

Wilt Chamberlain, a Philadelphia native, began his career with the Philadelphia Warriors in 1959. He remained loyal to his team for many years, and to people all over Pennsylvania, as evidenced by the game at Hershey. To his credit and the credit of the NBA, the value of bringing professional basketball to people in reaches otherwise untouched by the big city teams was well recognized.

Wilt Chamberlain's 100 point game will be remembered as one of the greatest athletic accomplishments of all time. But it will be remembered by the people of Hershey for the great and imposing presence that left its impression there 37 years ago, and remains to this day.

BALANCED BUDGET ACT CUTS TO MEDICARE

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, Maine hospitals, home health agencies, and skilled nursing facilities are in a state of crisis. Congress must address this issue before we recess for the year.

I am proud of the fact that Maine health institutions are efficient and perform above the norm nationwide in regards to quality of care. But now our providers, especially those in rural areas, are suffering disproportionately under the Balanced Budget Act Medicare cuts, and our resources are stretched to the limit. With the BBA Medicare cuts, our hospitals will lose \$338 million over 5 years.

Maine has the lowest Medicare inpatient operating margins in the country. In fact, our operating margins are in the negative. Because of these already too-low Medicare reimbursement rates, any cuts to Medicare hurt Maine that much harder. There are no more margins left to cut. Cost shifting will occur and this will hurt all Maine citizens.

One area which particularly concerns me and my constituents is the effect of the interim payment system on home health agencies. The burden home health agencies have been asked to bear is extreme, especially when considering that the losses are spread among only 40 providers in the state. I hope that a fix can be developed for home health providers that includes the elimination of the 15 percent reduction in payments due to begin October 2000. Home health agencies in my district also ask that an outlier payment be added to the Interim Payment System to adequately account for high-need, high-cost patients. A flexible overpayment schedule, interest-free, would be helpful to providers, as well as a gradual raise in the per beneficiary limits for agencies falling under the national median and the extension of Periodic Interim Payments.

I am very concerned about the effects of the outpatient prospective payment system and the severe cuts Maine providers will experience under this reimbursement system. By HCFA's own admission in the May 7 published rule, rural hospitals will take the biggest hit in reimbursements from the outpatient PPS. The total reduction in the first year for all institutions will be \$900 million, or a 5.7 percent average reduction per facility. I hope we consider placing a ceiling on the level of cut any

hospital would face to their outpatient reimbursements.

Skilled nursing facilities are under particular burdens under the BBA as well. The prospective payment system is reducing payments by 20 percent. Rural facilities, especially, do not have the operating margins to absorb such a drastic cut. There are no accounting methods to increase payments for medically complex cases. On a related front, many providers believe the \$1,500 annual cap on therapy services is arbitrary and very hurtful for seniors. Many of these seniors have multiple therapy needs which can run out in a matter of months under this tight cap.

Changes in reimbursement for Graduate Medical Education unintentionally hurt family practice training in districts such as my own. I hope that this body reviews the technical corrections to GME reimbursements contained in my bill, H.R. 1222, which addressed this issue. These corrections are especially important for rural communities, where there are still shortages of family practice physicians.

Finally, I hope we consider as part of BBA corrective legislation the incorporation of provisions of H.R. 1344, the Triple-A Rural Health Improvement Act, developed by the Rural Health Care Coalition of the House. This bill is designed to address further the need for health care access for seniors in rural areas.

We must take the initiative to attack the problem of inadequate provider reimbursements now. I urge my colleagues to support the restoration of some of the most-harmful BBA cuts.

CELEBRATING THE HARRY AND ROSE SAMSON FAMILY RE- SOURCE CENTER

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to share with my colleagues a few words of congratulations to the Neighborhood House of Milwaukee on the dedication of its Harry and Rose Samson Family Resource Center, as well as my sincere appreciation for the generosity of Harry Samson.

Neighborhood House has a long and rich history of service to children and families in my hometown of Milwaukee, WI. Its program services are delivered in a community setting and are tailored to meet the diverse needs of neighborhood residents. The goal has always been to build "Healthy Families in a Strong Community," and Neighborhood House has never forgotten that the one implies the other.

I have respected Harry Samson for years, and I have the deepest regard and admiration for his commitment to improving the lives of others in our community. Harry and his late wife, Rose have led by example, giving generously of their financial resources, their time and their creative energy to support the Children's Outing Association, Congregation Shalom, the Next Door Foundation, the Jewish Community Center, and other worthy organizations.

