

blood cholesterol. Americans are also becoming more overweight and less active—two key factors that increase the risk of heart disease. Most disturbing, for the first time in decades, Americans are losing ground against some cardiovascular diseases. The rate of stroke has risen slightly, the prevalence of heart failure has increased, and the decline in the death rate for those with coronary heart disease has slowed.

Women are particularly hard hit by this disease, in part because public health messages too often have not focused on how this segment of our population can best protect their hearts. The American Heart Association recently discovered that only 8 percent of American women know that heart disease and stroke are the greatest health threats for women, and 90 percent of women polled did not know the most common heart attack signals for women.

For a variety of reasons, including poorer access to preventive health care services, minorities in America have high mortality rates due to heart disease. The American Heart Association reported that, in 1995, cardiovascular disease death rates were about 49 percent greater for African American men than for white men, and about 67 percent higher for African American women than white women. In addition, the prevalence of diabetes—a major risk factor for heart disease—is very high in some of our Native American populations, and Asian Americans have a high mortality rate for stroke.

However, both the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the American Heart Association have undertaken activities to counter these trends. Both groups have initiated major efforts to better inform women and minorities about the threat of heart disease and the steps that can be taken both to prevent and treat it. These fine organizations also continue their efforts to educate health professionals on improving medical practice in heart health and to inform patients and the public about how to reduce their risk of heart disease. As we celebrate their 50th anniversaries, let us resolve to build on their record of accomplishment. By continuing our investment in research, raising public awareness of the symptoms of heart disease, and educating Americans about the importance of a heart-healthy diet and exercise, we can continue our extraordinary progress in saving lives and improving health.

In recognition of these important efforts in the ongoing fight against cardiovascular disease, the Congress, by Joint Resolution approved December 30, 1963 (77 Stat. 843; 36 U.S.C. 169b), has requested that the President issue an annual proclamation designating February as "American Heart Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim February 1998 as American Heart Month. I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in reaffirming our commitment to combating cardiovascular disease and stroke.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.●

CHRISTMAS IN APRIL PROVIDENCE 5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Christmas in

April USA, our Nation's oldest volunteer home repair initiative. This program has helped to rehabilitate the homes of over 31,000 elderly, low-income, and disabled individuals nationwide.

I would particularly like to recognize the 5th anniversary of the Christmas in April program's arrival in Providence, Rhode Island, where it is making a difference in many communities. In just five years, Providence's Christmas in April has helped to restore over 100 dwellings, through the efforts and commitment of thousands of volunteers. Indeed, this important initiative has dedicated almost \$1 million to improve our communities and to help Rhode Island's less fortunate homeowners. The Christmas in April program exemplifies the true spirit of volunteerism.

Mr. President, I would particularly like to commend Providence College and its President, Reverend Philip A. Smith, for his leadership in creating our nation's first Christmas in April campus chapter. I am convinced that this unique volunteer service organization will continue to better Rhode Island's communities for many years to come.●

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF STAMFORD- NORWALK

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Junior League of Stamford-Norwalk, based in Darien, Connecticut, on their 75th anniversary.

For 75 years the Junior League of Stamford-Norwalk has worked to promote volunteerism, develop the potential of women, and improve the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Since Junior League of Stamford-Norwalk was founded in 1923, their members have donated more than 2.5 million volunteer hours to meeting the needs of the area towns it serves. In doing so, they have touched many lives and served innumerable members of the community with their hard work and generous spirit. Their donation of time and money has helped organizations such as the Volunteer Center, the Women's Crisis Center, Lockwood Matthews Mansion, and the Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk to better serve the people of the area. The work of the Junior League of Stamford-Norwalk over the past 75 years had made it a cornerstone of the community, and the people of Connecticut thank them for their service, dedication, and contribution to their communities.●

RENAMING WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the proposal in Congress to rename the Washington National Airport for former President Ronald Reagan has caused some to claim that anyone who opposes the change is expressing a partisan view.

I greatly respect and admire former President Reagan. I have supported

naming Washington, D.C.'s largest federal office structure the Ronald Reagan Building. The ceremony to do that will be held in the next few months. I also have supported naming the aircraft carrier that is currently under construction the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan*.

