

bill prioritizes spending in areas that are proven and effective.

And it is with great reservation that I must rise in opposition to the bill at this time. This was a very difficult decision, Mr. Chairman.

During my years in law enforcement I learned what really causes crime. During my campaign I promised to fight crime. I have seen first hand that crime prevention begins in two places—the home and the class room. This bill unfortunately reduces funding in some areas which are important to our children, and important in deterring crime as these youngsters become adults.

Mr. Chairman, these were programs I supported during my campaign; and I am a man of my word. In the past I have voiced my strong support for vocational education programs and other education assistance. I will not turn my back on the very people who elected me.

In addition, as a senior citizen I was also concerned about the funding level in the bill for senior citizens programs. Mr. Chairman, I this year I voted for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution and in turn voted for the Republican budget which will balance in seven years. Those are two of the most important votes I have cast as freshman Member of Congress. Those two votes carried with them a responsibility to the American people, and to my constituents in North Carolina. That responsibility was to reduce wasteful spending, make the government smaller, and get our fiscal house in order. I take that responsibility very seriously. I would have like to support this bill but I could not.

As the House passes this bill, it will do so without my support this time. However, I want to work with our leadership and our colleagues in the Senate to find ways to make this a better bill. I am hopeful as we move forward in the budget and appropriations process that we will make this a better bill for our seniors and children—and that it can 1 day earn my support.

CONGRATULATIONS PIONEER CITY
RODEO

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pioneer City Rodeo of Palestine, IL, on being named the best small outdoor rodeo in America. The Pioneer City Rodeo was selected from a field of over 700 small outdoor rodeos by a distinguished panel of livestock contractors, top cowboys, and specialty rodeo acts. The chairman of the rodeo committee, Roy Shaner, is credited with the continued success of the rodeo, which is now in its 29th year.

Recently in Las Vegas, NV, The Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association awarded the Pioneer City Rodeo a commemorative flag, ceremonial belt buckle, and a check for \$1,000. Continuing an annual tradition, the Pioneer City Rodeo donated their winnings to the cowboys crisis fund to help families of injured cowboys. This is a true showing of cowboy honor and while the rodeo's selection as the best in America is a grand achievement the example these fine people set is an even greater accomplishment.

Being voted the best small outdoor rodeo in America is a great achievement and I am honored to represent these award winning cowboys in Congress. Congratulations Pioneer City Rodeo, you are the best in America.

WORKING TO PRESERVE, PROTECT
AND STRENGTHEN MEDICARE

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to inform my constituents about the House of Representatives' plan to preserve, protect, and strengthen Medicare.

Unfortunately, some individuals and groups are misrepresenting the facts, thus causing unnecessary anguish and apprehension among our nation's seniors. In my district in Western New York, I have seen firsthand the anxiety which such statements have caused.

According to the Presidential Medicare Board of Trustees, the Medicare hospital insurance trust fund (part A) will begin running out of money as early as next year—spending \$1 billion dollars more than it takes in—and will be completely bankrupt by the year 2002.

By law, Medicare is prohibited from making payments for hospital or other health services if its reserves are depleted. That means if nothing is done now to preserve Medicare, 34 million seniors will be in jeopardy of losing their vital health care coverage.

I am committed to saving the program for all Americans, that includes my mother, who currently is on the program, and my daughter, who will be on it someday. If Congress does not act to save Medicare, the consequences 7 years from now will be catastrophic for all Americans.

Preserving Medicare will not require cuts in the program. Rather, Medicare spending will continue to increase, more than private-sector health care spending increases and general inflation rate.

The reason Medicare is in such financial difficulty is that it has been growing at a rate of 10 and 11 percent a year. If we can slow the growth to between 5 and 7 percent annually we can save Medicare from bankruptcy. Right now, the Federal Government spends \$4,800 per person per year in Medicare. If we do not make the changes necessary to save the program now, there will be zero dollars available in the year 2002.

The plan makes Medicare financially safe and secure both now and in the future by simplifying the system and making it easier for seniors to use and understand it. In addition, it gives seniors the same right that Members of Congress have to choose their health care plan.

In our efforts to preserve, protect and strengthen the Medicare Program, we must eliminate fraud and abuse. We are working with doctors and hospitals to make this happen.

I urge all of my constituents, and all Americans to play a part in the effort to strengthen Medicare. I welcome all comments and suggestions regarding my effort to save this important program.

TRIBUTE TO FT. ZUMWALT
MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIRS

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Fort Zumwalt North Middle School seventh and eighth grade concert choirs from O'Fallon, MO.

Over the past 2 years, under the skilled guidance of their director, Mr. Gregory S. LeSan, the North Middle School choirs have been honored with 20 trophies and plaques in national-level competitions. They have also been distinguished with three community proclamations, a State proclamation from Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan, and a coveted invitation to perform for the 1995 Missouri Music Educators Association State Convention.

The choirs have also been invited to compete July 9 through the 14, 1996, in the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in Llangollen, Wales. This is the first time in the 50-year history of this world-renowned competition that a public middle school from the United States of America has ever been accepted to sing in this audition-selected international event. This is a rare opportunity to represent their community, the State of Missouri, and the United States of America in a competition that represents over 50 countries.

Mr. Speaker, these young people are to be commended for their continued hard work and dedication to excellence, which has brought not only their school nationwide recognition, but is also a source of great pride to the residents of O'Fallon, MO. It is with great pride that I congratulate these students and recognize the contributions they have made while at Fort Zumwalt North Middle School.

CATHERINE FILENE SHOUSE
CELEBRATION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, earlier this summer, at the Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Mr. DAVIS and I celebrated the life of Catherine Filene Shouse.

It was a grand event for a grand lady on the 99th anniversary of her birth—June 9, 1995. On December 14, 1994, Mrs. Shouse "moved to a grander stage," as one person noted, but the vision she had for America's first national park for the performing arts lives on as her gift to America at Wolf Trap Farm Park. Her life was celebrated that evening at a gala so befitting her style, elegance, dignity, respect, wit, humor and love.

There were many remembrances of Mrs. Shouse. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II sent a message. Many felt that the remarks of the Honorable G. William Miller that evening eloquently captured the spirit and achievements of Mrs. Shouse. Mr. Speaker, we are honored to represent the northern Virginia area which is home to Wolf Trap and we would like to share with our colleagues the message from