

reformers were spiritually at home with the American Founding Fathers; they shared the same fundamental ideals. America was viewed as a model; it was certainly not an accident that Polish Reformer-King Stanislaw August had put a bust of George Washington in his study at the Warsaw Castle. And it was certainly not accidental that Polish volunteers participated in the American Revolution. At this point I must express my most sincere gratitude for the recent joint resolution of the United States Congress commemorating the two hundred fifth anniversary of the adoption of Poland's first constitution.

But while the America envisaged by the Founding Fathers has become a great democracy and still governs itself by the same constitution, Poland had spent most of the last two centuries relentlessly struggling to achieve among the nations of the earth that which your Declaration of Independence called "a separate and equal station to which laws of nature and Nature's God entitle them". I am not a historian, as you know, but sometimes I think that, perhaps, apart from the right ideals and stubborn resolve, nations need a bit of luck too. For instance, I would have liked Fortune to have placed the Poland of the 1791 Constitution somewhere on the map of North America and not in the center of Europe, between autocratic and imperial Russia and Prussia.

It was exactly 200 years ago that President George Washington was retiring. Having led a victorious fight against the imperial tyranny of Britain and ensured America's independence, he could withdraw into the peace and tranquillity of his beloved Mount Vernon. He cautioned that free people must always remain wary of potential threats, but he was convinced that what he called America's "detached and distant position" offered hope that the republic would endure. As you well know, my country, inhabiting the heart of Europe, unfortunately had not the luxury of such a "distant and detached position" over the past two centuries. The tough experiences of our history do not make a retirement in true peace of mind a very likely possibility for any leader. Perhaps that is why Poles love liberty as one loves a bride but Americans love her more as a grandmother.

But I believe that, although we cannot affect Fortune, we can and should help it. From 1989, liberty in Central Europe had been given a new, historic chance, a chance preceded by a very, very long and bitter struggle, and, as such, deserving the needed nourishment of peace and security. May I point out that Poland is today the fastest growing economy in Europe a remarkable evidence of fruits born of regained liberty.

We have before us a rare window of opportunity to help preserve both peace and freedom—and the former depends much on the latter—and ensure that it extends well into the twenty first century. Just as the eighteenth-century constitutions opened a new epoch, the fall of totalitarianism in Europe offers a similar prospect today. But many a great battle in history had been ultimately lost due to a lack of follow up by the victors to ensure a durable success. I strongly believe that this is such a moment requiring a follow up in the form of providing NATO security to ensure the durability of the democratic revolutions of 1989. Only United States has the power and authority today to lead towards this goal. I am particularly pleased that this cause has found much bipartisan support in the United States Congress. It gives me much faith and hope that the liberty for which so many have struggled for so long will be given the protection and opportunity it merits.

I wish to thank you once again for your kind invitation and for your inestimable support now as in the past.

HONORING THE SHACKLE ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND RESCUE SQUAD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Shackle Island Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that should disaster strike, we know that our friends and neighbors are there to help.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a member of the rescue squad. Rescue squad members undergo a training series over a 4- to 6-month period which includes instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation [CPR], vehicle extrication, emergency driving, and rescue orientation. In addition to this training, rescue squad members also meet monthly to address business concerns as well as hear guest speakers.

Rescue squad members are volunteers. They receive no pay for what they do. What also makes their service especially outstanding is that the organizations themselves receive no funding. They receive no funding from the city, the county, or the Federal Government.

Rescue squads are funded in the same spirit of community volunteerism which moves them to serve. Family, friends, and neighbors pitch in at bake sales, road blocks, and fish fries to help those who sacrifice their time for the benefit of the whole community.

Committing such an amount of spare time and energy to a job so emotionally and physically taxing requires a sense of devotion and duty for which we are all grateful.

THE MILLENNIUM ACT OF 1996

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Millennium Act of 1996 along with my colleagues, Representatives MORAN, BATEMAN, PICKETT, SCOTT, SISISKY, L.F. PAYNE, BOUCHER, WOLF, GEJDESON, FROST, WILSON, MOORHEAD, FAZIO, BEREUTER, ROEMER, MANTON, MONTGOMERY, LANTOS, STEARNS, COSTELLO, CONYERS, DURBIN, MARKEY, D. YOUNG, WHITFIELD, and BILIRAKIS.

