

The Aunes worked untold hours to create an outstanding health center to provide a wide variety of services in a local setting, ensuring that many elderly and physically impaired patients will receive needed care without traveling long distances. Don's leadership, coupled with Mary's behind-the-scenes efforts, was the key to opening this long-awaited and greatly needed facility. They deserve our gratitude.

I hope my colleagues will join me today in paying tribute to Don and Mary Aune for their endeavors on behalf of the entire community. The Aune Medical Center stands as a monument to their enterprise and diligence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on November 2, 3, 13, and 14, as well as December 4, 2000, I was detained with business in my District, and therefore unable to cast my votes on rollcall numbers 592 through 599. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 592, 593, 594, 597, 598 and 599; and "nay" on rollcall votes 595 and 596.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRADLEY W. BEAL, NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTOR ON THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize my friend Brad Beal, the President and CEO of the Nevada Federal Credit Union, headquartered in my district in Las Vegas, for his recent election to the board of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). Brad has been a leader in the Nevada credit union movement for over 14 years and I am glad to see him receive this national recognition.

For the last decade, Brad has served as the President and CEO of the Nevada Federal Credit Union, which has over \$550 million in assets in 17 branches throughout Nevada. In this role, Brad has been a leader for over 250 employees at Nevada FCU, and a leader for the credit union community, both in Nevada and at the national level. During my time in Congress, he has kept me fully informed about the issues of concern to the 77,000 members of Nevada FCU and credit unions everywhere. Brad has always been sure to take the time to meet with me when he is in Washington, D.C. or when I am in the District, to keep me and my staff updated.

His election to the NAFCU board culminates a long career in the credit union industry. NAFCU is the national trade association that represents federal credit unions and ensures that their voice is heard in Washington. I congratulate my friend Brad Beal on his recent election to the NAFCU Board and look forward

to continuing to work with him and America's credit unions. I know Brad will be an outstanding voice for credit unions everywhere.

IN HONOR OF BELINDA CUEVAS, WHO IS BEING HONORED AS "AN OUTSTANDING HUMAN BEING" BY THE PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Belinda Cuevas of Perth Amboy, New Jersey for being recognized by the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development as "an outstanding community member" and "an outstanding human being."

Born and raised in Perth Amboy, she has demonstrated a continued commitment to her community through her work with the local school and church. She has served as President of the Parent Teachers Organization at the EJ Patten School, and has served as a catechist and member of the choir at La Asuncion Church for a number of years.

In her devotion to the community, Belinda strives to live up to the inspirational example of her late grandmother Balbina DeJesus Hernandez. The mother of four, Belinda knows the importance of setting a good example for her children, Ava Ivis, Gabriela, Alexander, and Emily Janet. She does her best to teach them the importance of service to the community and love for one's neighbors.

Recently, Belinda performed an extraordinary act of kindness when she donated one of her kidneys to save the life of a fellow Perth Amboy resident, Pedro "Pete" A. Roman. When she learned that he suffered from renal failure, she demonstrated remarkable kindness and selflessness by volunteering to be tested as a donor, and eventually donating her kidney. Pete received this gift of life on July 13, 2000 at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, and both patients have since recovered and returned to work. It is certain that Belinda's exceptional generosity has changed the lives of Pete and his family forever.

For her service to the community of Perth Amboy as well as her unparalleled show of compassion and selflessness, I ask my colleagues to join me in praising Belinda Cuevas as a truly extraordinary member of the community.

A TRIBUTE TO GERRY HERP

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in this chamber today to honor Gerry Herp on the occasion of his retirement. At the end of the season, Gerry Herp will retire as Head Football Coach of Ubyly Community High School in Ubyly, Michigan. He is truly one of the greatest contributors to Michigan athletics in the past fifty years and he will be sorely missed.

In a career beginning in 1963 and spanning five decades, this legend of the gridiron con-

sistently pushed his team to excellence both on and off the football field. On the field, Coach Herp led the Ubyly Bearcats to an impressive lifetime record of 140 wins, 106 losses and two ties. Under his tutelage, the Bearcats have won nine league championships and garnered two play-off appearances since 1983, a record of success which earned him regional Coach of the Year honors on two occasions.

