

have become very popular with WIC participants because of their convenience and service. That should continue.

INTRODUCING THE MMA TERRITORIAL EQUITY FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS ACT OF 2004

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will treat Medicare-eligible citizens of Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands the same as low-income citizens in the 50 States and the District of Columbia with respect to the Medicare prescription drug transitional assistance program and, beginning in 2006, premium and cost-sharing subsidies under the national Medicare prescription drug program. I am joined by Congresswoman DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN of the Virgin Islands, Congressman ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa and Resident Commissioner ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ of Puerto Rico as original co-sponsors of this legislation, which will provide health care equality to seniors in the insular areas with respect to the prescription drug benefit.

Currently, citizens of the insular areas contribute to the Medicare Trust Fund in the same manner as citizens in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. However, while the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) created a transitional assistance program authorizing up to \$600 in prescription drug subsidies for individual low-income Medicare beneficiaries in both 2004 and 2005, the territories receive only a small Federal block grant (\$35 million in aggregate for both years to cover an estimated 450,000 Medicare beneficiaries) to help defray the costs of implementing local prescription drug plans through their respective public health departments. While exact data is not available, it is estimated that beneficiaries in the insular areas will receive significantly less relief than their counterparts in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The MMA also does not include citizens in the territories for the purposes of the full national prescription drug plan authorized for Medicare beneficiaries beginning on January 1, 2006. Again, a separate Federal block grant is allotted to the territories in lieu of full participation.

Citizens of the insular areas face greater challenges to accessing adequate health care and prescription drug services than citizens in the States and the District of Columbia. Transportation costs and smaller economies of scale increase the cost of prescription drugs available in these areas. Furthermore, the insular areas are home to many different minority groups, many of which are genetically disposed to certain illnesses. For example, African American, Hispanic and Pacific Island Americans are all genetically disposed to diabetes, which is particularly prevalent among the age 40-and-over category. Therefore, access to prescription drugs will, in addition to increasing the quality of life among citizens of the insular areas, help resolve other health disparities such as prevention and treatment of genetically-disposed illnesses.

My legislation recognizes that health care inequalities exist with respect to the treatment of citizens in the insular areas. It further recognizes that, in the case of the new transitional assistance and prescription drug programs authorized under the MMA, citizens of the insular areas pay into the Medicare Trust Fund in the same manner as citizens in the 50 States and the District of Columbia and should, therefore, receive parity with respect to benefits. The current protocol for block granting prescription drug funding to the insular areas will ensure that health care disparities will continue to exist in these areas. The best solution with regard to fairness and parity is to allow citizens of the territories to participate directly in these Federal prescription drug assistance programs.

My bill would ensure parity with respect to the application of the MMA in the insular areas by eliminating the current prescription drug block grant formula in favor of including low-income Medicare beneficiaries in Federal prescription drug assistance programs. Support for this legislation will ensure that all Americans receive the benefits to which they are entitled under the MMA.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARTIEY MILLER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Martiey Miller for her outstanding dedication to her Grand Junction, Colorado community. Her effort as general manager at Cumulus Broadcasting in Grand Junction has done much to ensure the high quality of radio programming that characterizes the network. As Martiey moves on in her accomplished career, I believe it is appropriate to acknowledge her service to her community before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Martiey moved to Grand Junction nineteen years ago in order to be closer to family. She took a job as a receptionist at the local radio station and began her ascent through the ranks. Jumping at every opportunity, she took a position in sales, and then became the sales manager, before assuming the position of general manager at Cumulus Broadcasting in Grand Junction running KEKB and KOOL Radio. During her tenure at Cumulus Broadcasting she played an important role in turning a struggling company into a successful business.

For Martiey's efforts and successes at the station, she has been recognized nationally. In 1994, she was named the outstanding radio sales manager by the Radio Advertising Bureau. Two years later, she was honored as the Colorado's Broadcast Citizen of the Year by the Colorado Broadcasters.

Beyond her career, Martiey has been very active in the community. She previously held positions as the president of both the Kiwanis and Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce, as well as being a member of the JUCO committee and the Hilltop Board. Her most notable achievement in public service came as co-chair of the citizens' committee to pass a school bond issue and override the budget. Her efforts proved successful when the bond issue and budget override passed.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the success of Martiey Miller as a leader in the Grand Junction community. She is moving on to a new job in Minneapolis, but let it be known that she has left a great legacy of commitment and dedication to Grand Junction and the State of Colorado. I congratulate her on her new job and wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO GLENORE M. ANDERSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Glenore M. Anderson in recognition of her civic participation and business success.