This bill is a bipartisan effort to focus the Nation's attention on what may become one of the most anticipated events in history—the beginning of a new millennium. As the new millennium nears, this bill hopes to focus our attention on the achievements of the past 1,000 years and help to foster educational opportunities for those who may take on leadership responsibilities in the next 1,000 years.

Since its founding in 1979 by a group of college students from around the world, the Millennium Society has worked successfully to organize a global celebration and commemoration of humankind's achievements during this millennium and to endow a crosscultural scholarship program to help educate future

leaders. I believe it is the oldest organization in the country formed for the specific purpose of celebrating and commemorating the historical significance of the millennium. The society was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, charitable organization in 1984 for the purpose of establishing and administering the Millennium Society Scholarship Program.

The Millennium Society plans to organize and telecast "Countdown 2000" celebrations here and around the world to permanently endow its Millennium Scholars Program.

Unlike the Bicentennial Commission which required Federal funding, this bill asks for no Federal funds. Title I of this bill provides the society with the official authorization and designation to administer millennium activities both here and abroad and ensures that charitable proceeds will go to the Millennium Scholars Program. The organizers hope that this designation can operate much like the U.S. Olympic trademark. Mr. President, to the best of my knowledge, there are no other organizations that are competing for this designation nor have any indicated any specific interest in doing so.

The second title authorizes the minting of commemorative coins. This bill incorporates some of the language from the House commemorative coin reform legislative package, H.R. 2614. Specifically, the Millennium Society agrees not to derive any proceeds until all the numismatic operation and program costs allocable to the program have been recovered by the U.S. Mint. Moreover, it embodies some of the key criteria and recommendations of the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Commission. The minting of the millennium coins will not begin until July 1999. Further, through its own fundraising efforts, the Millennium Society will match the funds received through commemorative coin sales for its scholarship program.

The third title expresses the sense of Congress that the U.S. Postal Service should consider the issuance of stamps to commemorate the close of the second millennium and the advent of the third millennium.

The Millennium Society was established as an international, charitable organization dedicated to giving students from around the world a chance to go on to college and to promote international fellowship and understanding among the world's peoples on an unofficial and nongovernmental basis.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting this legislation to both commemorate the coming millennium and help provide scholastic funding for its future leaders.

TRIBUTE TO JULIAN CERVANTES ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM UAW LOCAL 509

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a dear friend and tireless advocate for the working men and women of America. Next Tuesday, June 18, 1996, Julian Cervantes will retire from the United Auto Workers Amalgamated Local Union No. 509 after 43 years of dedicated and exemplary service.

I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing Julian for most of his 43 years of membership in the UAW. We started our careers together, organizing hard working Americans under the banner of trade unionism and fighting to ensure workers would receive a decent wage for jobs well done.

Following his graduation from Roosevelt High School in east Los Angeles, Julian began his career at ITT Cannon Electric. In 1956, he was drafted and served with distinction in the U.S. Army. Julian returned to ITT Cannon Electric, after his tenure in the Army.

After serving as UAW committeeperson, in 1968 Julian was elected chairperson of over 3,000 members to help with organizing drives for UAW Region Six. He also served until 1974 on the staff of the International Unions Manpower O.J.T. and an east Los Angeles community development corporation as an instructor for on-the-job training program.

In 1975, Julian was elected Local 509's vice president and service representative. Among his other duties at local 509 have included: coordinator of community services; the CAP Council; recreation committee; retirees committee; and the F.E.P.C.

Currently, Julian serves as an international trustee, a position he was elected to at the International UAW Convention, and as local 509's president.

Julian and his lovely wife of 28 years, Marlene, have four children, Lorraine, Larry, James, and Mark, three grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, Julian Cervantes has been a true champion for America's working men and women. His legacy of fair and decisive leadership will serve as a guiding light for local 509's membership in the days to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this great American and wishing him well in his retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO ED MULLANEY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to acknowledge one of Montgomery County's finest teachers, Ed Mullaney, on the occasion of his retirement. For 30 years, he has ensured that the students of the Montgomery County school system received educations of the highest standard. First a geography and history teacher at Leland Junior High School and later a social studies teacher at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, Mr. Mullaney energetically devoted himself to the students he taught. Yet far more than just teaching them academics, he educated students about community service.

As a founder of teen organizations, sponsor of yearbooks, student governments, and sports programs, Ed Mullaney gave of himself so that the communities of the schools in which he worked would be stronger. At B-CC, he was often recognized as the spirit of the school, a teacher who made students realize how fortunate they were to attend Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. Even when they left, students could not forget Mr. Mullaney, for he even organized alumni events during his past 7 years at B-CC.

