

signed the Act and wrote to then-Eagle Grand Worthy President John M. Morin:

I am very glad to give you as the representative of the Fraternal Order of Eagles a pen with which I signed the Social Security Securities Act . . . I have long observed with satisfaction the sponsorship by the F.O.E. of social justice legislation both in the states and in the nation. The records for more than a quarter of a century bear witness to the campaigns of education conducted, the literature distributed, and the addresses delivered by your socially-minded Order. These efforts have borne, and are bearing gratifying results. Our countrymen owe the Eagles good will for their unselfish services.

The pen I am presenting to the Order is a symbol of my approval of the Fraternity's vision and courage. May its possession inspire your 600,000 members to re-dedicate their own efforts and those of the Fraternity to the insuring of such economic and political conditions as will bring a greater degree of happiness to our people.

The Eagles also supported old age pension laws in the 1920s: "You Eagles have planted this seed . . . If the Eagles of the United States never do anything else, they have more than justified their existence in their advocacy of this great humanitarian movement."—Gov. Joseph M. Dixon, Governor of Montana, signing into law America's first old age pension law (1923).

Jobs After 40: "The Eagles started this whole idea. That is why I invited the Eagles to be at this private bill signing, and the reason I am presenting this pen to the Fraternal Order of Eagles."—President Lyndon B. Johnson, signing the Federal "Jobs After 40" bill, outlawing upper age limits in hiring.

And enactment of Medicare legislation: "For your energetic and dedicated espousal of social justices, and for the generous support you have given to all measures designed to further economic opportunity and the compassionate treatment of the sick and disabled."—President Lyndon B. Johnson, in a message to the Eagles on the signing of the Medicare amendment to the Social Security Act.

Today, the Eagles advocate for equally important causes. The Eagles support congressional and administration action to ensure the long-term stability of the Social Security system while protecting the fundamental principles on which it was founded and to provide health care coverage to every American child.

The Eagles are also actively advocating for enactment of the Children's Access to Reconstructive Evaluation and Surgeries, CARES Act, H.R. 1655. Evidence suggests that insurance companies are increasingly denying access to the approximately 40,000 American children born annually with birth defects and needing reconstructive surgery. The CARES Act would require all group and individual health insurance coverage and all group health plans to provide coverage for surgery and other outpatient and inpatient medical treatments related to a minor child's congenital or developmental deformity. As a medical doctor and Member of Congress, I am especially proud to be a cosponsor of the CARES Act.

In addition, the Eagles are tremendously generous in providing assistance to a wide variety of very worthy charitable causes. Every year, Eagles across the U.S. and Canada generate more than \$100 million for charities

supported by the F.O.E. The Eagles provide 100 percent of those funds directly to charities in the form of grants, paying administrative costs from their membership dues.

These charities include: the Max Baer Heart Fund; the Robert W. Hansen Diabetes Fund; D.D. Dunlap Kidney Fund; the Jimmy Durante Children's Fund; support for Children's AIDS Awareness and Medical Research; the Lew Reed Spinal Cord Injury Fund; the Golden Eagle, Golden Age Grants, support for community-oriented programs primarily serving the aged, Alzheimer and Parkinson Funds; and the Disaster Relief Fund, first response program for national disaster situations in Canada and the United States, and the new Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center at the University of Iowa.

In addition, the Eagles also provide educational benefits to graduates of Home on the Range in Sentinel Butte, North Dakota; High Sky Girls Ranch in Midland, Texas; and Bob Hope High School in Port Arthur, Texas. The Eagles also operate Eagle Village, located in Bradenton, Florida, a 26-acre senior community open to any member who has at least 15 years of continuous membership in the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

In addition to large national charitable initiatives, Eagles work at the local level to make their communities better places to live and work. Many activities focus on children and improving their quality of life. Eagles Aeries and Auxiliaries conduct toy drives, send young victims of domestic violence to camp, hold baby showers for needy families, provide Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets, provide backpacks and school supplies, make quilts for nursing homes, and more.

On September 16, 2008, the Fraternal Order of Eagles signed an agreement with the University of Iowa to partner in a 5-year fundraising project that will culminate with the Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center at the University of Iowa. The Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center will be a dedicated center for diabetes research within the Institute for Biomedical Discovery Building at the University of Iowa. The Eagles are committing to raise no less than \$25 million over the next 5 years to fund this center. Money fundraised by the Fraternal Order of Eagles will go directly to medical research. Currently, an estimated 23.6 million adults and children in the USA—8 percent of the population—have diabetes.

The Eagles' membership is a broad cross-section of America, ranging from blue-collar workers to teachers to doctors and everyone in between. Seven United States Presidents have been Eagles: Theodore R. Roosevelt, Warren G. Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy, James Earl "Jimmy" Carter, Ronald W. Reagan. In addition, many famous Americans have been active Eagles, including: Arnold Palmer; Bob Hope; Jimmy Durante; Max Baer, boxing heavyweight champion; Tony Stewart, NASCAR driver; Billy Ray Cyrus, musical performer and entertainer; and baseball Hall of Famer Stan Musial and Roger Maris.

One hundred and ten years ago, the Eagles organized with a simple objective, to "make human life more desirable by lessening its ills and promoting peace, prosperity, gladness, and hope." You have succeeded.

Over the last 110 years, the Eagles have been an integral part of the fabric of our country—providing civic leadership, raising funds for children, the elderly and medical research, and improving the country in ways great and small. The Eagles have made the United States an immeasurably better place to live, work, and raise families.

Thank you for all you have done for our communities and our country. Congratulations to the members and leadership of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Best wishes for the next 110 years and beyond.

HONORING KEVIN JOHNSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kevin Johnson of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Kevin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 138, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kevin has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Kevin has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kevin Johnson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO DR. SUBHASH SAHAI

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2008 Iowa Family Physician of the Year, Dr. Subhash Sahai of Webster City, Iowa. Subhash was selected for the honor by the Iowa Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP).

Subhash began practicing medicine in January 1976 after receiving his medical degree from the University of Iowa and completing his residency at Broadlawns Hospital in Des Moines. He began his small practice in Webster City and was later joined by his wife, Dr. Sushma Sahai, and his brother, Dr. Anil Sahai. His practice grew and expanded over the years with the addition of other healthcare professionals and services. He is being honored for "his distinguished qualities, recognized leadership in his profession and contribution to his community," according to Dr. Doug Martin, the president of the IAFP.

I consider it a great honor to represent Dr. Subhash Sahai in the United States Congress. The expertise he brings to Central Iowa is certainly valued and I wish Subhash the best as he continues serving Iowa and Webster City.