

People, AARP, in 2005 Florida was ranked number one in the highest population above the age of 65 at 16.8 percent. AARP estimates that Florida will continue to be ranked number one in this category and by 2020 21.8 percent of Floridians will be above the age of 65.

Long-term care can be provided in a few different ways. According to the National Long-Term Care Study, NLTCS, 60 percent of those over the age of 65 live alone, increasing their need for long-term care. With regard to nursing homes, a study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that people who reach age 65 have a 40 percent chance of entering a nursing home. About 10 percent of the people who enter a nursing home will stay there 5 years or more. More than nursing homes, adult children or grandchildren are cited as the main caregivers to the elderly population. According to research conducted by the American Association of Retired People, AARP, two-thirds of older people with disabilities relied solely on "informal" help; approximately 75 percent of which was unpaid care from friends and family. With the leading elderly percent population in the country, 13.8 percent of Florida citizens 18 and above are caregivers. The AARP found that the total economic value of this type of caregiving was \$350 billion in 2006, which is more than what was spent on all "formal," hospice, paid caregiver, nursing home, etc . . . long-term care, including both institutional and home and community-based services.

Long-term care is a variety of services that includes medical and non-medical care to people who have a chronic illness or disability. Long-term care can be provided at home, in the community, in assisted living, or in nursing homes. While long-term care is often used for the elderly, it is important to remember that you may need long-term care at any age.

While there are a variety of ways to pay for long-term care, it is important to think ahead about how you will fund the care you get. Generally, Medicare doesn't pay for long-term care. Medicare pays only for medically necessary skilled nursing facility or home health care.

With an ever aging population and the variety of services provided by long-term care, most families at one point or another are forced to make a decision regarding the future of a loved one who needs assistance with everyday living. These decisions are limited and costly, and many find themselves struggling between the high price of institutionalization or informal family care. In an effort to alleviate the financial and emotional burden that families find themselves under, I have introduced the Long-term Care Retirement and Security Act of 2008.

This legislation would amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow a deduction for eligible long-term care insurance premiums for a taxpayer and the taxpayer's spouse and dependents; and a credit for eligible caregivers caring for certain individuals with long-term care needs. This legislation has three provisions. The first two detail the major elements of the legislation regarding deductions and credits. The final part of the bill deals with consumer protections. Specifically this legislation would:

Permit individuals to make a tax deduction in an amount equal to the "applicable percentage" of eligible long-term premiums. An "Applicable Percentage" is defined as 25 percent

in 2009/2010, 35 percent in 2011, 65 percent in 2012, and 100 percent thereafter.

These dedications would create incentives for individuals and by 2017 the number of individual LTC policy holders will increase by 9 percent and 8 percent of individuals will increase the richness of their policy.

Require coordination of deductions and prohibits an individual from making the same deductions twice.

Permit long-term care deductions to be made under cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements.

Under cafeteria plans 12 percent increase in the number of active employees with LTC policies by 2017, as well as, flexible spending accounts creating an incentive for individuals to enroll in FSAs and use their funds towards LTC.

Establish an "applicable credit" for caregivers of those with long-term care needs. An "applicable credit" refers to \$1,500 in 2009, \$2,000 in 2010, \$2,500 in 2011, and \$3,000 for 2012 and thereafter. The applicable credit is multiplied by the number of individuals with respect to whom the taxpayer is an eligible caregiver.

Establish consumer protections based on the National Association of Insurance Commissioners recommendations for qualified long-term care policies.

Creating incentives and helping families to afford long-term care insurance will encourage many more Americans to take personal responsibility for their long-term care needs, not only providing more LTC coverage for Floridians but preserving public funds for those who need them.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support this important tool for all Americans' financial and health security.

RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF ICERD

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe to introduce a resolution which recognizes the enduring value of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, ICERD, as a cornerstone of global efforts to combat racial discrimination and uphold human rights.

To monitor the implementation of this important agreement a number of multinational organizations continue to cooperate as partners, including the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, CERD; the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, ODIHR; the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, ECRI; and the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency, EUFRA.

Recently, CERD held its 72nd session in Geneva, Switzerland to review anti-discrimination efforts undertaken by the Governments of Fiji, Italy, the United States, Belgium, Nicaragua, Moldova, and the Dominican Republic. At this session, the United States received a response to its April 2007 report it submitted

to CERD detailing measures taken to adhere to the convention. The "Concluding Observations" which CERD responded with includes a number of important achievements that we should be proud of as Americans, but also a number of challenges we must still unite together to address. Until the displaced of Hurricane Katrina are housed and hate crimes are eliminated from our streets and workplaces, we must be vigilant in our quest to be the world leader in tolerance.

