

During my tenure as Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee from 1989 through 1994, David was a fixture at our hearings, sitting at the elbow of my Republican colleagues John Paul Hammerschmidt and William Clinger. As we crafted some of the most important aviation law of our time, including the Aviation Security Improvement Act of 1990 and the Aviation Noise and Capacity Act of 1990, David was always at the negotiating table, working with my staff and me toward the common goal of effective legislation.

As the Majority Counsel for the Aviation Subcommittee, David was instrumental in crafting the Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (AIR 21), Federal Aviation Authorization Act of 1996, the Aviation Medical Assistance Act, Pilot Records Improvement Act, Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act, and the Aviation and Transportation Security Act.

His bipartisan, non-confrontational approach to crafting legislation, his painstaking attention to detail, and his mastery of the subject matter has been most impressive and has been greatly appreciated by my staff, and by me.

I know that his work has required great personal sacrifice and I commend him for his unwavering commitment to excellence. I wish him nothing but the best as he moves on to the next phase of his exemplary career.

#### EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, during my service as a Member of Congress, I have from time to time worked with the Export-Import Bank on matters particularly important to significant employers within my district. In an ideal world, there would be no subsidies of any sort for exports. But in the real world which we inhabit, Americans seeking business elsewhere often confront heavy subsidies from other countries, and without an instrumentality like the Export-Import Bank, these American enterprises would be at an unfair disadvantage. The Export-Import Bank's existence enables many American companies to compete on even terms, with good results both for the companies that provide goods and services and those that benefit from them. For example, several years ago I was proud to work with the Export-Import Bank to make it possible for the Raytheon Corporation to receive a major contract in Brazil, which allowed Raytheon to use its technical skills for environmental purposes. Without Export-Import Bank aid, the Raytheon effort would have been unsuccessful, not through any fault of their own, but because of heavy subsidies from the national governments of competitors.

Most recently, I was glad to join several of my Massachusetts and New Hampshire colleagues in urging the Export-Import Bank to show support in a meaningful way for the Malden Mills Company, whose owner, Aaron Feuerstein, has justly drawn widespread praise for his combination of economic wisdom and social responsibility. I was pleased that the Export-Import Bank did respond in ways that were very important in this situation, and I am pleased that we have this entity in

place to provide this kind of essential assistance to American companies who would otherwise be facing unfairness.

#### IN MEMORY OF RICHARD P. RAMEY

### HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, with great sorrow I rise today to recognize Richard P. Ramey, an Ohio citizen from my district, who gave his life fighting for our country. On Sunday, February 8th, 2004, in Iraq, Staff Sergeant Ramey was killed by a roadside bomb.

From training as a boy scout to his position on the Perry High School football team and then as a member of the Army, Staff Sergeant Ramey grew to be a leader. He graduated from high school in 1995 and began his career serving in the Army that same year. He was carrying on a family tradition in military service.

This outstanding young man showed courage and a commitment to protect those who could not protect themselves. Those who knew him recognized how proud he was to serve in the military. Staff Sergeant Ramey is a true hero and a reminder of the dedication evidenced by all the men and women all over the world fighting the war on terror. We must reflect on this great life and all the good that is being done in Iraq.

Staff Sergeant Ramey and his family will be forever in our hearts and prayers. May we keep them in mind as they struggle through this difficult period of mourning.

#### INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO EXEMPT NEW MEXICO FROM THE COMPARATIVE COST ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

### HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to exempt my home state of New Mexico from the Comparative Cost Adjustment (CCA), or "premium support" provisions included in the recently passed Medicare Prescription Drug Bill. I am pleased to introduce this bill as companion legislation to a bill that Senator JEFF BINGAMAN is introducing in the other chamber today.

Mr. Speaker, when the House passed H.R. 1 at the end of November, I strongly opposed this legislation and voted accordingly. Today, I stand here still as strongly opposed to the newly implemented law as I did when we passed the bill the first two times it came to the floor last year. One of my strongest objections to the legislation was the inclusion of the CCA program, which requires the Medicare fee-for-service program to compete against the new Medicare Advantage program. This CCA program will last for 6 years and will be applied in a limited number of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs).

This provision is one of the worst in what was an extremely disappointing piece of legis-

lation. Not only does this provision undercut the Medicare program, it outright threatens it by taking it down the road toward privatization. Rather than defined benefits beginning in 2010, seniors would receive a set premium payment—like a voucher—from the government, based on a combination of the process private plans charged and the cost of Medicare fee-for-service in their area. Seniors would enroll in either a private plan or fee-for-service, but those who picked a plan that was more expensive than the defined premium contribution would need to pay the difference out of their own pocket. This is not the way the Medicare program has been run in the past and its not the way it should run in the future.

In order to ensure that New Mexico's seniors keep their defined benefit plans when the time comes for the CCA to go into effect, I am introducing this legislation today. This legislation will exempt regions of New Mexico from being one of the MSA's used as part of the CCA program. Many studies have shown that a likely outcome of these privatization provisions in the new law is that seniors will have to pay more than they do now to stay in fee-for-service.

Mr. Speaker, these demonstration plans will dramatically alter the Medicare landscape for our seniors. For the first time in the history of Medicare, seniors would end up paying different premiums for the exact same fee-for-service benefit. I don't want New Mexico's seniors, or our nation's seniors facing the end of the safety and security they have come to know under the Medicare program.

Mr. Speaker, I know Mr. BINGAMAN and I are not the only members in our respective chamber's who feel this way. Several other Senators and Members have either introduced or are preparing to introduce similar legislation. I hope the leadership of each chamber recognizes the danger of the CCA program and takes action to protect New Mexico and our nation's seniors.

#### TRIBUTE TO ARKANSAS TROOPS AT FT. POLK, LA

### HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep appreciation for the contributions of Arkansas National Guardsmen currently training at Ft. Polk Louisiana preparing for deployment to Iraq and their families who await their safe return.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit these fine men and women and witness their training. Designed to mimic what the troops will face in the field, their exercises are impressive in scope and in our troops' ability to accomplish the monumental tasks regularly laid before them.

More impressive than the accomplishments, however, were dedicated Arkansans; far from home and preparing to go farther. They did not complain about living in tents, carrying heavy gear or the long days of hard training. And when this country called them to service, they did not hesitate.

As they prepare for their mission, it is imperative we consider more than their coming task,