But beyond the yardage gained, the points scored and the championships won, the true and lasting impact of Coach Herp's commitment to his team and the young people of his community can be measured by the impact he had on the hearts and minds of those he coached. During his career, Gerry not only coached football, baseball and women's softball, he also volunteered much of his time to helping disadvantaged youth involved in the Babe Ruth program, endeavors which endeared him to his community and earned him Ubyly's 1999 Friend of Youth honors.

Of course, his many successes could not have been accomplished without the loving support of his wife. Elrae, and their four daughters, Amy, Betsy, Rachel and Jeralyn and stepdaughter, Lori Flippin.

When Gerry Herp officially steps down as Head Football Coach of Ubyly Community High School at the end of this season, he deserves a place of honor among those who strive to ensure the physical health and mental well-being of our youth through athletic programs. On this day, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Gerry on his many victories and wish him well as he cheers on the Bearcats from the stands.

H.R. 5621 MEDICAID DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE (DSH)

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, 2000 I introduced H.R. 5621, the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Fairness Act of 2000. This legislation is identical to a bill which was introduced last month by the senior Senator from Illinois, with the full support of the Administration.

In 1997, Congress enacted the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997 (P.L. 105-33). The stated intent of the legislation was to slow the rate of growth in the Medicare program. Unfortunately, the reductions enacted through the BBA went much deeper than expected. As a result, the net and cumulative effects of the Act have severely reduced Medicare reimbursements to hospitals and health service providers.

I opposed the Balanced Budget Act when it was debated by the House of Representatives in 1997. I believed that it was a bad policy then, and believe that it is a bad policy now.

The BBA reductions have been particularly severe on hospitals in Illinois. In my district, which encompasses the south and west sides of the city of Chicago, there are eleven major hospital facilities which have been devastated by BBA reductions. Multiply the losses across the state, and the impact on services is staggering. In the First Session of the current Congress, I introduced the Health Care Preservation and Accessibility Act of 1999, H.R. 3145,

to provide relief to hospitals, community health centers, and skilled nursing facilities harmed by the excessive reductions of the Balanced Budget Act. Although my legislation was not enacted, the intent of many of its provisions were included in the Medicare Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-113). That legislation helped relieve some of the financial strain placed on hospitals and health providers. However, while hospitals and health care providers still struggle under the economic pressures imposed by the BBA reductions, a new series of proposed reductions threaten financial solvency.

In May of this year, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) issued a notice to state Medicaid directors advising of its intent to revise the Medicaid funding formula known as Intergovernmental Transfers (IGT). This proposed rule would slash an additional \$375 million a year in Medicaid funding for Illinois—a state in which the healthcare system is already devastated by the effects of the Balanced Budget Act—and further endanger critical health services for children, senior citizens and the poor.

Both the state of Illinois and Cook County have diligently and constructively used the IGT funding to enhance the health care system, especially for low-income, uninsured and under insured Chicagoans, over the last 10 years. Although under the Health Care Financing Administration's Notice of Proposed Rule-making, the IGT program changes would be phased-in over a 5 year period, the proposed change would severely cripple the State's ability to provide needed health care services to Illinois citizens.

The legislation, which I have introduced with my colleague in the Senate, is designed to increase the Medicaid Disproportionate Share payments to all states and encourage states to use the DSH program as it was intended—to fund uncompensated health care. By increasing the Medicaid DSH payments, we are acknowledging the burden placed on hospitals that treat a large number of Medicaid and uninsured patients by the Balanced Budget Act and the proposed HCFA regulations.

Enactment of H.R. 5621 would allow Illinois, and all of the states, to continue to make inroads towards ensuring that an extensive safety net of hospitals and health care providers exist to provide care to the most vulnerable groups of society.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support H.R. 5621, and if this Congress fails to act on this legislation, I hope my colleagues will join me in making it a priority in the 107th Congress.

HONORING BERT HAGGERTY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the hard work, dedication, and stewardship Bert Haggerty has given Long Islanders, New Yorkers, and Americans as the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Long Island Branch Office Manager.

Bert Haggerty grew up in Woodside, NY, graduated from St. Ann's Academy and earned a bachelor of business administration

degree from St. John's University. He first worked for Touche Niven and then Olivetti Corporation where he enjoyed a successful 30-year career.

Afterward, he joined the U.S. Government in 1984 as district director of the Small Business Administration and became Assistant to the Regional Administrator for New York's regional office. In 1994, he was appointed manager of the SBA's Long Island office and under his stewardship has become a driving force in Long Island's economic scene.

