

world of politics in 2008, serving on Hillary Rodham Clinton's Presidential campaign.

The life and accomplishments of Geraldine Ferraro opened the doors of American politics and the hearts and minds of thousands of women seeking to make a difference. She was an inspiration to me and thousands of women considering the challenge of a future in politics and government. Our country will always be grateful for her leadership. She will surely be remembered for her unique leadership, and her belief that, "America is the land where dreams can come true for all of us."

1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HEALTH REFORM LAW

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, as we pass the 1-year anniversary since health care reform was signed into law, I rise to recognize how much it has benefitted thousands in my State. South Dakotans now have a fair shake when it comes to buying health coverage and increased protections from some of the worst abuses of the health insurance industry.

I have heard from far too many who thought they were protected by their health insurance, only to find they faced arbitrary annual or lifetime limits on benefits. Some were even dropped entirely from their coverage when they needed it the most. Health reform has already put an end to these practices, and is giving hard-working Americans the security of reliable coverage.

Commonsense changes that had been supported by Republicans and Democrats in Congress for years are also now in effect. Children are no longer at risk for being denied coverage due to a preexisting condition like asthma or diabetes. Young adults are now able to stay on their parent's health care plan until age 26, extending coverage as many transition from education to the workforce.

Over 129,000 South Dakota seniors are already seeing improvements to Medicare, including eliminated copayments for preventive care like immunizations and annual wellness visits. Last year over 11,945 Medicare beneficiaries in our State reached the gap in prescription drug coverage, known as the donut hole, and received a one-time \$250 rebate to help pay for prescriptions. These beneficiaries will continue to receive deep discounts until the donut hole is completely closed in the years ahead.

Health reform also expands Medicare beneficiaries' access to care by providing a 10-percent Medicare bonus payment for primary care providers and for general surgeons practicing in health professional shortage areas. It also puts in place important changes to our health care delivery system to ensure we are paying for the quality of patient care and health outcomes, rather than quantity of tests and procedures performed.

Not only has this law benefited South Dakotans, but these improvements have taken place without harming our economic recovery. Since the President signed the Affordable Care Act into law a year ago, the economy has grown at an average rate of 2.7 percent, and nearly 1.4 million private sector jobs have been created.

As Congress looks for ways to get our deficit in line, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office recently estimated that reform will reduce the deficit by a total of \$210 billion over the next 10 years and by more than \$1 trillion over the next 20 years.

We must be realistic about this law in that it cannot fix all the problems with our health care delivery system overnight. But I supported reform to give our Nation the best chance at improving the system while reigning in costs. There is room for improvements, and if there is a good idea out there, I want to hear it.

What we cannot afford, however, is to turn back the clock on all the improvements the American people have seen in the last year, and will continue to experience as this law is fully implemented in the coming years.

REMEMBERING JOE ANTONIO SILVERSMITH

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, the Navajo Code Talkers were a small group of marines who contributed to the American victory in the Pacific during World War II. Their language and their bravery made victory possible and helped save Allied soldiers' lives.

These Navajo warriors have one less man among their ranks today. My home State of New Mexico and the Navajo Nation lost a great man on February 28, 2011, when Joe Antonio Silversmith passed away at the age of 86. I would like to take a few moments to honor Mr. Silversmith's memory and his service to our country.

In 1943, as a young man of only 18, Mr. Silversmith heeded the call of duty and enlisted in the 297th Marine Platoon. He served in the South Pacific until 1946.

Mr. Silversmith and the 45,000 other Native Americans who enlisted to serve our country in World War II had only been recognized as citizens of the United States for 17 years when World War II began. Approximately 400 of these men, including Mr. Silversmith, served as Code Talkers—turning their native language into a powerful code, unbreakable by the Japanese.

In 2001, Mr. Silversmith finally received the recognition he deserved for his heroic World War II service when he and his fellow Code Talkers received the Congressional Gold Medal.

For Mr. Silversmith, his service to others did not end with his military career. A man of strong personal faith, he eventually became a full-time minister after returning to New Mexico.

For those who knew him, Mr. Silversmith's devotion to his flocks—dem-

onstrated through his dedication to his congregation and, more literally, his love of herding of sheep—will be remembered fondly.

A man of courage, a hero to his family and the American people, and a role model to young Navajos, Mr. Silversmith stood up for his ideals. He encouraged those he knew to pursue their dreams, but to never forget their roots.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Silversmith, his fellow Code Talkers, and all those who have sacrificed in service to our country. Let's honor Mr. Silversmith by heeding his advice to keep our roots close to our hearts while striving to achieve our own lofty goals for the widest influence of good.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WESTMINSTER, COLORADO

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the city of Westminster that lies along Colorado's Front Range. The city of Westminster will observe this significant milestone on April 4, 2011.

Westminster is the seventh most populous city in the State of Colorado. It has had a rich history since the first homesteaders arrived in 1870, shortly after the discovery of gold in the South Platte River Valley. The Land Act of 1862 encouraged many settlers to make Colorado their home instead of heading on to California.

The population of the town gradually increased over several decades, and by 1910, public services such as water access were needed to support the community. The village of Harris, named after C.J. Harris, was incorporated as the town of Westminster, CO, on April 4, 1911, by a citizen vote of 29 in favor and 6 opposed. The town was named for Westminster University, which was built in the 1890s on Crown Point.

The town of Westminster continued to grow and soon became the center for some of the largest apple and cherry orchards in the country. Northwest of Denver, Westminster remained a quiet rural town until the 1950s when the Colorado State Highway Department constructed the Denver-Boulder Turnpike, bisecting Westminster and contributing to the town's growth.

A 21-member charter Westminster convention was elected to draft and review a new charter, which was approved by voters in January of 1958.

Providing a safe and adequate water supply has been at the forefront of Westminster's growth since incorporation. The town took a proactive approach to dealing with the community's rapid growth by creating the Growth Management Plan in 1977 that called for allocating service commitments as a method to manage water and other key resources.

Westminster has balanced growth with the establishment of an open space program. In 1986, the town sought