Today in Milwaukee, Harry Samson's many friends and admirers will join Neighborhood house leadership and staff and neighborhood

residents in celebrating Harry's latest gift to Milwaukee: the Harry and Rose Samson Family Resource Center. The Center will be home to a new and expanded program of services at Neighborhood House. These include support groups to help parents and other childcare givers, employment and work search resources and workshops, a clothing exchange to help families meet the clothing needs of growing children, a play area that will serve both parents and area in-home child care providers, and a health and wellness program with diagnostic screenings, nutrition information, immunization and other services.

Mr. Speaker, wish I could be in Milwaukee today to shake Harry's hand and thank him for his gift of renewed hope. I wish I could join the excited people touring the new Center for the first time. But I appreciate this opportunity to share their story with my colleague and to offer my most sincere appreciation to Harry Samson for this unparalleled devotion and generosity and my heartfelt congratulations to Neighborhood House on the dedication of the Harry and Rose Sampson Family Resource Center.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF JOSEPH BARBERA

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Joseph Barbera, who, along with his partner Mr. William Hanna, created some of the most beloved characters of the twentieth century, including Scooby-Doo, Tom and Jerry, Yogi Bear and Boo Boo, The Flintstones, The Jetsons, Johnny Quest, Huckleberry Hound, and Quick Draw McGraw. For many generations of young viewers, these characters have served both as barometers of American culture and as tools for shaping the way these viewers relate to their family and friends. And not just in this country—Hanna-Barbera shows have been seen in nearly 100 countries and translated into 22 languages. It is with great pleasure that I speak today about part of that duo, Mr. Barbera, who is being honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Italian American Cultural Society.

Joseph Roland Barbera was born in New York City in 1911 to Vincente and Frances Barbera. In the early 1930's in New York City, he began his famous animation career as an accountant, and fortunately for us, found that his more exceptional skills lay elsewhere. He started supplementing his work by drawing cartoons for magazines, and soon had a job as an animator. In 1937 his career took another turn, and Mr. Barbera joined MGM Studio's cartoon unit, where he met Mr. Hanna and the two immediately produced one of their most famous creations. Their first collaboration was titled "Puss Gets the Boot," which led to two of America's most entertaining pals, Tom and Jerry. The duo would eventually receive seven Academy Awards throughout the next two decades for their cat-and-mouse team.

In 1957, when MGM closed its animation studio, Mr. Barbera joined with Mr. Hanna in forming Hanna-Barbera Productions. A year later the studio had won the first of eight Emmy Awards for "The Huckleberry Hound

Show." The duo went on to create many more classics such as "The Flintstones," "the Jetsons," "Top Cat," and "The Adventures of Jonny Quest," to the great delight of viewers of all ages.

The reason that both adults and children have such an affinity to the shows can perhaps be given by Mr. Barbera himself. In a recent interview with the Las Vegas Review-Journal he said, "We never really played down to kids. We made what I call entertainment for families. The kids got on board and the adults came on board. We never really lost any of them." today, the Flintstones still rank as one of the top-rated programs in syndication history.

In addition to great talent, Mr. Barbera is blessed with a loving family. He and his wife, Sheila, live in Studio City, CA, where Mr. Barbera continues to serve as a creative consultant, most recently with the animated feature film "Tom and Jerry—The Movie." He is also blessed with three children, Jayne, a production executive; Neal, a writer/producer; and Lynn, married to a producer and a mother of two.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and my colleagues to join with me in honoring Mr. Joseph Barbera, who has given many generations, both young and old alike, beloved characters like Scooby-Doo, Tom and Jerry, Yogi Bear and Boo Boo.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 764) to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and for other purposes:

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Chairman, I want to commend my fellow colleagues for their work in passing H.R. 764, the Child Abuse Prevention Act. This bill is a step in the right direction toward achieving our ultimate goal of eliminating child abuse.

Mr. Chairman, there are a few provisions currently being debated in the conference committee negotiations on H.R. 1501, the juvenile justice bill, that will help prevent child abuse and neglect. The first provision is the Parenting as Prevention Program. This program would provide parenting support and education centers to promote early brain development, child development and education.

The second provision that deserves our complete support is the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant, of which 25% is specifically reserved for prevention activities. This grant program would ensure that adequate resources are available for efforts aimed at preventing juvenile delinquency, including programs that prevent child abuse and neglect.

