HONORING ROBERT A. CHAPMAN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a South Texas educator, Bob Chapman, who will retire on July 1, 2000, after 29 years in vocational and adult education. Bob helped make Corpus Christi a better place by virtue of his lifetime commitment to education.

After completing his military experience, his education and a stint in business, Bob worked as a training instructor at a Texas high school, then went to work for the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in 1983.

He served there as an area specialist, providing assistance to teachers, schools and administrators in a 26-county area in South Texas. From there, he went to Austin as a specialist in vocational education. In 1986, he came to Corpus Christi as a vocational education consultant in the Corpus Christi Independent School District (CCISD).

It was at CCISD that Bob spent the better part of his professional life and in 1993 he became coordinator of the Adult Learning Center for CCISD, the position he will soon leave to seek another career in private industry.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending a special patriot, one who spent a lifetime in pursuit of education and teaching, Bob Chapman.

A WAY TO SAVE MEDICARE, BENEFICIARIES AND TAXPAYERS BILLIONS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STAARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, even in an era of unprecedented budget surpluses, wasting Medicare dollars is unacceptable.

The same procedures, carried out in a physician's office, an ambulatory surgical center or in a hospital outpatient department are reimbursed at widely different rates. These differences exist across medical specialties and do not consistently relate to the setting in which the service is provided and may vary up to 179%. (Table 1).

The disparity in payments for equivalent services, regardless of setting, needs to be eliminated and payments reduced to the lowest levels.

Mr. Speaker, there is simply no reason in the world for us to pay $1001 for glaucoma surgery in a hospital outpatient setting, when we can provide the same service for $415 in an ambulatory surgical center.

The taxpayers, beneficiaries and Medicare can save billions of dollars in the years to come if we simply pay at the lowest of the hospital outpatient, ambulatory surgical center or doctor's office rate. We should pay at the lowest rate a service can be safely provided, regardless of setting. I have proposed this in H.R. 2115, and I urge the Members to consider this legislation as a way both save money and help beneficiaries.

TABLE 1.—COMPARISON OF PAYMENT RATES ACROSS SETTINGS FOR SELECTED HIGH VOLUME AMBULATORY CARE SERVICES, 2000.

Type of service	Code	Description	ASC rate	OPD rate	Practice expense rate
Gastroenterology	45380	Colonoscopy and biopsy	$425	$387	$260
	45378	Diagnostic colonoscopy	425	387	192
Ophthalmology	66170	Glaucoma surgery	415	1001	.....
	68720	Create tear sac drain	491	1149	.....
Orthopedics	23420	Repair of shoulder	1110	1753	.....
	29880	Knee arthroscopy/surgery	680	1191	.....
Otolaryngology	30520	Repair nasal septum	537	1232	.....
	69436	Create ear drum opening	233	583	.....
Dermatology/Reconstructive Surgery	19120	Removal breast lesion	411	623	.....
	13131	Repair of wound or lesion	383	181	.....
Diagnostic	93880	Duplex scan, extracranial arteries	132	.....	150
	93307	Echo exam of heart	213	.....	171
Radiology	70450	CAT scan of brain/head	237	.....	188

Source: Federal Register 1999, Federal Register 2000a, Federal Register 2000b.
Note: OPD (outpatient department), ASC (ambulatory surgical center), Practice Expense Rate (physician's office), CAT (computerized axial tomography).

BIOGRAPHY OF MR. IRVING KWASMAN OF SHERERVILLE, INDIANA

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Irving Kwasman was born on March 15, 1925, and died on June 8, 2000 at age 75. Mr. Kwasman was a loving husband for over 50 years, and father of two sons. He was also grandfather of two grandchildren.

Mr. Kwasman served in the United States Army behind enemy lines in WWII, and received 3 bronze stars for bravery. Only four soldiers earned 3 bronze stars in WWII, and Colin Powell only earned 2 for Vietnam. He fought in the battle of the Bulge and of a unit 314, only 7 survived.

Irving Kwasman is a Hero in every sense of the word. He was a successful furniture salesman, and had his own business. He was a practicing Jew of very strong religious stature, and proud grandfather of Adam Kwasman, U.S. House Page. My most sincere sympathies go out to Adam Kwasman and family. Rest in peace, and God bless.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD R. LUONGO

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to a special person who will be honored at a recognition ceremony in Belleville, New Jersey this week, Mr. Richard R. Luongo, who has given twenty-seven years of dedicated service to the Newark Police Department.

Lieutenant Luongo has earned a fine reputation as an outstanding law enforcement officer who is strongly dedicated to his work and to the community he serves. He ascended in his career first to Sergeant and later to Lieutenant. He first started as a police officer for Newark on October 15, 1973 and retired on June 1, 2000. In addition, he is currently serving in the capacity of President of the Superior Officers' Association of the Newark Police Department.

Mr. Luongo and his wife Gilda have two wonderful daughters, Nicole and Erica. The Luongos currently reside in the township of Bloomfield.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Lieutenant Luongo for a job well done and in wishing him continued success as he begins a new phase of his life.

HONORING SEYMOUR NAIDICH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I warmly congratulate Seymour Naidich who is celebrating his eighty-first birthday. This is a double commemoration for a wonderful man who recently celebrated his Golden Wedding anniversary of a half century of love, warmth and affection with his wife, Blanche. Seymour and Blanche have two daughters, Donna and Michelle who are joining with the extended family, of which I am happily a member, to wish Seymour the happiest of birthdays as he enters his ninth decade.

Seymour and Blanche met in 1947 after he returned from serving in World War II in the African and Asian theaters. It is emblematic of the closeness of Seymour and his friends that he met Blanche through a friend who had dated her. They spent the day at the friend's house and on the way home he impulsively asked if they could meet again the following day. The rest is a story for everyone who believes in love.

Seymour's celebration of his eightieth birthday was deferred for a year because of illness. But now he is well and we all look forward to celebrating this wondrous event with the promise of more golden years to come.