

also remain in the Russian Federation, to mention Chechnia as only one example.

In humble pride, it is a source of satisfaction that I have been playing a role in this nearly 40-year tradition begun by the 86th Congress and President Eisenhower and indelibly imprinted in our history by President Reagan and the "evil empire" concept. In short, for our own well-being and peace, a tradition of America's dedication to expressive freedom, democracy, free market economy, human rights, national independence, and the surcease of empires and imperial "spheres of influence".

Definitely certain that all who commemorate this 39th observance share these convictions and civic pride, I deem it an honor to submit the proclamation and the list of its distinguished supporters:

CAPTIVE NATIONS WEEK PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the Captive Nations Week Resolution, which Congress passed in 1959 and President Eisenhower signed into Public Law 86-90, has been proclaimed by every president since, with identical support by Governors and Mayors across our Nation; and

Whereas, reflecting the foresight of that Congress and supports, Public Law 86-90 has been uniquely vindicated by the demise of the Soviet Union and the liberation of the most captive nations in Central and East Europe, Central Asia, Africa, and Central America; and

Whereas, in the total picture and for our national interest, it is imperative to recognize the reality of numerous other captive nations still remaining under totalitarian, communist party dictatorship and the residual Russian Federation structure of imperial control: among others, Mainland China, North Korea, Vietnam, Cuba, Idel-Ural (Tatarstan), Chechnia, the Far Eastern Republic; and

Whereas, like the former USSR and with a long record of massive human rights violations, the People's Republic of China is in essence an empire under communist party rule, consisting of the Chinese, Tibetan, divided Turkestan, and Inner Mongolian captive nations; and

Whereas, with its own unresolved cases of non-Russian and Siberyak self determination drivers, the Russian Federation, centered in Moscow, continues to strive imperially for a "sphere of influence" in eastern Europe, causing former captive nations like Poland, Lithuania, geopolitical strategic Ukraine, and others to seek their preserved independence and full integration in a free Europe through our assistance in the forms of NATO, aid, and investment; and

Whereas, in the true spirit that crucial foreign issues are not foreign to our world leadership, economic well-being, and even American lives, Congress by unanimous vote passed P.L. 86-90, establishing the third full week in July each year as "Captive Nations Week," and inviting our people to observe in that true spirit the week with appropriate prayers, ceremonies, and activities in support of the just aspirations of the still remaining captive nations and the preservation of the freedom of the former captive nations.

Received as of today, July 25, 1997 the following Governors and Mayors have issued proclamations of the week: The Hon. Paris N. Glendening of Maryland; The Hon. Fife Symington of Arizona; The Hon. Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey; The Hon. John Engler of Michigan; The Hon. George Allen of Virginia; The Hon. Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin; The Hon. Frank O'Bannon of Indiana; The Hon. Frank Keating of Oklahoma; The Hon. Lawton Chiles of Florida; The Hon. Terry E. Brandstad of Iowa; The Hon. Bob

Miller of Nevada; The Hon. Lincoln Almond of Rhode Island; The Hon. Mel Carnahan of Missouri; The Hon. Gary E. Johnson of New Mexico; the Hon. Pete Wilson of California; The Hon. Zell Miller of Georgia; The Hon. William Weld of Massachusetts; The Hon. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania and the Mayors; Rudolph Giuliani of New York; Richard Reardon of Los Angeles; and Edward Rendell of Philadelphia.

CUTS IN MEDICARE

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, hundreds of my constituents have contacted me about the severe cuts in Medicare reimbursement for home oxygen therapy. As the House and Senate conferees deliberate over the extent of these cuts, I would like them to consider the lives of seniors receiving home oxygen services. The following letter was given to me by Laurie Keiper of Springfield, OR.

TO CONGRESS AND THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES: I am an oxygen home therapy patient on 3-4 liters, 24 hours each day. I am a wife of a research vessel boatswain mate who is not home every night. He is gone most of the summer and fall.

I am a care giver also, taking care of my grandson, most of his 14 years. He will be starting 9th grade in the fall.

Without oxygen, I can not take care of my grandson, do for my family, or take care of myself. Instead you will pay more for child care, hospital and for nursing facility care. Most likely my 5 years of life expectancy will be shortened to 2 to 3 years or less. Oxygen is 1 percent of the total medicare budget. If you cut it by 40 percent what will it cost you?

40 percent increase in hospital stays.

40 percent increase in dependent payments, especially without parental guidance look at all the options—drugs, alcohol, runaways etc.

40 percent increase in home health and/or nursing facility payments.

40 percent increase in death benefit burial payments.

It does not seem fiscally prudent to make this cut. Look for fake bills, bad doctors, people who aren't supposed to be on Medicare. When someone says they question a bill—follow up on it. Cut cost that way!

LAURIE KEIPER.

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S.S. "INDIANAPOLIS"

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a brief moment to personally pay tribute to those who served so selflessly aboard the U.S.S. *Indianapolis*. A reunion was held in Indianapolis this weekend for those veterans who served on the U.S.S. *Indianapolis*, a heavy cruiser sunk by enemy torpedo on July 30, 1945.

My pride and admiration, for the service of these men know no bounds.

I am proud to report that I have been honored with appointment to the Veterans' Affairs

Committee of Congress, an opportunity to be of special service to those who sacrificed so much for our Nation. In that work I find regular occasion to remember and to admire our citizen veterans and to help secure to them full measure of our Nation's respect for their contributions in time of peace and in the horror that is war.

I am prouder still to join my voice with those who spoke to honor the men who served with such valor aboard the U.S.S. *Indianapolis*—those with us still and those lost in the Pacific vastness somewhere west of Guam. For their service and sacrifice in the highest tradition of our country, our respect must be eternal.

MEDICARE REFORM PROPOSAL

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, this year Congress is faced with one of its toughest challenges yet. A program that for three decades has helped pay the medical bills for America's senior citizens is in drastic need of reform. Credited with alleviating the problem of the uninsured senior citizens and reducing the health problems of the disabled, Medicare is now in need of a major overhaul if it is to continue providing for seniors.

We are working hard to ensure that Medicare remains viable for present and future beneficiaries. By addressing the impending bankruptcy of this program now, we will be able to strengthen and improve it while expanding benefits for all participants. Through a combination of savings and structural reforms, the Republican plan to reform our health care program will extend the solvency of the Medicare trust fund for at least 10 years.

The House Medicare proposal increases the choices available to Medicare beneficiaries, so that they can select from among the same kinds of health plan options that are available to the rest of the population. The plan calls for new systems of payment to address the problems in areas where the growth in costs is unsustainable. Finally, our proposal achieves savings by restraining future increases in costs, while also providing important new preventive care benefits.

I am proud of the progress we have made toward reforming Medicare. I firmly believe that Medicare can be preserved, protected, and improved without jeopardizing health care for the most vulnerable populations, and I am confident that together we can make this goal a reality.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM N. KEMP

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of William N. Kemp, who passed away on July 15, 1997, in Houston, TX. Dr. Kemp was a self-employed optometrist for 41 years in the North Shore area of Houston and was the founder of the firm Drs. Kemp and Peterson, Optometrist. He was past president of both the Harris County Optometric Society and the Texas Optometric Association.