But I did not think it was appropriate for Congress to dictate a name change to the local airport authority. The bill turning over the authority for the airport to a metropolitan airport authority was signed by President Reagan nine years ago. I don't think the spirit of that transfer of control is served by a proposal directing the airport authority to rename the airport.

That airport is now named after America's first President. In fact, the porticos in the architecture of the Washington National Airport were designed to resemble Mount Vernon.

Again, while I admire and respect President Reagan, I believe that it's most appropriate that the principal airport serving our nation's capital retains the name of our first President. However, I did vote for an amendment that would permit renaming it, provided the local airport authority chose to do so. I think that is the appropriate course.●

MEDICARE TRANSFER REPEAL

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on February 4, I joined Senator D'AMATO in introducing legislation to repeal a provision of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 which penalizes hospitals that provide appropriate and efficient care. This law punishes hospitals that make use of the full continuum of care and discourages them from moving patients to the most appropriate levels of post-acute care.

The current hospital prospective payment system is based on an average length of stay for a given condition. In some cases, patients stay in the hospital longer than the average and in other cases their stay is shorter. Historically, a hospital has been reimbursed based upon an average length of stay regardless of whether the patient remained in the hospital a day less than the average or a day more than the average. When the Balanced Budget Act transfer provision takes effect, however, this will no longer be the case.

This new policy penalizes facilities that transfer patients from the hospital to a more appropriate level of care earlier than the average length of stay. It encourages hospitals to ignore the clinical needs of patients and keep them in the most expensive care setting for a longer period of time. In short, it offers an incentive for hospitals to provide an unnecessary level of care, for an unnecessary length of time.

The transfer policy is particularly hard on hospitals in low-cost states like Iowa, where the cost of implementation has been estimated at \$25 million a year. Because Iowa's hospitals

practice efficient medicine, they have average lengths of stay well below the national average. These hospitals will be hit especially hard. This kind of perverse incentive is part of the problem with Medicare, not part of the solution.

I understand that there may be concerns about abuses by some hospitals moving patients to lower levels of care sooner than is clinically appropriate. If that is a problem, let's attack it. But let's not punish all hospitals—especially the most efficient for the sins of a few others.

In addition to the irrational incentives this policy creates, there is the very real problem of administering it. This law holds hospitals accountable for the actions of patients that are no longer under their care. If a Medicare beneficiary were discharged from the hospital without the expectation of a need for further care and circumstances changed, the hospital would not be entitled to the full Medicare payment. But the reality is that, the hospital may or may not know of this change. The law sets hospitals up for accusations of fraud due to events that are completely beyond their control.

This law is a serious roadblock to the provision of appropriate and efficient care. The repeal of this legislation will help ensure that logical coordinated care remains a primary goal of the Medicare program.●

IN MEMORY OF DONALD RUSSELL

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, South Carolina lost one of its greatest citizens when former Governor, former U.S. Senator, and Federal Judge Donald Russell passed away Sunday night. I am both greatly saddened and honored to pay tribute today to the exemplary life of this extraordinary man.

In addition to his many years of public service as Governor, U.S. Senator, and Federal Judge, Donald Russell also served as president of the University of South Carolina from 1952 to 1957. During the Second World War, he served in the War Department and as a special assistant to James F. Byrnes until 1943. In 1943, he entered upon active duty in the U.S. Army; he was decommissioned as a major in 1944 after serving with Supreme Allied Headquarters. He was present at Yalta with James Byrnes and President Roosevelt. Following the War, he served for two years as Assistant Secretary of State for Administration.

Some in this Chamber remember Donald Russell as an esteemed colleague who served with great distinction in the United States Senate in 1965 and 1966. During his time in the Senate, Senator Russell was known as a serious, conscientious, and particularly intelligent lawmaker, dedicated to his country and to his state. Both South Carolina and the United States benefited from Senator Russell's wise and vigorous leadership.

