

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## TRINITY LAKE

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to testify in support of my legislation, H.R. 63, which proposes to redesignate Clair Engle Lake in northern California to its better known, common name of "Trinity Lake." I appear today on behalf of the Trinity County Board of Supervisors and the residents of Trinity County, who have requested I introduce this legislation.

Local support for this legislation is overwhelming. One poll, conducted by a local newspaper, showed an almost unanimous vote in favor of changing the lake's name to Trinity Lake. It has also been unanimously endorsed by the Trinity Board of Supervisors, who passed a resolution calling for this action in 1995.

Since the reservoir was created by the construction of the Trinity Dam, locals have referred to it as "Trinity Lake." It earned this name because of its location in Trinity County and its proximity to the Trinity Alps. Reference to the name "Trinity Lake" has been so attractive that it has been adopted by virtually every segment of the general public as well as local, State, and Federal authorities. It has been used extensively by the local tourist industry and public officials to promote the recreational aspects of the lake, since the name "Trinity Lake" creates stronger promotional imagery than does the name "Clair Engle Lake." In fact, the Trinity Lake designation has become so pervasive that about the only people who don't refer to the lake as "Trinity Lake" are those nonresidents and tourists who have never been to the lake itself.

Understandably, this has created a great deal of confusion for visitors to the lake and, consequently, has had a negative economic impact on the lake communities. By changing the name, my legislation will eliminate this confusion and enhance the benefits that the lake brings to Trinity County. Mr. Speaker, in view of the overwhelming sentiment in favor of this legislation, and the worthwhile objectives of eliminating confusion and enhancing economic benefits for Trinity County, I respectfully request the support and endorsement of this House of Representatives in answering the urgent plea of Trinity County residents by giving them back their lake through redesignation of Clair Engle Lake to its more popular name, "Trinity Lake."

## RECOGNITION GIVEN TO C. RASEH NAGI OF BROOKLYN

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, today I wish for my colleagues and friends to join me hon-

oring a shining star in my community, Ms. C. Raseh Nagi. Ms. Nagi has been a true leader in the movement to improve educational opportunity for over 35 years. Beginning as a teacher in I.S. 78, she moved on to initiate important programs in foreign language studies and a center for intellectually gifted students. More recently as community superintendent of district 28 she has continued to make vital contributions in education all worthy of mention and praise.

She was instrumental in establishing the District 28 Academy, an alternative program for at-risk junior high school students. Improving on the initial program for gifted students, she created and implemented a districtwide talented and gifted program. Her talents have also served the education community well outside the classroom. She initiated and supported the preparation of competitive and legislative proposals which supplemented the funding available to the district's schools. She encouraged and engaged representatives from all school constituencies to participate in the educational process. She has worked diligently to make education in the community a comprehensive endeavor.

Ms. Nagi has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in the teaching and learning process, focusing on the achievement of high standards for all. I would like to take this moment to recognize Ms. Nagi for her accomplishments and to thank her on behalf of the children and parents she has touched. C. Raseh Nagi has been a true friend and strong leader for the professional staff of district 28 and, she has felt all children have the ability and potential to be anything they want to be.

Thank you Ms. Nagi.

## MEDICAID

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, March 12, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

## MEDICAID

All of us are aware of the high cost of health care. For many Americans, meeting health care needs is a financial strain, but it is an overwhelming prospect for those with the lowest incomes. Medicaid is a joint federal-state entitlement program that helps provide health insurance for 38 million low-income Americans, including the blind, disabled, or parents of dependent children.

For more than three decades Medicaid has had a major impact on the lives of poor Americans, helping to protect the health of the most vulnerable. It has also grown into one of the most costly programs in the federal budget—only Social Security, Medicare, and national defense cost more. Yet despite the importance and size of Medicaid, many people are not very familiar with it. I often hear from Hoosiers asking about the basic structure of the program.

Who is eligible for Medicaid? Since 1965 Medicaid has had a positive impact on the health of our most vulnerable populations: indigent elderly and disabled persons, women and children. Covering 1 of 5 children, 1/3 of all births, and 1/4 of nursing home costs, Medicaid has clearly been important. Around 14% of the overall population and some 600,000 Hoosiers benefit from Medicaid services.

Some 70% of those receiving Medicaid are non-elderly poor, but almost 70% of the program costs go to the other 30% of recipients: the blind, disabled, and poor elderly. Not all people earning low incomes are covered by Medicaid. This is largely because people must meet other eligibility criteria besides having low income. For example, single adults or childless couples who are not disabled or aged are ineligible for Medicaid no matter how poor they are. In Indiana more than half of Medicaid recipients are children under 21. President Clinton has proposed improving efforts to reach the 3 million children nationally who are currently eligible for Medicaid but are not signed up.