Wherever Mr. Mullaney has been, he has encouraged his students to involve themselves in their communities. He realizes that community spirit is the key to a successful education.

I fondly remember that when I was a Maryland State Legislator, Mr. Mullaney could be depended upon to bring students of the highest caliber to the State Capitol. His organization of these excursions was always beyond the duty of a teacher, but he wanted to give his students something more than a classroom education.

Ed Mullaney will be missed both as a teacher and a leader in Montgomery County. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to add my voice to the praises of his students and colleagues who gather to salute him.

SAVING MEDICARE IS "MISSION: IMPERATIVE"

HON. MARTIN R. HOKE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, the Medicare trustees have just issued their annual report and the news isn't good.

Medicare is now losing money for the first time ever, and will be completely broke by 2001 unless prompt, effective, and decisive action is taken to control costs.

Last year the trustees—who include three members of the Clinton Cabinet—projected Medicare wouldn't run out of money until 2002. So the situation has worsened.

But as bad as the news is, the American people need to know that regardless of who wins in November, Medicare's financial crisis will be solved.

Letting Medicare go bankrupt simply is not an option.

Both Congress and the White House have offered plans that limit the rate of growth in Medicare spending—by strikingly similar amounts. The White House would increase spending 7.2 percent annually, Congress 7.0 percent. To put this in perspective, bear in mind that private sector health care spending is now growing at less than 3 percent annually.

This no doubt comes as a surprise to those who already have suffered from overexposure to the semihysterical, patently false, and politically motivated mantra of "cuts, cuts, cuts." President Clinton himself put it well: "When you hear all this business about cuts, let me caution you that that is not what is going on. We are going to have increases in Medicare."

While the sides essentially are in agreement with respect to how much, there are significant differences as to how.

The President and those who believe Washington knows best are committed to a top-down, bureaucratic solution that would increase the Government's role in the health care of our seniors, essentially identical to Mrs. Clinton's defeated health care plan of 1994.

The far better solution is to modernize Medicare by giving seniors the kinds of options, including medical savings accounts, now available in some of the best private sector plans, while preserving their right to stay with traditional Medicare. In addition, we must mount the first ever attack on the waste and fraud

that have helped bring Medicare to the brink of bankruptcy. The congressional plan to preserve Medicare contains both of these elements.

Unfortunately, some folks, including politicians, Washington special interests groups, even the President, have indulged their partisan ambitions by intentionally trying to scare seniors into believing that Congress might take their Medicare benefits away from them. Helping to spread the poison are the big labor bosses in Washington, who have spent millions of dollars confiscated from their own rank and file membership on advertisements using that same big lie.

Yet when you cut through all the political grandstanding, one thing becomes crystal clear: the longer a Medicare solution is put off, the harder and more unpalatable the choices become.

We need all sides working together now—not as Republicans and Democrats, but as Americans—to solve this problem.

So the next time you hear someone attack Congress for killing Medicare, ask them to show you their plan to save it. Chances are they won't have one. That's because they're thinking more about the next election than the next generation.

A RECOGNIZED HERO

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a special person and true hero—Chief Warrant Officer 2 Wade Chapple of Milford.

The operations group soldier was recently awarded the Soldier's Medal of Honor for an act of heroism that saved a Colombian man's Life.

Serving a 3-year tour as a tactical training advisor to the Colombian Army 10th Airborne Division in Malgar, Colombia, Chapple and his crew rescued an injured Colombian man who had fallen off a cliff.

First, Chapple was able to diplomatically convince the base commander to provide a helicopter for the rescue. After landing on a small finger of open space nearly 700 feet below the injured victim, Chapple and his crew of two men went to work.

Chapple scaled the vertical climb dragging a stretcher that was tied to his waste.

Upon arriving at the injured man, Chapple notice multiple injuries and the man in shock. Working quickly to immobilize the man, Chapple and his crew eased the injured man slowly down the steep face of the mountain.

The helicopter rushed the victim back to the base and there a waiting ambulance rushed the man to the hospital. Three months later, Chapple met the man who was beginning to walk again and has since recovered.

The incident was reported to Chapple's commanders by the Colombian Army without his knowledge.

Chapple is a symbol of today's military. Compassionate, skilled and heroic. Wade put his life on the line to save a man he didn't even know. I am proud of Wade Chapple. His great and noble rescue has made our community smile.