Teheran and Khartoum are fully aware of Kenya's importance. Kenya is situated immediately adjacent to Sudan and Somalia and acts as a containing buffer against the southward spread of radical and Islamic activity. If Kenya was to embrace the radicalism being pushed down on it from Khartoum, and the anomy flowing down from Mogadishu, then any hope for stability in eastern and central Africa would be lost.

President Daniel T. Arap Moi of Kenya has so far resisted the spread of radicalism and Islamism. Kenya acts, and could act even more, as a potential source of stability for the entire central and east Africa.

Kenya has traditionally been a pro-Western free market culture as a nation-state. In this regard, Nairobi sets an example for, and acts in a leadership capacity to, the other nations of sub-Saharan Africa. President Arap Moi's ongoing commitment to Western-type ideals acts as a benchmark in sub-Saharan Africa.

Kenya has usually aligned itself with the United States and Britain in global strategic matters, and has often provided a bridge to the developing world. Now, as the so-called developing world becomes a far more dynamic and unstable strategic element in its own right, the availability of that bridge which Kenya offers is of even greater importance to Washington.

STANDARDIZE MEDICARE COVERAGE FOR BONE DENSITY TESTING

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 1997

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, osteoporosis is a major public health problem affecting 28 million Americans, who either have the disease or are at risk due to low bone mass; 80 percent are women. The disease causes 1.5 million fractures annually at a cost of $13.8 billion—$38 million per day—in direct medical expenses, and osteoporotic fractures cost the Medicare Program 3 percent of its overall costs. In their lifetimes, one in two women and one in eight men over the age of 50 will fracture a bone due to osteoporosis. A woman's risk of a hip fracture is equal to her combined risk of contracting breast, uterine, and ovarian cancer.

Osteoporosis is largely preventable and thousands of fractures could be avoided if low bone mass was detected early and treated. We now have drugs that promise to reduce fractures by 50 percent. However, identification of risk factors alone cannot predict how much bone a person has and how strong bone is. Experts estimate that without bone density tests, up to 40 percent of women with low bone mass could be missed.

Unfortunately, Medicare's coverage of bone density tests is inconsistent. Instead of national coverage of scientifically approved types of bone density tests, Medicare leaves decisions to local Medicare insurance carriers. The definition of who is qualified to receive a bone mass measurement varies from carrier to carrier. Some carriers require beneficiaries to have suffered substantial bone loss before allowing coverage for a bone density test. For example, in about 20 States, the carriers require x-ray proof of low bone mass or other abnormalities. Unfortunately, standard x-ray tests do not reveal osteoporosis until 25 to 40 percent of bone mass has been lost.

One carrier allows a premenopausal woman to have a DXA test to determine whether hormone replacement therapy [HRT] is indicated. However, it does not allow the test to determine treatment for the postmenopausal women—the majority of Medicare beneficiaries. Other carriers have no specific rules to guide reimbursement and cover the tests on a haphazard case-by-case basis.

Frequency of testing also varies from carrier to carrier. Retesting is important to monitor treatment, yet only eight States specifically allow coverage for people who are under treatment for osteoporosis.

Inconsistency of bone mass measurement coverage policy is confusing and unfair to beneficiaries. Today, Congresswoman NANCY JOHNSON and I, along with 23 of our colleagues, are introducing the Medicare Bone Mass Measurement Coverage Standardization Act. The bill would eliminate the confusion and standardize Medicare's coverage of bone mass measurement tests in order to avoid some of the 1.5 million fractures caused annually by osteoporosis. Considering that bone density tests are already covered by every Medicare carrier, this bill will not add significantly to the cost of the Medicare Program.

I urge my colleagues to join us as cosponsors of this important legislation.

HONORING MONTEBELLO CHIEF OF POLICE ''STEVE'' SIMONIAN FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Montebello Chief of Police George Stephen Simonian. On Saturday, March 8, 1997, Steve's family, friends and colleagues at the city of Montebello honored him for his many years of service to the greater Montebello community.

Steve began his career as a police officer for the city of Montebello at the young age of 21, performing duties as assigned, including traffic patrol, report writing, radio dispatcher, and desk information officer. Five years later, he was one of the first officers to achieve senior officer rank. He was given the duties of a patrol officer with merit pay, in addition to training and supervisorial responsibilities. Quickly moving up the ranks, the next year, Steve was promoted to narcotics detective, where he investigated violations of narcotics laws and arrested violators. This developed into an undercover position, with Steve working as a consultant to other agencies, due to his expertise in this field.

In September 1979, Steve was again promoted, to the rank of sergeant. He remained in intelligence, supervising the unit while instilling the high standards of performance that remain today. In August 1982, Steve was selected to supervise the newly consolidated narcotics and intelligence unit. Under his leadership, narcotics seizures rose dramatically, and conviction rates increased. In 1985, Steve was promoted to the rank of captain, and 3 years later to the rank of deputy police chief. On July 1, 1989, Steve was promoted to chief of police, responsible for overseeing the operations and activities of the city of Montebello's police department.

Throughout his career with the Montebello Police Department, Steve has received over 29 awards from Federal, State and local agencies, including the American Legion's Police Officer of the Year, and has twice been bestowed with the city of Montebello's highest management award, ''Manager of the Year,'' an accomplishment unmatched by any other city official. In addition to the numerous awards he has received, Steve has maintained membership in several professional organizations throughout his career, including the California Peace Officers Association; Latino Peace Officers Association; Oriental Peace Officers Association; International Footprint Association; San Gabriel Valley Chiefs Association; president-elect of the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association; and the Los Angeles County Anti-Drug Abuse Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a good friend and distinguished public servant, Montebello Chief of Police Steve Simonian. I proudly join the city of Montebello in honoring Steve for his lifetime of contributions to public safety and law enforcement in the greater Montebello community.

TRIBUTE TO ERIN WATSON

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 1997

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct the Voice of Democracy broadcast scripting contest. This year more than 109,000 secondary school students participated in the contest competing for the 54 national scholarships which were distributed among the 54 national winners. The contest theme this year was ''Democracy-Above and Beyond.''

I am proud to announce that Ms. Erin Watson from my district won the 1997 Voice of Democracy broadcast scripting contest for the entire State of North Carolina. A senior at Franklin High School in Franklin, NC, Erin is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mart T. Watson of Franklin. This is indeed an honor of which all North Carolinians can be proud.

The Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program was started 50 years ago by the National Association of Broadcasters, Electronic Industries Association, and State Association of Broadcasters. In 1960, the Veterans of Foreign Wars assumed sole sponsorship responsibility. That year, a total of four scholarships were presented, totaling $3,750.

Under VFW sponsorship, the annual national scholarships have increased to 55 fully funded scholarships totaling $125,000. During this past year, 117,000 students participated, 7,900 schools, 5,200 VFW posts, and 4,200 Ladies Auxiliaries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in saluting Erin Watson for contributions made to her country, North Carolina, and the Franklin community. She is a shining Example of what young people should be today