, Mr. Speaker, during the cam-

paign of last year: It does not take courage to scare seniors about Medicare. It does take courage to save it for this generation of seniors and for all of those who will rely upon it in the future.

I hope now we can put the partisan nonsense and scare tactics aside, and work together to save a worthy program.

#### THE WIC PROGRAM IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ESTATE TAXES

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, important new research has indicated that the first 3 years of a child's life are absolutely critical. They determine his future life successes, brain development, and the likelihood of becoming a productive citizen. That is why I find it strange that my Republican colleagues would eliminate 180,000 American women and children from the WIC Program.

The WIC Program is an important nutrition program to help poor people have adequate nutrition. We are not talking about estate taxes, and no, we are not talking about capital gains taxes, we are simply talking about healthy food, milk, vegetables, fruits, the things Members would like for their family.

We as Americans ought to practice true family values, and that means putting our funds behind a program that has proven to be successful. That is the WIC Program. The WIC Program can guarantee that every young child in America gets a healthy start. That is the first step in leading a productive life.

I cannot understand why they think estate taxes are so important but do not think a healthy meal is equally important.

#### SUPPORT THE \$500-PER-CHILD TAX RELIEF AND OPPOSE THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN FUND

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we just heard that the Republicans were trying to eliminate people on women and children fund. We have opposed increasing the number. Let me tell the Members the reason why. In Kansas right now, a family of four making \$28,000 a year is eligible to receive benefits from the women and children fund. This is 180,000 people who would receive about \$300 per year if they did qualify for the WIC Program.

However, if Members would just give them a little relief in their tax structure, like a \$500-per-child tax credit, they would actually get more money. Instead of getting \$600 per year for those two children, they would actually get \$1,000 per year. It would be money they could control.