Numerous studies have concluded that there is a direct link between child abuse and a later onset of criminal activity as a juvenile. In fact, in one of the most detailed studies on this issue, the National Institute of Justice concluded that being abused or neglected as a child increased the likelihood of arrest as a ju-

venile by 59%. Therefore, we must invest in programs that help to reduce child abuse.

In my home state of New York, a fifteen year study of a nursing home visitation program reported that state-verified cases of child abuse and neglect were reduced by 79% among program participants. Furthermore, youths whose mothers participated in the program were 55% less likely to be arrested.

Mr. Chairman, as we debate juvenile crime, our primary focus should be on child abuse. I urge all of my colleagues to support these provisions that are put forth in the juvenile justice bill.

CAPTAIN SANDRA REDDING
MAKES HISTORY WITH CALI-
FORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to call your attention to an unprecedented accomplishment by Capt. Sandra Redding, who on Nov. 1 will become the first woman to serve as assistant chief of the California Highway Patrol.

A graduate of San Geronio High School in San Bernardino, Capt. Redding has risen quickly through the ranks of the CHP to her present position as commander for the San Bernardino area, where she has served since 1996.

Although she originally attended California State College, San Bernardino, with the goal of becoming a teacher, Capt. Redding developed a love of law enforcement and joined the San Bernardino Police Department in 1977. That same year, she was appointed to the CHP academy, and in 1978 joined that renowned law enforcement agency.

Serving throughout Southern California, Capt. Redding was promoted sergeant in 1983—the second woman to reach that position in the CHP. She became the second woman promoted to lieutenant in 1987, and was the third woman appointed as captain in 1996.

When she moves up to her new post as assistant chief, Capt. Redding will move to CHP headquarters in Sacramento to oversee programs in the Personnel and Training Division. She will be joined there by her husband, Jarrell, who is retiring after 27 years in the CHP, and stepdaughters Jessica and Jacqueline. But the Inland Empire will keep a claim on her through her proud parents, Joseph and Betty Hayes, who live in Highland.

Mr. Speaker, we can all be proud of the accomplishments of this product of San Bernardino schools. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating her and wishing her well in her new assignment.

VOA'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF
SPECIAL ENGLISH PROGRAMMING

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Voice of America (VOA) is celebrating 40 years of

broadcasting Special English programs. I call this to the attention of our colleagues because this is a service offered by the United States Government that is appreciated by millions around the world, but is little known here at home. VOA's Special English program was first broadcast over the international airwaves on October 19, 1959. Today, there are Special English broadcasts around the world seven days a week, six times a day, delivering the latest news and features on American culture, science, medicine, and literature.

Special English began as an experiment to communicate by radio clearly and simply with people whose native language is not English. It was an immediate success. Special English programs quickly became some of the most popular programs on VOA. Forty years later they still are. And they still are unique. No other international radio station has a specialized series of English news and feature programs aimed at non-native English speakers around the world.

VOA Special English is different from standard English in the way it is written and the way it is delivered. Its vocabulary is limited to 1,500 words. It is spoken slowly, in short, active-voice sentences. Although the format is simple, the content is not. Complex, topical subjects are described in an easy to understand, concise way.

Through the years, Special English has become a very popular English teaching tool, even though it was not designed to teach English. Its limited vocabulary, short sentences and slow pace of speaking help listeners become comfortable with American English. Individuals record the programs and play them over and over to practice their listening skills. Teachers of English in dozens of countries including China, Japan, Vietnam, Iran, Cuba, Russia, Nepal and Nigeria use Special English in their classes. They praise it for improving their students' ability to understand American English and for the content of the programs.

For many listeners, VOA Special English programs provide a window into American life that may change some misconceptions. A listener from China wrote:

A wonderful world appeared before my eyes through my radio receiver. There were your history, your everyday life, your brave and intelligent people and your words. To get a better appreciation about you, I spent most of my spare time in learning. I could say you presented people like me, those who have only limited English knowledge, an approachable American culture and acted like a usher leading us into it.

For other listeners, VOA Special English provides information that they cannot get elsewhere. A listener in Havana, Cuba writes:

I'm sure that you are not able to imagine how many people listen to you every day. What is important in Special English is that you broadcast the most important news and later give us important reports about science, environment, agriculture and then follow with 15 minute programs about all the things people are interested in.

And for other listeners, VOA Special English offers a way of learning American English. A listener in Tehran, Iran writes:

It was summer 1993 that I started listening to your programs, and during the first summer, I really had a great improvement in my English speaking, specially my accent. Many