Madam Speaker, I call my colleagues to join me in reaffirming the commitment that the United States has made in ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. This resolution is the first step in recognizing the value of this international commitment, and I look forward to working with my colleagues toward its expedited passage.

CONGRATULATING FAYE BALMONTE VARIAS ON BEING NAMED THE 2008 SMALL BUSINESS JOURNALIST CHAMPION OF THE YEAR FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Faye Balcombe Varias on being named the United States Small Business Administration 2008 Small Business Journalist Champion of the Year for Guam.

Ms. Varias began her nearly 10-year-long career as a freelance writer for multiple publications, and today, she serves as the editor for Glimpses of Guam, one of the island's leading publishing and advertising agencies. As editor, she has been instrumental in the development and expansion of the Guam Business Journal, Marine Drive Magazine, and R&R Pacific. Through these publications, Ms. Varias has brought exceptional editorial coverage of Guam's small business news.

Ms. Varias' community efforts cross the spectrum. She has volunteered in schools, organized award-winning events, and committed to teaching our youth about the journalism profession. I congratulate Faye Balcombe Varias on her professional success thus far, and I join our island in celebrating her national recognition as Guam's U.S. Small Business Administration 2008 Small Business Journalist Champion of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO THE PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Portland State University men's basketball team on achieving their first-ever birth to the NCAA Division I Championship Tournament. The Vikings capped off their historic season with a 67-51 win in the Big Sky Conference Championship game over

Northern Arizona University at the Rose Garden in Portland. PSU finished their regular season with a 29–2 record, and were undefeated in the Big Sky Conference Tournament. On Sunday, the Vikings will learn who they will play in the first round of the “Big Dance.”

The NCAA Tournament is one of the great institutions in all of collegiate sports. It brings together the best college teams from across our Nation to compete for basketball’s greatest prize. Oregon is proud of every one of these outstanding young men and their coaches.

It is also fitting that we should take this opportunity to recognize the entire Portland State community. As Oregon’s largest university, PSU is a source of pride for our state. The Viking’s athletic achievements reflect the spirit and work ethic of their university, and I am proud to honor their achievement today.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize each member of the PSU men’s basketball team individually, beginning with Head Coach Ken Bone, Assistant Head Coach Tyler Geving, Assistant Coaches Curtis Allen and Eric Harper, and Director of Basketball Operations Tyler Coston. Furthermore, I congratulate the 2007–2008 PSU Viking’s: Brian Curtis, Jeremiah Dominguez, Justynn Hammond, Deonte Huff, Jaime Jones, Lucas Dupree, Tyrell Mara, J.R. Moore, Scott Morison, Andre Murray, Phil Nelson, Mickey Polis, Julius Thomas, Alex Tiefenthaler and Dominic Walters.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating these outstanding young men. On behalf of the entire state of Oregon, congratulations and good luck. Go Vikings!

SEATTLE TIMES EDITORIAL: A
CHANCE TO STAND UP

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following article from Monday, March 10, 2008 into the RECORD:

A CHANCE TO STAND UP

Congress has a chance to do what the Federal Communications Commission did not. Protect democracy and serve the public.

The Senate can start by adopting North Dakota Democrat Sen. Byron Dorgan’s “resolution of disapproval.” The grumpy-sounding legislation would scrap a new FCC rule that lifts the cross-ownership ban, which forbade a company from owning a newspaper, television station and radio station in the same market. The FCC adopted a sneaky new rule change in December. Commission Chairman Kevin Martin portrayed the new rule as restrained because it would only apply to the nation’s top 20 media markets. A closer reading reveals that it is far-reaching, allowing for exceptions.

Not encouraging, considering the FCC’s demonstrated willingness to hand out exemptions to its rules.

The FCC’s troubling rush to appease big media conglomerates must be checked. The public was overwhelmingly against media concentration at every FCC hearing in the past couple of years. The commission not only ignored its public-interest charge, but also disregarded its own studies that showed the damage done to local news by consolidation.

