

Guard and other U.S. government agencies engaged in the provision of this valuable safety service. I also encourage the Administration to continue vigorously its efforts to replace the current inequitable financing system with one that reflects national costs more closely tied to the benefits enjoyed by the users involved.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF RARITAN, SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of the Borough of Raritan, Somerset County, New Jersey, as they commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the incorporation of their community. While Raritan has been incorporated as a self-governing municipality for only fifty years, its history dates back to the 1600's.

The Borough of Raritan is situated on the river bearing the same name, about one mile southwest of Somerville, New Jersey. Early records indicate that in 1846 or 1848 a group of residents gathered to decide upon a name for the village. After some discussion, it was decided to name the village after the Raritan River.

As we look back in time, we find a place rich in history and culture. In 1734, George Middaugh, one of the early settlers, built a tavern at the corner of Glaser Avenue and Granetz Place. This tavern became the first meeting place for the colonists of the village of Raritan. One of the oldest historic houses in Somerset County is also located in Raritan. The Central Railroad of New Jersey, with the first bridge built across the Raritan River, provided excellent transportation for the citizens of Raritan.

In 1844, there were four houses and a gristmill in Raritan. The first store was opened by J.V.D. Kelly, who owned the gristmill. The first Sunday School was established in 1845 in the blacksmith shop on Somerset Street, owned by John A. Staats. Religious services were held for several years at private residences by members of different denominations until the building of the old school-house on Wall Street.

During the ministry of Gulliam Bertholf, and while he was on a missionary tour of north-west New Jersey, the First Reformed Church of Raritan was formed. Records indicate that written material of the church was in the Dutch language and the first record, dated March 8, 1699, is of the baptism of the children of Jeronimus Van Neste, Cornelius Theunissen and Pieter Van Neste. In 1872, a group of people united and formed the Methodist Church and in, 1854, St. Bernard's Church was established.

The year 1850 saw the opening of a new post office for the residents of Raritan. The population of the village at that time was approximately 2,240 people. Additionally, the first school-house was 25 by 36 feet, and two stories high. In December 1871, the school and lot were sold to the Methodist Society. This is just a glimpse of Raritan's development as a community.

The Borough of Raritan also has a very special place in our nation's history. Raritan

has become a landmark of freedom and independence. The Reformed Church is proud of the fact that General George Washington spent the winter of 1779 in a home in Raritan. Another historical fact notes that, in 1778, General Lafayette made his headquarters in the "Cojeman House" in Raritan.

Raritan gave its all to the World War I effort and the sacrifice of the people was acknowledged by the United States Congress when they decided that a ship be built and named after the Borough. The S.S. Natirar (Raritan spelled backwards), was launched at Wilmington, Delaware in 1920. This was a high honor bestowed upon a town, but Raritan received another distinction when President Warren G. Harding signed the Treaty of Raritan at the home of United States Senator Joseph S. Frelinghuysen of Raritan on July 20, 1921, officially ending World War I.

During World War II, thousands of citizens from Raritan also served with distinction and honor and one in particular is remembered each year. Marine Sergeant John Basilone was awarded the first Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic actions on Guadalcanal. He was later killed in Iwo Jima in 1945. Today, his memory is celebrated by the annual Basilone Parade, held each September.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues, in congratulating the citizens of the Borough of Raritan as they celebrate this historic milestone.

A SALUTE TO THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Women's Rights Movement.

In Seneca Falls, New York in the summer of 1848, the first convention of American women was held. It was there that the women of America officially began their struggle toward empowerment. On the 150th anniversary of the landmark Seneca Falls convention, the history of the United States is indelibly marked with the amazing accomplishments of its women. As Congress prepares to salute the women of our nation on this important anniversary, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate 150 years of women's achievement.

The Seneca Falls participants, led by women's rights pioneers Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, shared a hopeful vision of the future of women in America. The women came together to demand fair treatment in every aspect of American life. In their Declaration Sentiments, the Seneca Falls women offered a new vision of equality in America: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal."

As women's leaders fought for equal property and voting rights, American women busily achieved in other areas. In 1872, Charlotte E. Ray became the first American woman to graduate law school. In 1916, Jeannette Rankin of Montana became the first woman elected to the Congress of the United States. In 1920, women celebrated a major victory as the 19th Amendment was signed into law, guaranteeing the women of America the right to vote.

American women have displayed remarkable talent in almost every imaginable field of endeavor. Authors such as Louisa May Alcott, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Toni Morrison have contributed great works to American literature. In 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean; fifty-two years later, Dr. Kathryn Sullivan became the first woman to walk in space.

One hundred and fifty years after the Seneca Falls convention, we see just how far women have come in America. Today, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg both sit on the Supreme Court, and Secretary of State Madeline Albright is the first woman to hold that prestigious office. I salute those women, past and present, who fought and continue to fight to achieve their goals of freedom.

THE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1998

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Graduate Medical Education Technical Amendments Act of 1998. This bill addresses the serious, albeit unintended consequences of reimbursement changes for Graduate Medical Education residency programs, particularly rural family practice residency programs, resulting from the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

Various adjustments in the Graduate Medical Education program (GME) resulted from last year's Balanced Budget Act (BBA). In an attempt to reign in costs and address a nationwide glut of physicians, reimbursement levels have been capped for all hospitals, including those in rural and underserved areas. While there may be an overabundance of physicians willing to serve in cities like Boston or New York or Los Angeles, towns like Lewiston in my district in Maine lack an adequate number of physicians, especially family practice physicians. The bill that I am introducing with the support of Congressman ALLEN will ensure that rural areas maintain the flexibility needed to react to primary physician shortages. This legislation also clarifies the definition of rural facilities allowed "special consideration" under the GME reimbursement caps. These changes are essential for my state, and for many others around the country.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 places a cap on the number of residents "in the hospital" as of December 31, 1996, as opposed to the number of residents enrolled in the GME program. Due to instances of residents on leave from the hospital or in training at ambulatory care facilities in the base cost reporting period, many hospitals are facing a lowered cap. This cap does not reflect the true number of residents enrolled in their programs. The problem is acute for family practice residency programs, which rely heavily on site training of their residents.

Also lost in the GME reimbursement changes in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 is the definition of rural programs given flexibility under the cap. Clarification is needed in order to recognize the innovative programs