Because Medicaid is administered jointly by the federal and state governments, states have some discretion in determining eligibility. The federal Medicaid law defines some 50 groups as potentially eligible. Some must be covered by the states, others are optional. In general, only U.S. citizens may qualify for Medicaid.

What services does Medicaid cover? The federal government requires state Medicaid programs to cover a minimum set of benefits for all eligible recipients, including hospital care, nursing home care, physician services, and laboratory and x-ray services. A substantial portion, almost 40%, of Medicaid spending goes for long-term care services such as nursing home care and home care. In fact, Medicaid is the primary source of long-term care coverage.

Beyond these minimum required services, states have the discretion to cover more. For example, all states voluntarily cover prescription drugs; some also cover institutional care for mentally handicapped individuals and dental and vision care for adults. Indiana is fairly generous, relative to other states, in the optional services its Medicaid program provides. States receive federal matching funds for these additional services.

What is the cost of Medicaid? The federal government does not shoulder the cost of Medicaid alone; it is a shared commitment with the state governments. The federal share is at least 50% in every state, but can exceed 80% depending on a state's per capita income. State participation is voluntary but all states are currently in the program.

The federal government spent \$92 billion on Medicaid in 1996 and the states spent \$69 billion. For the Indiana program, the federal and state shares combined were around \$2.5 billion. Although much uncertainty surrounds projections of growth in Medicaid, costs are expected to climb significantly simply because of overall inflation in the price of health care and an increased number of eligible Americans.

What has been done to curb costs? The rate of federal Medicaid growth from 1988 to 1993 was substantial, averaging almost 20% per year. The Medicaid caseload jumped sharply in the last decade as court decisions and legislation extended coverage. Congress enacted

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

reforms in 1991 and 1993 to curb growth of the program.

1996 was a year of dramatically lower growth in Medicaid costs, only 3.3%. However, it is unlikely to stay that low, with program growth estimated to average almost 8% annually over the next 6 years.

Because of the extremely high rate of Medicaid growth, Congress has examined ways to reform the program. The previous Congress enacted a welfare reform law which is expected to reduce Medicaid spending by \$4 billion over 7 years largely because of restrictions on eligibility of non-citizens for Medicaid. In addition, a proposal to turn Medicaid over to the states was included in a budget bill vetoed by the President.

What are the issues in Medicaid? The issues Congress faces this session include whether Medicaid should remain an entitlement, what national standards should be retained, and how federal funds should be allocated among the states. I favor retaining the entitlement status because eliminating it would increase the number of disadvantaged persons without coverage. I also favor greater flexibility in the administration of Medicaid, including ways to organize and deliver care, reimburse providers, and assure quality of care. But I do believe it is necessary to maintain uniform national standards, especially regarding who should be covered and what basic services should be provided. Today federal Medicaid funds are provided to states on an open-ended basis. Some limits on growth are necessary, possibly on how much can be spent for each patient.

Conclusion. For me the key questions in Medicaid are how to improve coverage without imposing excessive burdens on the taxpayers and how to curb excessive spending without imposing unacceptable hardship on the poor. Congress is looking hard at ways to improve the program and rein in its costs. Much effort is necessary to slow the growth of spending by making more efficient the delivery of health care. Part of the answer is to expand enrollment in managed care and community-based care to control acute care expenses. The undesirable alternatives are to cut eligibility or services, raise taxes, or cut-back reimbursement to doctors or hospitals. Great care must be taken not to reduce needed services to the elderly, the poor, and people with disabilities.

**EDWARD WILLIAMS, EAST CHICAGOAN OF THE YEAR**

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 1997*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to commend Mr. Edward Williams, an outstanding citizen of Indiana's First Congressional District. On Thursday, March 13, 1997, Edward will be named East Chicagoan of the Year during a recognition banquet at the Knights of Columbus Hall in East Chicago, IN.

Edward, a native of East Chicago, is a graduate of Indiana University in Bloomington. He is currently the director of education and development for the Showboat Mardi Gras Casino. Prior to holding this position, Edward was the president and chief executive officer of Lakeshore Employment and Training Partnership. In this capacity, Edward utilized his aggressive motivational and leadership qualities, which led Lakeshore to successfully train and secure employment for thousands of young adults and other unemployed residents of Lake County, IN.