Glenore is a living testimony to the power of hard work and effort. A banker by profession, it took Ms. Anderson eleven years to move up the corporate ladder to her current position as Vice President/Branch Manager of the Broadway and Driggs Street Office of HSBC Bank, one of the largest branches of HSBC Bank USA in Brooklyn, NY.

Born on the island of Trinidad and Tobago in the West Indies, Glenore immigrated to the United States in the summer of 1992. She moved here with her family after successfully completing her studies in her home country. A few short months after taking up residence in New York City, she was hired as a customer service representative with Marine Midland bank, which later became HSBC Bank USA. She quickly moved through the ranks and excelled as a sales representative, sales manager, OIC (officer in charge), and Vice President/Branch manager.

Glenore continues to exemplify this spirit of excellence in her current position as the Branch Manager. She continuously works toward motivating her staff of 16 by employing a "hands on" approach. In so doing, she demonstrates her abilities as a team player and team leader. She believes that it is important for her staff to see that she can do whatever task is required of them. Due to this type of cohesive effort and leadership skills, the operation of the branch has been very successful, which boasts assets totaling \$105 million.

In addition to her expertise in banking, Glenore has also earned accolades for her efforts to strengthen the community. As such, she was honored with the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry award for Women History makers of 2000; the Network Journal award for 40 Under Forty Achievers of 2001; and an award from the New Deeper Life Tabernacle in 2003.

During the month of February in 2001, 2002 and 2003, she brought this sense of community to the branch by hosting a celebration of Black History Month. The celebrations took the form of an art exhibit mounted in conjunction with Art Groupie.Com, which featured the works of four African/Caribbean American artists.

Married and the mother of one, Glenore receives strong support from her family and friends who believe whole-heartedly in her potential to reach the stars.

Mr. Speaker, Glenore M. Anderson has excelled in the business world while still finding

time to contribute to her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

WELCOMING KING MOHAMMED VI

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. PAYNE and I welcome King Mohammed VI of Morocco to the United States and wish him well during his visit. We strongly urge His Majesty to uphold and implement his nation's agreements regarding the conflict over the Western Sahara. In addition, we urge His Majesty to uphold UN Security Council Resolution 1541 as a tribute to former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, who promoted international legality and justice while responding to the true long-term interests of both parties concerned in this conflict. His Majesty's support for the former U.N. Special Envoy Baker's Peace Plan would be the best contribution to peace and stability in the region. In addition, upholding the Peace Plan would demonstrate the effectiveness of the pursuit of national aspirations through non-violence in the greater Middle East, a region that has been the target of much violence.

Mr. Speaker, last week, a number of Members sent a letter to President Bush requesting that during his meeting with the King, he strongly encourage His Majesty to implement the United Nations Settlement Plan in order to achieve a just, peaceful, and lasting resolution to the conflict over Western Sahara. The letter welcomed United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 1541 adopted April 29, 2004, which reaffirmed support for the Peace Plan for Self-Determination of the People of Western Sahara devised by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's Special Envoy, James Baker, and shared deep regret over the departure of Mr. Baker and the circumstances that led to his resignation.

In addition, the letter welcomed the confidence-building measures taken by the Polisario Front which released a further 643 Moroccan POWs since July 2003; the number of POWs the Polisario has liberated since 1991 now totals 1,760. However, the Members of Congress expressed their regret that the Government of King Mohammed VI has not reciprocated in a commensurate way. The fact that the Sahrawis have opted for non-violence in the affirmation of their identity and have respected the terms of the cease-fire signed in 1991 between their representative and Morocco, is telling in terms of who is committed to settlement of the conflict.

