

Can it be improved? Absolutely. Could we provide more preventive and wellness care? Absolutely. Can we provide a prescription drug benefit? Absolutely.

But when we draw down the Medicare trust fund to pay for tax cuts, we are, in essence, stealing from that very fund that will be needed in future years to provide the kind of health care that our parents, our grandparents, and our families depend upon.

The quotes from our Republican colleagues are very disconcerting and troubling. As I say, if that becomes the debate, if the debate is about the future existence of Medicare itself, we will never be able to get to a drug benefit debate.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield for one final question? I know there are others here wishing to speak. This will be the last question.

Mr. DASCHLE. I am happy to.

Mr. REID. The State of Nevada has two large metropolitan areas, Reno and Las Vegas, but most of the State population is in small towns—Mesquite, Ely, Hawthorne, Battle Mountain, Tonopah—places that have no managed care. If we change Medicare drastically, I don't know what will happen to the seniors in those rural communities.

I have heard the Senator today and on other occasions speak about the problems in South Dakota, which has many rural communities in it. If we do not take care of Medicare in the traditional fashion so that it is a level playing field no matter where you live, I think our Medicare Program as we have known it, that has been so successful, will leave many seniors simply without any medical care. Does the Senator agree with that statement?

Mr. DASCHLE. I couldn't agree more. In fact, what troubles me is there are those who would turn Medicare into a great big HMO. I don't know many people who are enthusiastic about the kind of care they get from their HMO. There are some good ones, I certainly would not deny that. But I must say, HMOs are not the panacea. There is not a one-size-fits-all HMO, health maintenance organization, or PPO, for that matter, preferred provider system, that would work in rural areas.

We know. We have seen from our own experience. They have tried it. They have attempted to create managed care systems in rural areas. The demographics don't work. Our health care delivery system in rural areas does not allow for a managed care system that works. Perhaps it does in Washington DC, or Los Angeles or New York.

So we cannot have a one-size-fits-all system. That is the beauty of the Medicare system. The Medicare system has adapted over the years, organizationally and administratively, to fit Alaska and South Dakota and Nevada in a way that has worked far beyond the expectations, I am sure, of many who created the system in the 1960s.

Let us not throw out a system that has worked well. Let's improve it. Let's build on it. Let's provide better benefits through it. But to privatize Medicare—to eliminate it and replace it with a new HMO in the name of Medicare—is a mistake that we will fight to the last day. That would be a real tragedy because we have an opportunity to debate how to provide a good prescription benefit. Let's agree in a bipartisan way to have that debate. This is our moment and our opportunity and I hope we seize it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. BROWNBACK. I yield myself such time as I may consume under the time I have reserved for the National Museum of African American History and Culture Museum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to join several colleagues who have already made presentations here today about the introduction of a bill for a National Museum of African American History and Culture. We currently have 48 cosponsors of this bill. I hope after today we will have a strong and clear majority sponsoring this legislation.

I want to particularly thank Senator DODD, who is the lead Democrat sponsor of this bill, and Senator LOTT, who chairs the Rules Committee through which it will go, both of whom are cosponsors of the bill, along with the majority leader and the Democratic leader who are also cosponsors of the bill, for pushing this issue, making it go forward.

I cannot go forward without recognizing Congressman JOHN LEWIS from Georgia, who has been the lead sponsor in the House, along with J.C. Watts, before he left that body, being the inspirational leader behind moving this issue forward.

Over 200 years ago, there was a dream that was America for a group of individuals who were brought to our shores in shackles, a dream so powerful it compelled a race of people to fight for the liberty of others when they were in bondage themselves, a dream that not only served as a catalyst for physical liberation in the African-American community but removed societal shackles from our culture and enabled us to realize the ideals set before us in the Constitution—that all men are created equal under God.

Today, we celebrate this magnificent history, a history of a people's quest for freedom that shaped this Nation into a symbol of freedom and democracy around the world. I am proud to stand here today with my colleagues and introduce once again to this body a bill that will create the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

I would specifically like to mention Senator DODD, Senator STEVENS, Senator LOTT, Senator SANTORUM, and the other 48 cosponsors who are pushing this museum forward.

The National Museum of African-American History and Culture Presidential Commission—signed into law by President Bush—stated that the time is now. Indeed the time is now to honor this incredible history that has shaped this great Nation.

I thank the Presidential Commission for their hard work and effort in recommending to Congress that we should build this museum, and that there is sufficient interest in the philanthropic community to financially support this museum, and that there are sufficient artifacts to fill this museum.

So many Americans will be able to share in the celebration of this museum—a uniquely American museum, one that we can celebrate. I remember when I met with the Dean of the Afro-American Studies at Howard University. He told me of a story about his grandfather who finished a bowl the day the Emancipation Proclamation was authorized. His grandfather decided to keep the bowl because it no longer was the property of a slave master but the man who made it—his grandfather.

The dean has this bowl in his home—an incredible piece of history, and I am sure there are many more pieces out there waiting for a home, a national home.

Today, we are not just introducing a bill; we are completing a piece of American history by introducing the National Museum of African-American History and Culture, which will create a museum to honor African-American contributions to this Nation—which is an extraordinary story of sacrifice and triumph.

This bill will create this museum within the Smithsonian Institution—America's premier museum complex. We have worked very hard with the Smithsonian Institution to craft a bill that will compliment their programs. And, indeed, we have done just that.

This bill is very similar to the American-Indian Museum, slated to open next year. And I know that the Smithsonian Institution will create another national treasure—one that tells the story of African-Americans in this country—a proud history, a rich history.