Before entering the Senate, Donald Russell served as Governor of South

Carolina. His governorship was one of the most progressive, most active, and most important in my state's history. For example, he strongly supported and helped fund the statewide system of technical colleges that has been essential to South Carolina's dramatic economic growth for the past two decades. But the hallmark of Donald Russell's governorship was his commitment to racial reconciliation and fair treatment for all in South Carolina.

Mr. President, the best way to illustrate Donald Russell's caring, generous, and just nature and his commitment to equitable and progressive policies is to relate a vignette. On his inauguration as Governor, Donald threw a barbecue for the people of South Carolina—all the people. This was unprecedented: never before in South Carolina had a governor thrown a party and invited all the state's people—white and black—to attend. For the first time, the Governor shook many black as well as white hands in his receiving line. Donald's act was as bold as it was wonderful, and it set the tone for his governorship, during which he worked to encourage the citizens of South Carolina to accept the end of the pernicious system of segregation.

After leaving the Senate, Donald was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson to the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina. In 1971, Judge Russell was appointed by President Richard Nixon to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. For over thirty years, Judge Russell served with great distinction and earned a reputation as one of America's most respected jurists. His intellect remained keen to the end and he never accepted senior status. His years on the bench set a standard for judicial integrity, wisdom, and fairness that will endure for many years. In fact, it was as a jurist that Donald Russell found his true calling. I doubt that I ever have seen or will see another jurist to surpass him.

For more than fifty years, Mr. President, I have known Donald Russell to be one of the most dedicated public servants in South Carolina's rich history. His dedication to improving the lives of everyday citizens has inspired me throughout my own career in public service. I am proud to have been his friend and colleague, and I send his family my sincere condolences.●

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE STAN CAVE: REPUBLICAN LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Stan Cave, who represents the 45th district (Lexington) in the Kentucky House of Representatives. Representative Cave has been recognized by the National Republican Legislators Association as one of their ten Legislators of the Year.

I am proud to have joined several of his General Assembly colleagues in nominating Stan for this award. I have

worked closely with Stan since his election to the Kentucky House of Representatives in 1993, on a variety of issues of importance to our constituents.

Since his election, Stan has risen quickly in the Republican leadership in the Kentucky House. He currently serves as Chairman of the House Republican Caucus. For the past two years, Stan has played a major role in overhauling Kentucky's Workers' Compensation laws, as well as other important issues ranging from Higher Education Reform to the state budget.

Outside of the General Assembly, Stan has been very generous with his time to both Republican causes and candidates for office. As Recruitment Chairman for the Fayette County Republican Party, Stan has worked tirelessly to find quality candidates for Congress, the state legislature, Mayor and Council in his home community of Lexington, Kentucky.

Mr. President, in just a few short years, Stan Cave has become a respected contributor to Kentucky government and politics. His meteoric rise has now been recognized and rewarded by the National Republican Legislators Association as a 1997 Legislator of the Year, a great and well deserved honor.●

TRIBUTE TO THE CORVETTE: MOTOR TREND'S 1998 CAR OF THE YEAR

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the recent recognition of the redesigned Chevrolet Corvette as Motor Trend magazine's 1998 Car of the Year. By recognizing the 1998 Corvette with one of the automobile industry's most prestigious awards, the editors of Motor Trend bestow a great honor, not only on the car, but more importantly on those men and women who design and build the Corvette in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Motor Trend—in celebrating the radically-redesigned 1998 Corvette—points to the new, cleaner 5.7 liter/345 horsepower V-8 engine, a lighter, more refined chassis, and an impressive 24.9 cubic feet of cargo space, noting that “the new Corvette will be remembered as one of the greatest cars in American automotive history.”

The selection of the Corvette further signals the resurgence of great American cars. I am proud that the Corvette has been at the forefront of this revival.

This award is a testament to the tireless efforts of those in Bowling Green who have designed and assembled the Corvette since 1981, when the shiny new plant was born from an old Chrysler Air Temps facility. Since Corvette production moved from St. Louis 18 years ago, the people of Bowling Green have been proud to carry on the tradition of America's original roadster.

Mr. President, by honoring the Corvette, the editors of Motor Trend honor all the hard-working men and women