

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM "BILL"
GORDON

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Mr. William "Bill" Gordon and recognize his contributions to the State of Connecticut and our shared hometown of Cheshire, Connecticut. Bill passed away on July 9, 2018 at the age of 85, after a long life of dedicated service to our community.

Bill was born and raised in Delmar, New York. It was here, at Bethlehem Central High School, where Bill fell in love with athletics. Bill would go on to be a star running back and track athlete in high school before receiving his Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Wesleyan University. After college, Bill was drafted into the Army where he served in post-war Korea. Bill continued to excel in athletics as a member of the Army football and track teams, and even returned to the U.S. early to participate in the All Army Meet.

Bill returned to Connecticut in 1958 and began his career at Traveler's Insurance in Hartford. He then went back to school, this time at the University of Connecticut, where he earned his Master of Business Administration degree and became a devoted Huskies fan. Bill went on to work at Colonial Bank before subsequently joining and leading Eastern Management Services. Even with his busy professional career, Bill was an active member of our Cheshire community, serving on various civic and town boards, with particular devotion over the decades to both the Cheshire Rotary Club and First Congregational Church on the Green in Cheshire. In every one of these organizations Bill sought to make a difference in the lives of his friends and neighbors.

As someone who has known and worked with Bill for nearly 25 years at First Church, I am enormously grateful for his friendship, wisdom, humor and judgement. Bill was one of those rare people who was admired by all who knew him and I count myself fortunate to have had the benefit of his guidance and good heart. I will miss him greatly.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Gordon led a remarkable career and enthusiastically lent his talents to improve the Town of Cheshire and State of Connecticut. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor his life and memory here today. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Marilyn Gordon, and all of his family. We mourn Bill's loss, but celebrate his extraordinary legacy.

COMMEMORATING 53RD ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 53rd Anniversary of the passage of Medicaid and Medicare, two of the most beneficial and consequential government programs ever launched.

On July 30, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Medicare and Medicaid into law as part of the Social Security Act and in the process made good on the commitments made by Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and John Kennedy to provide health security to Americans in their old age.

Medicare is a promise kept to those who have contributed a lifetime to our nation so they could enjoy their golden years with peace of mind and the security of reliable, affordable, and high quality healthcare.

Likewise, Medicaid created a crucial partnership between the government and the people to provide a basic health care safety net for the most vulnerable Americans: children of adults with low incomes, persons with disabilities, and the poor.

Mr. Speaker, 53 years later, the legacy of these programs have proven how effective and critical government action can be to the life and wellbeing of our nation's most vulnerable.

In 1965, almost half of all Americans aged 65 and older had no health coverage, living in fear that the colossal healthcare costs would drive them and their families into poverty.

Today, because of Medicare, over 98 percent of seniors have health insurance, which has led to a five-year increase in life expectancy for those over 65.

Today, 55 million Americans rely on Medicare for health care, ranging from preventive services, hospital visits, lab tests, to critical medical supplies, and prescription drugs.

It is difficult for some to imagine what 1965 was really like, when today affordable, accessible and available health insurance is a reality for so many people living with disabilities.

Before Medicaid was enacted, children from poor families, pregnant women, and low-income working Americans were not able to afford even the most basic medical care they needed to remain healthy and productive.

When the legislation was first passed, many claimed that Medicaid would not live up to its promise; but today, because of expansion of Medicaid through passage of the Affordable Care Act, the program provides comprehensive coverage for over 70 million children, pregnant women, low-income adults, and people living with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, it cannot be seriously disputed that Medicare and Medicaid have changed our country and made it better.

In my home state of Texas and in communities across the country, both programs have significantly changed the lives and improved health outcomes of many Americans over the past century and represent the best of American values.

Unfortunately, Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured in the nation, and Texas' refusal to participate in the Medicaid expansion created by the Affordable Care act puts the poor residents of my state in jeopardy.

So the 53rd anniversary of Medicaid is bittersweet for Texans because while we celebrate a program that has saved lives, helped people live longer, expanded care to marginalizes communities, and reduced disparities in access to healthcare, thousands of low income Texans still do not have the peace of mind that comes with access to affordable, quality health care enjoyed by low-income residents of states that have expanded their Medicaid program with funds made possible by the Affordable Care Act.

In the 18th Congressional District of Texas there are 195,400 persons with Medicaid and 74,704 with medical care provided by Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents favor the Affordable Care Act because they understand the insecurity and feeling of helplessness of being uninsured or underinsured.

Like Medicare and Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act, or "Obamacare," was vehemently opposed and derided by its adversaries, who said it was too costly, would not work, was unnecessary, or would change the character of America for the worse.

Like the critics of Social Security, Medicare, and the G.I. Bill, all of whom are silent now, they are wrong.

The Affordable Care Act has been an unqualified success.

This historic legislation has extended affordable health coverage to tens of millions of Americans, and has helped to bring and peace of mind to many of those for whom relief seemed far out of reach.

The Affordable Care Act was driven by a simple premise: that citizens of the most prosperous nation on earth should not be forced to choose between their health and their financial security.

Since the passage of the ACA in 2010, the number of uninsured Americans has fallen by nearly one-third, or roughly 16 million people.

These Americans come from all walks of life.

They are women, who can no longer be denied coverage or be forced to pay exorbitant amounts for coverage simply because of their sex.

They are nine million seniors and persons with disabilities, who have saved an average of \$1,600 on expensive and lifesaving prescription medication.

And they are this country's most at risk citizens; people who are working hard and struggling make ends meet while living in near-poverty, and who have been covered by Medicaid expansion in 32 states and the District of Columbia.

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