

\$3,726, while in Texas average payments were \$6,539—70 percent more.

I urge my colleagues, especially those in rural states to consider this bill and its intent to bring equity and access to the outdated Medicare system.

A BILL TO PERMIT THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO HONOR ITS CITIZENS WITH STATUES IN STATUARY HALL

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 11, 2002*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to permit statues honoring citizens of the District of Columbia in the same manner as statues honoring citizens of the States are placed in Statuary Hall in the Capitol. This legislation would amend two acts of Congress governing the submission and placement of statues in Statuary Hall to allow the District of Columbia to offer two statues to the Congress on behalf of D.C. residents. The District of Columbia was born with the nation itself after the War for Independence. The city has more than two centuries of its very own rich and uniquely American history. It goes without saying that the almost 600,000 American citizens who live in the nation's capital deserve the honor of having two of its history makers represented in the halls of the nation's Capitol just as citizens who live in the 50 states have long enjoyed.

This bill would allow the Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia to devise the method for determining the identity of the honorees. Mayor Anthony Williams has already agreed to find funds in the District's budget for these statues upon the passage of this legislation. While D.C. residents have not yet obtained full political equality with the states, they have all the responsibilities of the states, including paying all federal taxes and serving in all wars. D.C. residents are second per capita in federal income taxes. They have served in every war since the Revolutionary War. In World War I, the district suffered more casualties than three states, in World War II, more casualties than four states, in Korea, more casualties than eight states, and in Vietnam, more casualties than in 10 states. These responsibilities and sacrifices speak best to some of the important reasons for this bill.

After more than 200 years, this bill offers District residents the opportunity to enjoy the same pride that all other citizens experience when they come to their Capitol—the opportunity to view memorials that commemorate the efforts of deceased local residents who have made significant contributions to American history. I ask for prompt passage of this mark of simple dignity and respect to the residents of the District of Columbia.

COMMENDING THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA ON THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 11, 2002*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in commending the service of the Girl Scouts of America on their 90th Anniversary. I salute them for their dedicated service to the young women of this nation.

Girl Scouting began in March of 1912, when founder Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, for a local Scouting meeting. Ms. Low strongly believed that all girls should be given opportunities to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. These ideals continue in the organization today as girls acquire self-confidence, take on responsibility, and are encouraged to think creatively while acting with integrity.

As many of us know, the mission of the Girl Scouts is to help all girls grow strong. The organization works hard to empower our nation's young women to develop to their full potential as leaders and to set a foundation of values for sound decision-making. The Girl Scouts have continued to expand programs to address contemporary issues while still maintaining their core values.

Membership in the Girl Scouts has reached 2.7 million, making it the largest organization for girls in the world. Well over 30,000 girls are involved in the Girl Scouts in South Florida alone. The numbers continue to grow as more girls across the nation are exposed to the incredible experiences that the Girl Scouts provide.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank and commend the Girl Scouts for their efforts over the past 90 years in providing invaluable opportunities for girls' growth and development as citizen leaders.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES LIFE-SAVING SERVICE HERITAGE ACT, H.R. 4115

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 11, 2002*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the United States Life-Saving Service Heritage Act, legislation to celebrate one of the most inspiring periods in America's maritime history. This legislation would establish a comprehensive program to inventory, evaluate, document, and assist efforts to restore and preserve surviving historic lifesaving stations. I am pleased that my Jersey Shore colleague Representative Frank LoBiondo has joined me in this effort.

The history of lifesaving in the United States dates back to 1785, when the Massachusetts Humane Society began building huts along the Massachusetts coast to aid shipwreck victims. These huts were later fitted with surfboats, beach-carts, and other lifesaving equipment. Beginning in 1847, the Federal government recognized the importance and necessity of lifesaving efforts when Congress provided a

series of appropriations to establish lifesaving stations equipped to render assistance to shipwrecked mariners and their passengers. These stations were first established along the Atlantic coast with the assistance of Representative William Newell, who during the 31st and 39th Congresses represented some of the same areas of New Jersey that I represent today. Representative Newell's efforts contributed to the establishment of a network of lifesaving stations along the Jersey Shore from Sandy Hook to Cape May. In 1871, Congress approved the first appropriation for the Federal government to employ crews of lifesavers. On June 18, 1878, the "Act to Organize the Life-Saving Service" was enacted. In 1915 the Life-Saving Service merged with the Revenue Cutter Service to form the Coast Guard. At that time, there were over 275 lifesaving stations to aid shipwreck victims on the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf, and Great Lakes coasts.

The volunteer and professional lifesaving personnel who staffed these stations risked their lives to prevent shipwreck casualties. Winslow Homer immortalized these great heroes of the American coast in his painting *The Life Line*. Walt Whitman celebrated their inspiring actions in the following excerpt of his poem *Patrolling Barnegat*:

Through cutting swirl and spray watchful  
and firm advancing,  
(That in the distance! Is that a wreck? Is the  
red signal flaring?)

Slush and sand of the beach tireless till day-  
light wending,  
Steadily, slowly, through hoarse roar never  
remitting,

Along the midnight edge by those milk-  
white combs careening,

A group of dim, weird forms, struggling, the  
night confronting,

That savage trinity warily watching.

An outstanding example of this period survives today in my district. The historic Monmouth Beach lifesaving station, established in 1895, is a Duluth style station designed by the architect George Tolman. On one occasion, every member of the station's crew was awarded a gold lifesaving medal for rescuing victims of two shipwrecks on the same evening. Recently, this historic structure was slated for demolition to make way for a new parking lot for beachgoers. Fortunately, the entire community came together to save this important structure. However, much work needs to be done to preserve the station's history and the inspiring stories of those who served there.

It is not certain exactly how many stations like the one in Monmouth Beach remain. Many surviving historic lifesaving stations are of rare architectural significance, but harsh coastal environments threaten them, rapid economic development in the coastal zone, neglect, and lack of resources for their preservation. The heroic actions of America's lifesavers deserve greater recognition, and their contributions to America's maritime and architectural history should be celebrated.

That is why I have proposed the United States Life-Saving Service Heritage Act. This legislation would provide the resources necessary to inventory, document, and evaluate surviving lifesaving stations. It would also provide grant funding to assist efforts to protect and preserve these maritime treasures.

The United States Life-Saving Service Heritage Act would authorize the National Park