This is not the first time the Senate has pushed back against the FCC. A resolution was broadly supported in 2003 to block an earlier FCC attempt to abolish the cross-ownership ban. Republican opposition was led by Sen. John McCain. The vote ended up being symbolic because the Republican-held House refused to enact its own resolution.

Washington has changed since 2003. Expect the Senate to get this resolution through, and for the House to follow.

More media consolidation will further gut the news outlets that are essential to maintaining a vigorous, informed democracy. Congress has a chance to slap the FCC back into line, while protecting the public at the same time.

HONORING U.S. SENATOR HOWARD
METZENBAUM

HON. STEVEN C. LaTOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Howard Metzenbaum, the tenacious and scrapping Senator from the State of Ohio who died this week at the age of 90.

I never had the privilege of serving in the Congress with Senator Metzenbaum, as he retired the same year I was elected. Nevertheless, I followed his career closely from the sidelines and admired him because he was so truly authentic and larger than life. Agree with him or not, he was one of the most important political figures in our State in the last century. I respected Senator Metzenbaum because he was so true to himself and his core beliefs and values, even when they were immensely unpopular. He was unflinchingly liberal and made no apologies for it. The Buckeye State—long before we’d been tagged red or blue—consistently rewarded him at the polls for his fighting spirit and his “don’t mess with me” attitude.

In Metzenbaum, Ohioans had a tenacious, extraordinarily hard-working and committed Senator who helped elevate so many issues of importance to Ohioans to the national stage. One of his most remarkable accomplishments, in my estimation, was giving workers 60 days notice of plant closings, a scenario that has become all too familiar in our State. He is best known for championing workers’ rights and the middle class, challenging and aggravating corporate America, and ferreting out wasteful spending. Yet, he had a soft and compassionate side as well, and led the effort to change the law to make it easier to adopt a child of a different race. That one legislative victory made adoption a reality for countless families, and gave so many children a loving home.

Howard Metzenbaum was a man of remarkable wealth, yet he chose to devote so much of his life to public service. He brought to Washington the same work ethic that he’d bestowed on his business affairs, and never seemed to slow down or coast as his years in the Senate stretched on. He left the institution just as feisty and combative as he’d arrived.

Today, far too many politicians’ choices are guided by polling data, focus groups and the ramblings of pundits and talk show hosts. Senator Metzenbaum left public life before the Internet took hold and the media feeding frenzies crested, yet I have to believe that the Jun-

ior Senator from Ohio wouldn’t have been tamed or tempered by talk radio, 24-hour news cycles or the blogosphere. To the contrary, I think it would have emboldened the unapologetic, unabashed and ferocious liberal who, against many odds, earned the respect and support of so many Ohioans.

This week, Ohio and the Cleveland area lost a political giant. My thoughts and prayers are with the Metzenbaum family.

REAUTHORIZING THE COASTAL
ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, nearly half of the population of the United States lives along our country’s 95,331 miles of ocean and Great Lakes coastline. The 153 million people who live and work in the coastal zone—roughly 11 percent of the total U.S. land area—contribute tens of billions of dollars to our national economy. For example, roughly \$700 billion in cargo and merchandise moves through our country’s ports on an annual basis.

While the country’s coastal zone remains intrinsically linked to our entire economy, coastal regions are also home to a variety of incredibly valuable natural resources, such as commercial fisheries, coral reefs, coastal estuaries and wetlands, mineral resources, and vital fish and wildlife habitat. Moreover, at a time when our economy and the environment are both in need of attention, and when cooperation between the Federal government and the States and territories has never been more essential to address future challenges created by a changing climate, it is important for the Congress to reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). Reauthorization of this Act re-emphasizes the importance of maintaining a balanced management approach in this critical geographic area.

The initial passage in 1972 of the Coastal Zone Management Act championed an innovative and forward-thinking strategy to address the complexity of issues, the needs of individual States and territories, and the national interest to ensure the long-term, sensible management of the country’s entire coastal zone. The Act was designed as a voluntary federal-state partnership. States and territories receive cost sharing grants to develop and subsequently implement State management programs that comply with broad Federal policies. For example, State and territorial coastal zone management programs encourage comprehensive planning to enable both the protection and development of coastal lands where possible. State and territorial coastal programs also strive to restore and enhance coastal resources, perpetuate water-dependent uses and preserve coastal public access.

States and territories also gained an equal authority, known generally as “Federal Consistency” to review all Federal agency activities or Federally-permitted activities for the