

This bill makes significant health care improvements for Medicare beneficiaries in rural America and the health care workers who care for these beneficiaries.

Before I close, I make an observation about the endorsement of this legislation from the AARP. Regarding the American Association of Retired People, I have not always been in agreement throughout the years, but I have a new regard for that organization because it made a courageous decision by putting seniors first. I respect the AARP for taking such a positive stand on this legislation. I personally resent some of the irresponsible attacks that have been made against them. If we are going to attack AARP, make sure we are right in doing so and do not use phony arguments because you are losing in the Senate.

In conclusion, passage of this Medicare conference agreement is the right thing to do for our seniors, especially those who currently do not have prescription drug coverage because they cannot afford it. I am pleased I have had an opportunity to play an important role in making this dream a reality for 41 million Medicare beneficiaries across the country. I am pleased I was able to work with such fine members of the conference committee, every one of them. Every one of them worked well. Every one of them deserves credit. Every one of them played a specific role. There were hardrock conservatives who made this bill passable in the House. There were those who were more liberal who made this bill acceptable to many in the Senate, if not the vast majority. There were many in the middle who were trying to make sure we got this thing done right and did the very best we could to do achieve that goal.

Again, I have mentioned the people who basically deserve most of the credit for working on this bill. Everyone on those conference committees worked long, hard hours.

So I resent some of the comments that were made by those who did not participate or, if they would have participated, would have done nothing but complain throughout the process and would have stalled the process. They are complaining because they did not have their way and we will not go towards a socialized medicine approach. They want Government to handle all these problems. We think Government can do a good job if it has some competitive aspects with the private sector as well. The vast majority of this is government, but in a reformed way, with new programs that do a lot of good for every senior citizen who wants to participate in them. It will be a sea change advantage to all as we go forward.

I hope my colleagues will pass this bill. This is a historic opportunity for us to do what is in the best interests of our senior citizens in this country. It is the only opportunity that has been brought to both floors of Congress and

the only opportunity for us to pass legislation. This bill is important. This bill should not be subject to petty partisan politics, a superabundance of which I have seen through this process, but particularly yesterday and today. I hope all of our colleagues will vote for this bill.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. BOXER addressed the Chair.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, could I do just a little bit of wrap-up?

Mrs. BOXER. Of course.

Mr. HATCH. I thank my colleague from California. I thank her for her graciousness throughout this process with regard to my speech.

#### RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF RALPH BUNCHE AS ONE OF THE GREAT LEADERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 82 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 82) recognizing the importance of Ralph Bunche as one of the great leaders of the United States, the first African-American Nobel Peace Prize winner, an accomplished scholar, a distinguished diplomat, and a tireless campaigner of civil rights for people throughout the world.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to this concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 82) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 82

Whereas Ralph Bunche's life of achievement made him one of the 20th century's foremost figures and a role model for youth;

Whereas Ralph Bunche graduated valedictorian, *summa cum laude*, and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1927 with a degree in International Relations;

Whereas Ralph Bunche was the first African-American to receive a Ph.D. in Government and International Relations at Harvard University in 1934;

Whereas Ralph Bunche served as a professor and established and chaired the Political Science Department at Howard University from 1928 to 1941;

Whereas, in 1941, Ralph Bunche served as an analyst for the Office of Strategic Services;

Whereas Ralph Bunche joined the Department of State in 1944 as an advisor;

Whereas Ralph Bunche served as an advisor to the United States delegation to the 1945 San Francisco conference charged with establishing the United Nations and drafting the Charter of the organization;

Whereas Ralph Bunche was instrumental in drafting Chapters XI and XII of the United Nations Charter, dealing with non-self-governing territories and the International Trusteeship System, which helped African countries achieve their independence and assisted in their transition to self-governing, sovereign states;

Whereas, in 1946, Ralph Bunche was appointed Director of the Trusteeship Division of the United Nations;

Whereas, in 1948, Ralph Bunche was named acting Chief Mediator in Palestine for the United Nations, and, in 1949, successfully brokered an armistice agreement between Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria;

Whereas Ralph Bunche was deeply committed to ending colonialism and restoring individual State sovereignty through peaceful means;

Whereas the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People awarded its highest honor, the Spingarn Medal, to Ralph Bunche in 1949;

Whereas for his many significant contributions and efforts toward achieving a peaceful resolution to seemingly intractable national and international disputes, Ralph Bunche was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950, the first African-American and the first person of color to be so honored;

Whereas Ralph Bunche was named United Nations Under-Secretary-General in 1955, in charge of directing peacekeeping missions in several countries;

Whereas, in 1963, Ralph Bunche received the United States' highest civilian award, the Medal of Freedom; and

Whereas Ralph Bunche's critical contributions to the attempt to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and towards the de-colonization of Africa, and his commitment to and long service in the United Nations and numerous other national and international humanitarian efforts, warrant his commemoration: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—*

(1) recognizes and honors Ralph Bunche as a pivotal 20th century figure in the struggle for the realization and attainment of human rights on a global scale; and

(2) urges the President to take appropriate measures to encourage the celebration and remembrance of Ralph Bunche's many significant achievements.

#### RECOGNIZING ALTHEA GIBSON FOR HER GROUND BREAKING ACHIEVEMENTS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 69 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 69) expressing the sense of Congress that Althea Gibson should be recognized for her ground breaking achievements in athletics and her commitment to ending racial discrimination and prejudice within the world of sports.