

her Indians. The U.S. government has, over the years, waged wars against various tribes, as they forced others to relocate great distances from their ancestral lands. In the 20th century, Washington made American Indians virtual slaves to the federal welfare system.

As a student of history with some Cherokee blood in my veins, I have had a keen interest in the plight of the American Indian. For that reason, I have been very encouraged and impressed with the efforts of Chief Phillip Martin of the Mississippi Choctaws. I have had the privilege of meeting Chief Martin, who has presided over an economic renaissance in his tribe.

Instead of looking to bureaucrats on the Potomac, the Choctaws looked to themselves and took advantage of opportunities in the free market to lift themselves out of destitution. Now the reservation is an economic dynamo of industrial and commercial enterprises. In fact, the reservation is among the top ten employers in the entire state of Mississippi.

I commend to the attention of my colleagues an article from the Wednesday, September 16, 1998 edition of the Washington Times entitled "Choctaws' climb from despair" written by Grover Norquist. Mr. Norquist describes the achievements of Chief Martin and the Mississippi Choctaws which should be a good lesson for not only other Indian tribes across the country, but other communities as well.

[From the Washington Times, Sept. 16, 1998]

CHOCTAW'S CLIMB FROM DESPAIR  
(By Grover Norquist)

Forty years ago, a long forgotten band of Indians, the Mississippi Choctaws, were mired in the deepest of poverty, after 150 years of decline from what was perhaps once the mightiest Indian nation in the South. Unemployment had long stood at about 75 percent, and those who did work were poorly compensated sharecroppers. Life expectancy was only 45 to 50 years, and infant mortality was the highest of any population in the United States. Eighty-five percent of Choctaw housing was classified as substandard. Local education stopped at the sixth grade. The only health care was from a nearby federally run hospital. Even in the 1960s, a local newspaper called the Choctaw tribe "the worst poverty pocket in the poorest state of the union."

Then Chief Phillip Martin took over the reigns of leadership for the tribe. Chief Martin's insight was that his people were never going to climb out of this swamp of despair by relying on federal handouts and bureaucrats. He realized instead that their only hope was to turn to the private market economy and earn their own way.

Remarkably, he understood that what seemed to others like an economically hopeless enclave of despair had much to offer business and industry. The tribe's reservation was effectively an Enterprise Zone, with tribal business exempt from all federal and state taxes, as well as all state regulations and many federal regulations. Moreover, the tribe had a ready and available work force eager to be trained and perform well.

Through long years of hard work, Chief Martin turned these assets into astounding success. Today, the Choctaws are an economic powerhouse, proprietors of a sprawling, multi-enterprise, industrial and commercial empire. They are the largest employer in Neshoba County, and among the 10 largest employers in the state. They now have industrial plants on their reservation under contract with Ford, Chrysler, AT&T, Xerox, Navistar, American Greetings, McDonald's and others. They also now run one of the most successful casinos in the state, the Silver Star, opened just four years ago.

As a result, average family income has soared from about \$2,000 per year 35 years ago to around \$24,000 per year today. Unemployment has been all but eliminated, and only about 3 percent of Choctaw tribal members are on welfare. Life expectancy is now 65-70 years, an increase of almost 20 years from four decades ago. Infant mortality has now plummeted to below state and national averages.

The average educational level of adult tribal members has climbed from sixth grade in 1975 to almost 12th grade today. Substandard housing is virtually gone from the reservation, replaced by modern homes. In short, on indicator after indicator, the Choctaws are now approaching middle class American status.

In leading this long climb from the depths of poverty and despair, Chief Martin has achieved many accomplishments that show he well deserves the Hero of the Taxpayer Award we will happily present to him today:

He has shown the way for American Indians and tribes across this nation to climb out of government dependency and join in the mainstream American economy.

He has shown that the Enterprise Zone model of economic development, with greatly reduced tax and regulatory burdens and local control, can work incredibly well in the most difficult of circumstances.

He has been the leader and innovator in contracting out services and programs from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service, so that now virtually all Federal Indian programs and services for the Mississippi Choctaws are run by the tribe rather than the federal government. He has consequently shown how the federal role in Indian affairs can be greatly diminished and the role of tribes in running their own affairs greatly increased.

Even though the tribe is effectively the state and local government for the Mississippi Choctaws and provides all state and local services, Chief Martin runs it and has accomplished all of the above to boot with virtually no tribal taxes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE HOME HEALTH CASE MANAGER ACT

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Representative BEN CARDIN (D-MD) to introduce the Medicare Home Health Case Manager Act of 1998. The Medicare home health benefit has received much attention this year. The reason for that attention has been the dramatic growth of home health services over the past decade.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA) made a number of changes to the home health benefit to help stem that growth. However, much more needs to be done.