Throughout his tenure as manager, he tripled the number of loans to Long Island's small businesses and significantly increased the amount of capital available to nearly \$1 billion.

Bert Haggerty will be missed by the Long Island community. I wish him and his family a fruitful and enjoyable retirement.

IN HONOR OF JULES J. BONAVOLONTA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Jules J. Bonavolonta, this year's recipient of the North Ward Center's Monsignor Geno Baroni Award.

The North Ward Center provides educational, cultural, and social programs to improve the quality of life for thousands of Essex County residents. Each year, the Center pays tribute to the life of the late Monsignor Baroni, a man whose dedication to the less fortunate was an integral force behind the Center's development and success. The Center honors the Monsignor by recognizing a community leader, who best exemplifies the life, spirit, and commitment of this inspirational man.

Mr. Bonavolonta was chosen as the honoree this year based on his service to the country in the military, his contributions to the fight against crime, and his rise to success in the business world.

A native of Newark, New Jersey, Mr. Bonavolonta grew up in the Essex County Parish of Sacred Heart Cathedral. He is the son of Italian immigrant Ralph Bonavolonta and American-born Mary Bonavolonta. He attended St. Benedict's Prep and received his Bachelor's and his Master's Degree in Public Administration from Seton Hall University in 1975. During more than six years of service as a Green Beret in the U.S. Special Forces during the Vietnam War, Mr. Bonavolonta returned to the U.S. a highly decorated veteran. He was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star with "V" for Valor (1st Oak Leaf Cluster), Purple Heart, Air Medal (1st Oak Leaf Cluster), and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

Upon Mr. Bonavolonta's return, he began his 23-year career of exceptional and dedicated service to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In this capacity, he spearheaded the efforts to combat organized crime in this country. As Chief of the Organized Crime and Narcotics Division of the FBI's New York City Office, he was instrumental in securing the indictments and convictions that made the 1980's the FBI's most successful decade in the battle against organized crime.

Mr. Bonavolonta now serves as Vice Chairman of MBNA America Bank, N.A. He and his

wife Linda have been married for 32 years. They have two children, Maria and Joseph.

For his many accomplishments and for his service to the country, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Bonavolonta, a very deserving recipient of this year's Monsignor Geno Baroni Award.

FAREWELL SALUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL" CLAY

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, there are no new and original accolades that I can add to the many phrases of praise already accorded our retiring Member, WILLIAM "BILL" CLAY. When he arrived during the age of the afro haircut, BILL CLAY had a chest full of invisible medals from the Movement. He helped to guide the years of maximum Congressional Black Caucus solidarity, the time of CLAY, Dellums, CONYERS, Stokes and RANGEL. Those were the days when CBC Members were wise enough not to scramble single handedly for their committee assignment deals. In unison, the Black representatives demanded placements for the good of their local and their Black national constituency. Leadership was forced to seat Peacenick Dellums on the Armed Services Committee where the good old boys refused to give the brother a chair at the table to sit down. The radical CLAY and his conspirators went on the propose the first CBC Dinner against the wishes of prominent White liberal allies. Further into the reign of CLAY, the Voting Rights Act became a reality; and still later sanctions were imposed on South Africa. And the proposal for a Martin Luther King Holiday which started as an impossible dream finally concluded as a magnificent monument to the forward movement of race relations in America. At this point, Mr. Speaker, I wish to associate myself with the numerous other tributes that have already been recorded for our former Postal and Civil Service Committee chairman, and the ranking Democrat on Education and the Workforce. Congressman CLAY is one of the last of the CBC original pioneers. It is important to note that with the recent election of William "Lacy" Clay, his son, the Clay genes will fortunately be remaining in Congress. The following Rap Poem is my final salute to the gentleman from Missouri who now we draft into our "Corps of National American Statesmen", WILLIAM "BILL" CLAY.

BILL CLAY: THE ST. LOUIS CHOICE
(By Congressman Major R. Owens)

Now is the time
To lift high every voice,
Join us to celebrate
Achievements of the St. Louis Choice.
Go ahead and loudly sing,
Let fading memories
Rise and sting;
This St. Louis militant
Earned progress
The old fashioned way—
He jumped in the man's face
To save the day.
Pushing straight ahead,
to mad to be afraid,
Nobody forgets
The trouble he made,
Every cent of dues daily he paid,