

The Great Depression is yet another potentially disastrous predicament that America has had to face. The United States' economy was in shambles. It was not only an economic depression but a social depression as well. Unemployment was at an all time high. Yet again there were those who said that, "capitalism has failed, its the end of this nation." Children were starving, families were destroyed, and American citizens were without hope. Through the midst of this terrible time, a great leader came to the forefront. He showed the American people that there was hope. He promised them that America could pull through this evil beast, called the Great Depression. Franklin Delano Roosevelt had a vision for America. Roosevelt knew that America could quickly become the worlds largest economic and militaristic super power. Franklin Roosevelt never saw the day when America became what he dreamed it to be. His vision is still very much alive in this country and will continue to be alive as long as American citizens are students of its history.

These two men contributed more to this nation than we will ever realize. Their visions are still very much a part of this country. However, their visions are not the only visions that have influenced America. Every citizen of this nation has had a vision for America's future. For example, Susan B. Anthony had a very simple vision. It was a vision in which all Americans had the right to vote.

Henry Ford had a vision in which all the people of this country could afford and own their own car. The Wright brothers dreamed of an America in which people could travel through the air to get to their destinations. These visions for America were not just fantasies that only existed in these dreamer's heads, but they were attainable ideals that many other American's shared with them.

What is my vision for America? It is one of idealism, but attainable idealism. I see an America in which citizens can put faith in those that govern them. I see an America in which if you destroy the United States Flag, the very symbol of our freedom and our pride, not only will you be breaking a federal law but you will be directly defying the United States Constitution. My vision for America is one in which we stand proud of those that have served this nation so well, both in military service and civilian service. I foresee a nation where school children are no longer afraid of violence in their own schools. I dream of the day when the people of this nation can once again stroll the streets in safety. I look forward to an America where people are proud of it and its rich history. This is my vision for America.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEDICARE PROGRAM'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 30th anniversary of the Medicare Program—three decades of commitment, service, and dedication to providing for the health care needs of our Nation's elderly citizens. Signed into law on July 30, 1965, by President Johnson, the Medicare Program has a rich history that all Americans can be proud of.

Prior to Medicare only 46 percent of the elderly had health care coverage, as a result of Medicare, today 97 percent of the Nation's elderly have health care coverage.

After the implementation of the Medicare Program, the death rates for all causes decreased dramatically. From 1960 to the present, the number of deaths for Americans ages 65 to 74 has decreased by over a quarter of a million—275,000—and for those over the age of 85 the number of deaths has decreased by nearly half million—427,000.

With good medical care, the life expectancy for Americans had increased by 6.1 years, increasing from 69.7 years prior to Medicare, to 75.8 years today.

In spite of Medicare's proven success in prolonging elderly Americans' independence, and its success in improving their quality of life, the Republicans have been steadfast in their commitment to kill the Medicare Program. Since day 1, they have attacked the Medicare Program from all angles—labeling it as socialized medicine, unnecessary, and ill-conceived.

Thirty years after the establishment of the Medicare Program, the Republican assault had not only continued, but as escalated and become even more mean spirited. Today, the GOP seeks to destroy the Medicare Program through the budget process. The Republican-passed budget resolution cuts \$270 billion out of the Medicare Program, threatening the health of millions of American elderly.

While the Republicans have never supported the Medicare Program, their decision to gut the program's funding in order to give a tax cut to the wealthy is one of their most callous acts—not only against the Medicare Program—but more importantly, against the elderly citizens served by the program.

The American people must not tolerate the Republicans' blatant disregard for the health care needs of the elderly—the GOP's assault on the elderly is unconscionable and inhumane.

Mr. Speaker, when President Johnson signed the Medicare Program into law, he stated:

No longer will older Americans be denied the healing miracle of modern medicine . . . no longer will illness crush and destroy the savings that they have so carefully put away over a lifetime so that they might enjoy dignity in their later years . . . and, no longer will this Nation refuse the hand of justice to those who have given a lifetime of service and wisdom and labor to the progress of this progressive country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Medicare Program on its 30th anniversary, and to pledge ourselves to making its absolutely clear—that we will not allow the Republican Party to make our Nation's elderly their pawn in the Republican-tax give away scheme for the rich.

CONGRATULATIONS AND HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY CARL EVERETT VAIL, SR.

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my most heart-felt congratulations to Mr. Carl Everett Vail, Sr., on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Mr. Vail was born August 12, 1895, the son of Floyd Wiggins, a farmer and market hunter, and Elizabeth Genin Penny.

Mr. Vail has served both Long Island and this Nation for many years. He volunteered for

the draft in 1917, and served valiantly in the 77th Division in World War I. He incurred a temporary disability during the war due to poisonous gas, and was discharged from the Army in 1919. Originally a farmer, Vail was unable to continue that occupation because of his disability. He decided to follow his interest in automobiles which began at the age of eight.

Through a combination of hard work, dedication, skill, and timing, Carl Vail built up his car dealerships from a single car—the Waltham, Massachusetts war-baby—to a multi-million dollar business. His success never tarnished his reputation for honesty and fairness. When the United States entered World War II, Vail again volunteered to serve his country. His wartime responsibilities included service on a civilian Army ordnance team that raised 2,200 men and officers for the regular Army ordnance. He was also eastern Long Island division captain in charge of Coast Guard Temporary Reserve with 200 men on part-time duty.

Aside from being a successful businessman and a national patriot, Carl Vail is also community-minded and a dedicated patriarch of the Vail family. His spirit of voluntarism lead him to actively participate in promoting automotive safety and driver education on eastern Long Island. He was also a founder and past commander of Raymond Cleaves Post, American Legion, Mattituck. Over the years, Carl Vail has been a dutiful husband, father, and grandfather. He has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren.

Once again I extend my best wishes and congratulations on 100 successful years to Carl Everett Vail, Sr. He is a man whose life is an inspiration to us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL FORGE CO., IRVINE, PA

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of the new employee-owners of National Forge Co. in Irvine, PA. On June 29, 1995, these men and women purchased the company's assets and those of a subsidiary in Manchester, England. In so doing, they married the dignity of hard work with the passion of self-investment.

An internationally competitive producer of precision machined steel components, the company has thrived on a reputation for excellence in quality and productivity. From its founding in 1915 by Clinton E. Wilder to its most recent days under the leadership of his son, Robert O. Wilder, National Forge has grown steadily, continuously seizing new opportunities and enhancing its operations.

National Forge is a northwest Pennsylvania success story, but it is also a company of national significance. An exporter to customers around the world, it is a source of our country's global competitiveness. The award-winning service and products of National Forge also contribute to our national defense. In times of need—from the world wars through the gulf war—the company was a key supplier to our Armed Forces, and it remains one today.