The Medicare Home Health Case Manager Act is a double winner. It would simultaneously reduce Medicare spending on home health while improving the quality of the benefit. It does this by introducing a new component to the benefit: an independent case manager.

Today, home health care is prescribed by a patient's physician, but then the actual plan of care is executed by the home health agency treating the patient. This creates incentives that have nothing to do with quality or appropriateness of care. Under the cost-based reimbursement system that existed before passage

of BBA, the incentive to home health agencies was to over-utilize services for patients because that is how the agency made more money. In the BBA's prospective payment system (PPS) of the future, the incentive will be the opposite and there are real concerns about potential under-utilization of services.

The Medicare Home Health Case Manager Act would ensure that home health care decisions for long-stay patients were being made by an independent case manager who in no way financially benefited by the length or type of home care provided to a patient. They would be paid by a Medicare fee-schedule that would in no way be influenced by the amount or type of care they recommend.

This idea is endorsed by the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MEDPAC), a Commission appointed by Congress to provide expert advice on Medicare and Medicaid policy. In their March 1998 report to Congress they recommended that such a case manager be adopted for the home health benefit.

Their report states:

Such an assessment would help to minimize the provision of services of marginal clinical value, while ensuring that patients receive appropriate care. *Requiring case management of long-term home health users could improve outcomes for individuals with long-term home health needs and at the same time slow the growth of Medicare home health expenditures.* (emphasis added)

There are also real-life examples of case management systems saving money and improving care. For example, Maryland's Medicaid program has a high cost user initiative which in FY 96 saved the state \$3.30 for each \$1 spent—a savings of 230%. The Health Insurance Association of America also commissioned a study of its member plans and found that rehabilitation/case management programs return an investment of \$30 for every \$1 spent.

History has shown us that simply throwing more money into home health is not the answer for assuring that patients receive appropriate care. Let's use this opportunity to make a real, tangible improvement in the quality of care obtained by Medicare patients and simultaneously save Medicare spending by reducing inappropriate visits. I look forward to working with my colleagues for passage of this important legislation.

#### MEMBER OF INDIAN PARLIAMENT CRITICIZES INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS

### HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, on August 14, News India-Times reported that Kuldeep Nayar, a member of the Rajiya Sabha, the upper house of India's Parliament, came under verbal attack for saying that Pakistan's attack at the town of Doda came in retaliation for similar acts by Indian agents in the Pakistani state of Sindh.

For this admission, some Indian Americans are trying to have him removed from Parliament, according to the article. Mr. Nayar

has forthrightly stated Indian responsibility for the situation in Kashmir and has opposed the Indian government's nuclear tests.

Indian governments haven't always been the close friends with the United States and have often destabilized the region. It put the Prithvi missile on the export market a few years ago, some of which can even reach parts of the United States. It has provided nuclear technology to repressive, anti-American regimes such as Iran. The Indian government votes against the United States at the United Nations more often than any other country except Cuba, yet it remains one of the top five recipients of U.S. aid.

Not only India's neighbors, but also several of its constituent peoples have suffered at the hands of violent Indian governments. Internally, the Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, almost 60,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Tamils, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. In November 1994 the Hitvada newspaper reported that India paid the last Governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to foment terrorism in neighboring Kashmir and in Punjab, Khalistan as well. According to the State Department, between 1992 and 1994 the Indian government paid over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for murdering Sikhs. In one case, the police event went so far as to kill a three-year-old boy and his father and uncle to collect one of these bounties.

We should also go on record demanding that India fulfill its half-century-old promise of a plebiscite in Kashmir and that it hold an internationally-supervised plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan to decide the future of that country in a free and fair vote.

I would like to submit the News India-Times article for my colleagues.

[From the News India-Times, Aug. 14, 1998]

KULDIP NAYAR PLAYED FOR "ANTI-INDIA"  
REMARKS

NEW DELHI: The recent statement allegedly made by Kuldip Nayar, veteran journalist and nominated member of the Rajya Sabha on the Doda massacre has created a furor in the country.

Nayar is now looked upon as a "treacherous, anti-national element" for suggesting that the massacre at Doda is only a retaliation by Pakistan for similar actions by Indian agents in Sindh.

The comment which has been so strong has even taken up editorial columns of the country's leading newspapers and magazines.

One such editorial piece has even called it a blasphemous statement and that patriotism has been turned into a dirty word by a "coterie of influential so-called intellectuals."

It added that such a statement would not have been made even by a spokesperson of Pakistan's notorious Inter-Services intelligence as that would have indicated its involvement in the Doda massacres.

