

I am continually impressed by the dedicated directors and staff who work to make these facilities welcoming to all members of the community.

This week is National Senior Center Week, and the theme is "Senior Centers on the Move!" I cannot think of a better phrase to describe the seniors in Rhode Island. Senior centers give them the opportunity to get out of the house to attend exercise classes, computer seminars, dances, Feng Shui demonstrations, and hundreds of other activities. Some senior centers even sponsor overnight trips to neighboring cities. Many centers promote health and wellness beyond exercise classes, by bringing physicians and nurses to the centers for office hours. By hosting seminars on healthy living and the management of chronic illnesses, like diabetes, these centers are enhancing the lives of seniors and their families.

Rhode Island's seniors centers, and the centers around the Nation, are one stop centers for seniors and their families to get the care they need, both physically and emotionally. Whether you go to get your blood pressure checked, take an exercise class, or meet a neighbor for lunch, the senior center's staff welcomes you like family. I would like to congratulate Rhode Island's senior centers, and all senior centers, on National Senior Centers Week, and their directors and staff who work to bring the most up-to-date activities to the seniors community. The commitment of the directors and staff is commendable and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their dedication and for working to sustain the heart of our communities.

I would like to recognize the following Senior Center Directors in the First District of Rhode Island:

Debra Diniz, Barrington Senior Center; Rita Ayers-Gaulin, Bristol Senior Center; Mary Luz, YMCA Community Center; Lori Gagnon, Cumberland Senior Center; Bob Rock, East Providence Senior Center; Charlotte Richardson, Jamestown Senior Center; Lois Durkin, Lincoln Senior Center; Marjory O'Toole, Little Compton Community Center; Arlene Kaull, Middletown Senior Center; David Dean, Edward King House.

Pauline Moyer, Florence Cray Center; Amanda Leinhos, Martin Luther King, Jr. Center; Karen Testa, Salvatore Mancini Center; Joan Crawley, Leon Mathieu Center; Cynthia Koniecki, Portsmouth Senior Center; John Deluca, Davinci Center; Jessica Haley, Hamilton House; Sue Robbio, Jewish Senior Agency; Everret Cavalho, Mt. Hope Center; Lori Silvia, Fox Point Senior Center; Marilyn Heller, Smithfield Senior Center; Janice Gomes, Tiverton Senior Center; Elizabeth Hogue, Warren Senior Center; and Jill Anderson, Woonsocket Senior Center.

CO-SPONSORSHIP OF H.R. 4061

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in regards to H.R. 4061, the Assistance for Orphans and Vulnerable Children Act of 2004, which passed the House International Relations Committee by unanimous consent on March 31st.

Last week the International Relations Committee filed House Report 108-479.

Because House rules prohibit the addition of additional co-sponsors to a bill once the committee report has been filed, I am not able to formally add another Member of Congress as a co-sponsor of this legislation.

I ask that the record show that Mr. TERRY of Nebraska is in support of my bill and should be considered by this body as a co-sponsor of H.R. 4061.

CONGRATULATING MR. AND MRS. ALMON LONG ON THE HAPPY OCCASION OF THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Almon J. Long of Larksville, Pennsylvania, as the happy couple celebrates the joyous occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary today.

My good friend Al Long is a retired grocery business owner who served in the Army. As a veteran, he has long been a strong advocate of veterans' rights. When I need to know what is important to our veterans, it comforts me to know that I can always count on Al to air the concerns of Northeastern Pennsylvania's veterans. When the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center was in danger of being closed, Al headed up the local effort to save the facility, including helping to round up more than 30,000 signatures that I personally delivered to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Al has held several offices within the Pennsylvania Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, including State Commander for the organization. Al currently serves as the State Legislative Chairman.

Cora Long is a retired garment worker who remains active in the VFW Post 283 in Kingston.

The couple has three children, Linda Colianni of Larksville; Lori Schmidt of Wapwallopen; and Allan Long of Ashley. The couple also enjoys their three wonderful grandchildren, Vinny, Michael and Courtney. They also enjoy time with their pug, Rudy.

The Longs were married in the First Evangelical United Brethren Church with the Rev. Warren Loesch officiating. Cora's attendants included the late Joyce Shewan, Marilyn Valent Duda, the late Mrs. Ronald Williams and Patricia Swiderski. Al's groomsmen were William Rehn Jr., the late Edwards Shewan, the late Michael Figler, Arthur Rehn, the late John Lockman and William Young.

Cora Long is the daughter of the late William and Ruth Rehn of Wilkes-Barre. Al is the son of the late Mary Gregory of Larksville.

The couple will be honored at a party on Saturday, May 15, 2004, at Saint Ignatius Church in Kingston.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to stand here today and pay tribute to the Longs, a loving couple who has played such a vital role in ensuring veterans' rights and who stand as pillars of their community.

HELP EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE,
LOW-COST, TIMELY HEALTHCARE
(HEALTH) ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill because we should not impose a one size fits all solution to the problem. We need to bring the patients, doctors and insurance companies to the table to address this problem as a whole and not just target one factor in the rising cost of malpractice.

Medical malpractice is an issue of concern and we need to look at ways of addressing the real issues. We need to look at patient safety. We need to look at ways of helping doctors that have been negatively impacted and we need to find ways to stop frivolous lawsuits. With these underlying problems is a one size fits all answer a solution. Will this address doctors and patients needs? Will this ensure that patients receive the care they need and will doctors be able to provide the appropriate care to heal our sick?

I do strongly believe that a factor that has been left out of this debate is the insurance companies. What role do they play and what information do they provide and is it accurate? Are these companies playing on the fear of doctors and patients to increase their premiums? We cannot continue down this path without addressing this issue. We must have an open debate where all the major players are involved and we do not pit doctors versus patients. If this problem persists and we start to lose doctors we must force all these players to the table to rectify the problem.

We are fortunate in the state of Maryland to have caps. These caps have done a good job in keeping the health care standards in the state so high. Anything we work in Congress should allow for the states to address their individual needs. Maryland is best suited to address the needs of the doctors and patients in our state. We do not need a forced federal one-size fits all solution for our state. We need an open dialogue.

HELP EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE,
LOW-COST, TIMELY HEALTHCARE
(HEALTH) ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, this bill claims to be a cure for the high cost of insurance premiums paid by doctors. But it's really just what the insurance companies ordered.

It's a public policy placebo that doesn't relieve the sting doctors are feeling from sky-high insurance premiums. It only offers the illusion of relief, while pumping cash into the bottom line of the insurance companies.

Capping damages may save insurance companies money when their policyholders are sued, but the bill doesn't require insurers to pass along one cent of savings to doctors in the form of lower medical liability premiums.