Further, the letter expressed great concern that if the conflict between these two parties is left unresolved, it has the potential to disrupt peace and stability in the Maghreb region, thus threatening the interests of the United States. The Members expressed that the United States should use its unique influence in that region to press the Moroccan Government and the Polisario Front to agree to the Peace Plan and to implement it under the supervision of the United Nations. Although U.S. attention is primarily focused, as it should be, on Iraq and on the war against terrorism, the

letter underscores the concern of the Members that the Western Sahara conflict needs to be addressed urgently and fairly to the benefit of the peoples of the region and in the interest of the United States. A peaceful, successful resolution of the conflict over Western Sahara will provide a signal to the Broader Middle East and North African region that in the 21st century there are successful alternatives to violence in the pursuit of national aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, we again extend our welcome to His Majesty and strongly urge him not to stand in the way of progress towards the peaceful resolution of the conflict over Western Sahara.

TRIBUTE TO THE WHITE HOUSE COMMISSION ON REMEMBRANCE AND THE "SANDS OF REMEMBRANCE" MEMORIAL AT NORMANDY BEACH

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the White House Commission on Remembrance and the Sands of Remembrance Memorial constructed this past Memorial Day at Normandy beach during the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

The White House Commission on Remembrance was established by Congress (PL 106-579) in 2000 and is an independent government agency honoring America's fallen, recognizing our men and women who have served our nation, and recognizing the veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice as well as those who continue to serve our country.

The Commission also promotes the values of Memorial Day throughout the year.

In 2002, Carmella LaSpada, the Director of the White House Commission on Remembrance and sand sculptors John Gowdy (American), and Dale Murdock (Canadian) discussed an idea: to create, from the very sand on which blood was shed for freedom, a life-size and historically accurate sand sculpture on the Normandy Beach to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of D-Day. Thus, the "Sands of Remembrance" was born.

So from May 25 through May 29 a team of award-winning sand sculptors from the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom began an effort to create one of the most memorable and beautiful artistic memorials dedicated to one of the most heroic events in our history. To honor D-Day's fallen heroes in a symbolic and tangible way, this sand sculpture was an act of remembrance. This sculpted sand served as a touching and unique reminder of the sacrifices made for freedom to those who visited the memorial.

The team of award-winning sand sculptors created a 30 x 30 life-size sand sculpture of the D-Day landing commemorating the 60th Anniversary of that historic event. Dear Abby and Home Box Office (HBO) partnered with the White House Commission on Remembrance for the "Sands of Remembrance" memorial, initiated by the Commission.

Some of the reactions of those who witnessed the sculpture were:

"It brought tears to my eyes."

"So inspiring."

"It makes you feel gratitude."

"It makes you think."

"Spectacular!"

"Super!"

"Stupendous!"

"Awesome!"

"Astonishing!"

"Incredible!"

"I've never seen anything like it!"

"Magnificent."

"Marvelous."

"How could this have been done? It's unbelievable."

"What a tribute!"

"It's so personal and emotional."

"It touches the mind and the heart."

"No other commemoration for those who died has so much meaning."

"I feel the presence of those who died."

For the sculpture, fifty tons of sand from the five landing beaches: Gold, Juno, Omaha, Sword, and Utah, depicted soldiers landing on the Normandy Beaches.

For the first time in history sand sculptors John Gowdy and Matthew Deibert (United States); Mark Anderson and Edward Dudley (United Kingdom); and Dale Murdock (Canada) created a historically accurate sand sculpture. These sculptors worked for six days, putting in approximately 10 hours each day to create the sculpture. Throngs of thousands from many countries viewed the sculpture as they attended ceremonies marking the 60th Anniversary of D-Day. Of the international community of visitors that visited the "Sands of Remembrance", a Russian woman said emotionally, "It brought tears to my eyes."

The sand sculpture, located in Vierville-sur-Mer on Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, was dedicated on May 30 and remained on exhibit through June 8.

I want to thank the White House Commission on Remembrance, the sculptors who made the Sands of Remembrance a reality, and of course, the men and women who made freedom a reality on the shores of Normandy 60 years ago.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD J. PHILBIN SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, a little more than a week ago, Edward J. Philbin retired as Superintendent of Schools for the Town of Clinton, Massachusetts marking the end of an extraordinary thirty-five year career in public education. As a foreign language teacher, department chair, high school principal and administrator, Ed Philbin earned a well-deserved reputation for passionate and tireless devotion to the education and development of children and young people. On June 24, 2004, a reception attended by more than 200 of his colleagues, family members, former students and friends was held at the Clinton Town Hall to honor his lasting contributions to the communities of Clinton and Worcester. Due to votes scheduled here in the House of Representatives, I was unable to attend that reception to personally express my great respect, deep