Meanwhile, American Friends of India condemning Kuldip Nayar have circulated a release questioning Nayar's credibility as a representative of the nation. "This preposterous action by Kuldip Nayar brings several issues into question. Can he be trusted to be our representative in the Upper House of the

It may be noted here that Nayar represents a lobby of so called intellectuals that blames

the Indian government for Pakistan-sponsored massacres in Kashmir, and vehemently supports the U.S. government protests against the Indian nuclear tests. Does this lobby stand for India's unity or does it wish for its dismemberment?

Nayar and his fellow co-conspirators will do well to note that Kashmir is not about religion. It is about freedom of religion. We urge the government of India and the Indian National Human Rights Commission to treat the Kashmiri Pandits as "internally displaced people" and stress the importance of providing conditions for their safe return to the valley.

In light of such terrible tragedy of fellow Indians in Kashmir, Nayar should be expelled from the Rajya Sabha. We also urge the patriotic parliamentarians to take immediate action against Nayar for his treacherous and anti-national actions in the Rajya Sabha," the organization stated.

TRIBUTE TO MANHATTAN VALLEY  
GOLDEN AGE SENIOR CENTER,  
INC.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy and pride that I rise to pay tribute to the Manhattan Valley Golden Age Senior Center, Inc., which will celebrate its 25th anniversary of services to the seniors and the community on Friday, September 18, 1998.

Manhattan Valley Golden Age Senior Center, Inc. was founded in 1973 by a group of civic leaders and community residents of the Upper Westside of Manhattan District Board #7 who understood the need to provide a variety of educational and recreational activities to our senior citizens.

The Center began its operations in two small rooms in the basement of the Grace Methodist Church before relocating in 1981 to a modern building in a residential area on 106th Street between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues.

The center provides advocacy and entitlement benefit services to help enhance an individual's self-esteem and foster a greater sense of independence and self-reliance.

On a daily basis, the Center, which is open Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., serves hot, nutritious meals to over 150 seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the commitment and the efforts of the Manhattan Valley Golden Age Senior Center, Inc.'s board, staff, and supporters for the assistance they provide to the elderly.

With the collaboration of a qualified staff, Manhattan Valley Golden Age Senior Center, Inc. networks with other agencies that offer assistance to help keep our seniors vital and part of the community.

I would like to especially compliment this year's honoree, Mr. Joseph Unanau, president of Goya Foods, who will be recognized during the 25th anniversary for his support in improving the quality of life of the seniors in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Manhattan Valley Golden

Age Senior Center, Inc. and the individuals who have made 25 years of service possible.

THANK YOU, RICHARD A.  
BRZEZINSKI

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the quality of our lives is often measured by the people who we have the good fortune to know. For others, the quality of their lives is the direct result of the efforts by the people they are privileged to know. For virtually twenty-five years, the people of Bay City most definitely benefited from the concern and outstanding leadership of Richard A. Brzezinski. This unequalled gentleman passed away this summer, and will be honored at a special meeting of the Bay City Housing Commission on September 24.

Richard Brzezinski was married to his wife, Pat, for forty-four years. Their two children Rick Brzezinski and Terri Jozwiak, and five grandchildren learned well from a man who was active in his community, active in his church, and committed this personal sense of justice and his personal obligation to help those in need.

Dick worked at Dow Chemical for more than thirty years. He was actively involved in his union, the United Steelworkers of America, where he served as President of Local 12075 from 1982 to 1988. He worked extensively on programs for the placement of the disadvantaged and handicapped, helping many disadvantaged and handicapped individuals to find employment.

He was elected to the Bay City Commission in 1973, until his election as President in 1977. He has been a member of the Bay County Democratic Executive Board for the past twenty years, and has been an individual who has honored me with his support. Since 1980, he served as a member of the Bay County Housing Commission which oversees federally assisted housing programs in Bay County. He was honored earlier this year with the Alvira Long Memorial Award for Commissioners of the North Central Regional Council of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials for his commitment to his agency and to the citizens of Bay City.

Perhaps the highest tribute that can be paid to him is the appreciation of his friends. In support of the NAHRO award to Dick, his friend Richard Zmyslony wrote: "I count it a privilege to have him as a friend, and he has been a mentor to myself and many others in these areas." We should all be so fortunate as to have our friends think that well of us.

Mr. Speaker, Richard Brzezinski will be missed by his family, his friends, and the people of Bay City. It is only fitting that as he is honored in a few short days, we all pause to say "thank you" to a man who did so much for so many, and continues to show all of us that there is always something more that we can do to make life better for those who need assistance during those days that challenge even the best of us.