This bill charges the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, along with the Council of the National Museum to plan, build, and construct a museum dedicated to celebrating nationally African-American history—which is American history.

In addition, this bill charges the board of regents with choosing a site on or adjacent to the National Mall for the location of the museum.

Additionally, the bill establishes an education and program liaison section designed to work with educational institutions and museums across the

country in order to promote African-American history.

Finally, the bill sets forth a Federal-private partnership for funding the museum, and authorizes \$17 million for the first year in order to begin implementation of the museum council, which will be comprised from a mixture of leading African-Americans from the museum, historical, and business communities.

It has been well over 70 years since the first commission was formed to seek ways to honor nationally the contributions of African-Americans—70 years. It is about time that we move forward with it.

It has always been my hope that this museum will not only showcase nationally the accomplishments of African-Americans—which are great—but will also serve as a catalyst for racial reconciliation in our Nation. Indeed we have triumphed over our difficulties in this area, but we must continue to do more.

I can see a number of people going through this museum with a lot of tears coming out as they see the progression of people coming to this continent in shackles and moving forward in triumph. There are going to be a lot of tears along that trail. The beautiful thing about tears is that they don't have color; they just cleanse. I think they will be tears of cleansing.

I do not pretend that this museum is a panacea for racial reconciliation, which this country desperately needs. It is, however, a productive step in recognizing the important contributions and the debt all Americans owe to African Americans.

I close my comments with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, a prophet in his time and now a prophet to us. He said this that could have been said about the museum in this time we are in:

That the dark clouds of [misconceptions] will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great Nation with all their scintillating beauty.

We are one step closer to that today.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, are we currently in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I talked to the Senator from Iowa who also wishes to be recognized immediately after my very brief remarks. I ask unanimous consent that he be recognized immediately following my remarks and that I be allotted 5-minute increments; that should I go over another minute or 2, I be allotted such time as I consume, not to exceed 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING ESTELLA REYES NARANJO

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, there are two things I want to address very briefly this morning.

I rise to pay tribute to Estella Reyes Naranjo, a great citizen of my State of Texas.

I think it is important to recognize contributions such as those of Estella, which are primarily in the area of the education of the children of San Antonio, my hometown, and her 50 years of unselfish service to the city of San Antonio, the State of Texas, and to the United States of America.

Estella has taught for 40 years in Texas public schools and for another 10 years in Catholic schools. Through her dedicated service in the classroom and the community, she has been a positive influence for countless lives, and for thousands of young Texans.

Estella earned a bachelor's degree from Texas A&I University in Kingsville and has served as the president of the Pan American League. During her tenure, the league donated more than \$1 million toward a center to assist San Antonio's inner city, and contributed over \$250,000 in scholarships administered through The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Estella has been honored with an outstanding service award for her dedication and hard work in the public school system, and has received a leadership award for her many contributions to the Catholic school system. She has also been honored by the International Good Neighbor Council for her work to promote the "Principles of Good-neighborliness" between Mexico and the United States.

As a teacher, a volunteer, and a diligent leader, Estella is an inspiration to her family, her friends, and her community. She is truly an important part of what President Bush calls "the armies of compassion."

I have always believed that patriotism is not just expressed by flying the flag. It is about more than that. Patriotism means we all share a part in something larger than ourselves. In all of our differences, there are some things we all have in common. In all our diversity, each of us still has a bond with our fellow man.

The fact that dedicated individuals, working faithfully in their communities, can accomplish more than any government program is well established, and it is established again in the life that we celebrate today.

Alexis de Tocqueville described it this way:

Countless little people, humble people, throughout American society, expend their efforts in the betterment of the community, blowing on their hands, pitting their small strength against the inhuman elements of life. Unheralded and always inconspicuous, they sense that they are cooperating with a

purpose and a spirit that is at the center of creation.

Today I am proud to herald the work of Estella Reyes Naranjo. I know I speak for all the citizens of the great State of Texas when I say that I am grateful for her dedication, her compassion, and her tireless work to build a stronger community and a better world.

THANKING THE CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I wish to also, in the brief time I have allotted, say a few words about a very important subject to our Government and to our Nation. I wish to say a few words about the importance of continuity of our Nation's Government.

Today, the Continuity of Government Commission, a joint project of the Brookings Institution and the American Enterprise Institute, is releasing a report to the Congress on this matter. I express my appreciation to the commission for their responsible and forthright assessment of needed constitutional reforms in this area. Their report will be an invaluable addition to this ongoing discussion, and it will provide a sound basis for hearings I plan to hold in the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution later this year.

I was not here serving in Washington in this body when the attacks came on September 11. Like so many other Americans, I was at home, preparing for work, when I heard the terrible news and saw it displayed on the television set. But I know that many of my friends and colleagues who were here on that horrific day feel a very personal debt to the heroes of flight 93.

The brave passengers on that flight did more than just save the lives of their fellow citizens. Absent their courageous sacrifice, it is likely that flight 93 would have reached its final destination in this very building, in an attack that would have virtually eliminated an entire branch of our Government.

Even as we have dedicated ourselves to fighting terror at home and abroad, even as we hope and pray that the tragedies of September 11 will never be repeated, we must always remain conscious of our promise as Senators to serve the people of our States and our Nation and to support and defend the Constitution of the United States.

In the aftermath of those attacks, it is now increasingly clear that our current system providing for the continuity of government in the event of a disaster is inadequate in the reality of the post-9/11 world. If an attack of this nature occurred again, and was even partially successful, our Government and our Constitution would be ill prepared for the sudden ramifications.

As unthinkable as another attack of that magnitude may be, we in the legislative branch must be ready for the worst. We must provide for the stable