Not only has Edward excelled in his professional life, but he has been a great community leader as well. Edward's emphasis on the needs of our youth has challenged countless young people to be the very best they can be. He is an accomplished speaker and has addressed thousands of citizens on such diverse topics as education, motivation, economic, and community development, family issues, religion, and community involvement. Edward is a member of several professional associations, and he has received numerous appointments to local, State, and national boards. For example, Edward is a member of the East Chicago Library Board, a trustee of Antioch Baptist Church, and a Lilly Fellow.

Along with the distinguished award of East Chicagoan of the year, Edward has been bestowed with the State of Indiana's highest public service award. The Sagamore of the Wabash. The award was issued by Gov. Evan Bayh.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Edward on being honored as East Chicagoan of the Year. His children, Kelly, Kirk, and Kevin, can be proud of their father's accomplishments. His unselfish dedication will be marked forever in history.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ADAM RICHARDSON, WINNER OF THE 1997 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY BROADCAST SCRIPTWRITING CONTEST FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA, SPONSORED BY THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

**HON. NATHAN DEAL**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 1997*

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD:

DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND

(By Adam Richardson)

When Alexander Hamilton was a child, his family was traveling along the North Carolina coast by boat. He was so terrified of the surroundings he vowed that if he ever became capable, he would build a lighthouse so large and bright that all those that resided in its glow would have nothing to fear. In 1802 Hamilton as Secretary of the Treasury used his influence to get a lighthouse constructed on Cape Hatteras, and to this day it stands, the tallest on the East Coast. Our American democracy that we have built with our blood, sweat, and tears is much the same as this lighthouse. Democracy, like a lighthouse, starts with a dream and strong foundation. This foundation was made with the lives of the men and women who first dreamed the dream to allow democracy to soar above and beyond.

As our democracy grows, we are indebted to be a caretaker of the lighthouse and keep it strong so that the ideal that we uphold, the beam of light, can be seen from farther away with the clarity it commands. This beam of light, seen first by our forefathers, led them out of oppressive darkness to thrive in unforeseen opportunity. But the obstacles were untold, and to aid others who would follow them, they built our lighthouse to carry their vision above and beyond. We were indeed fortunate to have received a raw country instead of being given one stifled in outdated institutions.

Democracy still stands strong, yet it has its enemies. As a lighthouse is constructed, the salt, sand, wind and water attack it, intent on destruction. But when finished, a lighthouse is nearly indestructible and will stand up to the winds of change. When democracy stands tall and strong, it is the envy of its enemies and cannot be considered safe, because there is always a sea spray to diminish the radiance that gives democracy the ability to illuminate the darkness. The democratic vision stands above and reaches beyond all barriers—but not without a struggle. The waves of ignorance often inhibit the gains of democracy. In many countries a child goes without an education because religious differences hurl bullets through the schoolyard. In the former Yugoslavia 250,000 lives have been lost and millions displaced because of a campaign of ethnic cleansing. We in America are made strong by people with the same goals but not necessarily the same gods. Likewise, the winds of inequality topple the hopes of people in countries where one man's vote will not count as much as another's or possibly will not be counted at all.

On the other side of the lighthouse, where all is calm, are the opportunities and the peace of mind that comes with a democratic nation. In America, like a harbor with its protected waters and secured ships, is a country with the betterment of the people the main issue. When democracy has fallen into rigidity, the government has always bent to refuse breaking—in the form of new laws, updating of old ones, and the acceptance of new schools of thought when the old way had proved itself ineffectual. Because this harbor is guarded by democracy and maintained by the power of the people, children can receive an education in the manner they should. Within this harbor a man goes to vote, and his ballot is cast without the worry, "Will I be heard?" or "If so, will I be given a chance?"

Even though the wind and the waves can be kept out, certain elements cannot be held at bay. There is a fog that we cannot see through, even with attuned senses. If we leave this fog unattended, it will be our terrible demise. Many great civilizations have fallen to this killer that comes on cat feet. This killer that lurks in the fog is complacency. We must not become immune to what is going on around us because beyond the fog and beyond the safety of our democracy, the wind and waves are always surging. We must remain vigilant.

**THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RICHARD J. GROSS VFW POST 8896**

**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 1997*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Richard J. Gross VFW Post 8896 on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Located in East Berlin, PA, this post is named in honor of a fallen hero of World War II, Richard J. Gross. A radio operator-gunner on a B-24 Liberator, Gross was lost when his plane was shot down during a combat mission over New Guinea.

Fifty years ago, this post first organized at an informal meeting. On February 13, 1947, the first official meeting was held. The staff of officers was selected and the official business of organizing the post and finding a permanent meeting place was underway. These were but the first few steps of a long journey of community service, fellowship, and remembrance of