

General Archive

2009 Reverence Day™ celebration was a wonderful collaboration with the Seniors on Saturday program by Alpha Kappa Alpha



Sorority, Incorporated. A proclamation was presented to AAIG by Vice-Mayor Larry Small. Denver Broncos Cheerleaders also made a guest appearance to show support. AAIG would like to give a special thanks to Blackbeat Productions for recording the Reverence Day Celebration.

Seniors on Saturday (SOS) is a program sponsored by Iota Beta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. This senior outreach program provides nutrition, health education, and social networking with Bingo and other interactive games. This year marks the seven year collaboration with Hillside Community Center and the [City of Colorado Springs](#).

Reference Day 2010

August 1, 2010 marks the Second Annual Observance of Reverence Day: Honoring Elderly African Americans Day™ in America. The National celebration, organized by African Americans In Gerontology, Inc., (AAGIG) is an effort to encourage families and communities throughout the country to recognize the lives and contributions of



elderly African Americans; particularly those whose profound and significant life-stories often go unheralded.

"We believe recognizing our elderly for lives well-lived helps us all appreciate the relevant and enduring legacy they provide us; the latest generation are as valuable a resource as the newest generation," says AAIG CEO Aisha C. Young. "Too many of our seasoned citizens reach "cut-off points" where they no longer feel valued, appreciated or viable! We are in the business of changing that, engaging their continual and relevant contributions to our society and working to improve their quality of life." Ms. Young will be featured on a nationally syndicated radio show at 9AM MST August 1. Please tune in live: www.1550kiva.com.

Reverence Day™ : Honoring Elderly African Americans Day was created by Aisha C. Young, M.A. and Kate Lane, M.A. As founders of AAIG, both noticed that there were no celebrations to honor African American elderly who have given to the community with their everyday contributions. Reverence Day, August 1, is an annual celebration. On this day, please wear amethyst ribbons to show reverence and honor our African American elderly. According to AAIG Board Member Robert Merriweather, "I believe Reverence Day™ will inspire families and communities to value our elderly more while becoming sensitive to the social, health and economic challenges they face on a daily basis!"

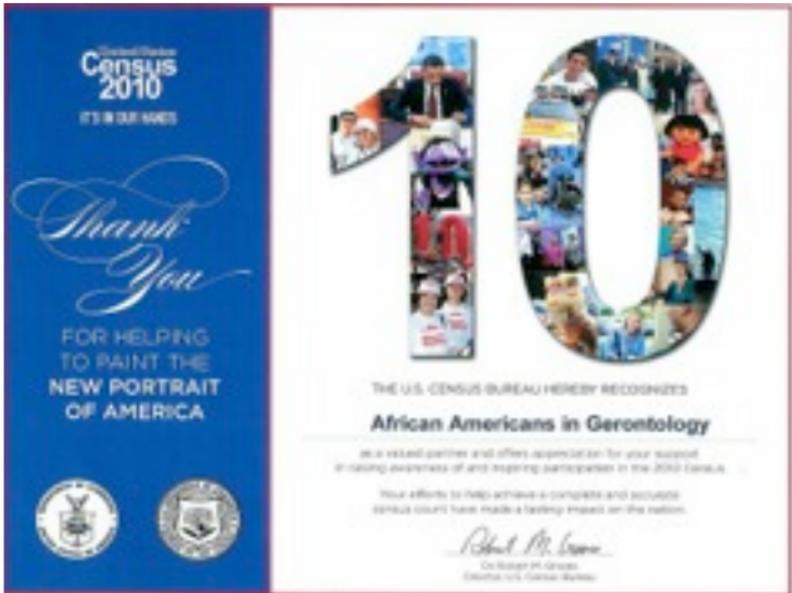
African Americans in Gerontology (AAIG) is a national non-profit organization designed to provide guidance and professional development opportunities, encourage networking, and promote community activism for African American professionals and students in the field of gerontology, in order to improve the quality of life for African American elderly.

Census Recognition

Census Recognizes AAIG as a Critical Partner For Immediate Release

Colorado Springs, CO -

The United States Census Bureau has recognized African Americans In Gerontology (AAIG) for the organization's work on the 2010 Census. Director Dr. Robert Groves, Director of the US Census Bureau, saluted AAIG saying, "Your help to achieve a complete and accurate census count have made a lasting impact on our nation."



African Americans In Gerontology worked with the US Census Bureau with identifying, engaging and counting elderly Americans, particularly African American elderly, in areas and communities where these groups are often under-counted. African Americans In Gerontology provided outreach, messaging and training support for the US Census in CO, and expects to continue and expand this support in years to come.

According to Aisha C. Young, President/CEO of AAIG, "As gerontologists, we concern ourselves with more than just the health dimensions of aging; we are involved (and need to remain engaged) in a much broader view of the aging process." Ms. Young has pioneered efforts to improve the quality of life for elderly African Americans; a groups she asserts "is

often under-served, overlooked and marginalized." "We need to make sure the federal, state and local agencies and leadership understand and address the issues that impact the seasoned citizens of our communities."

African Americans in Gerontology (AAIG) is a national non-profit founded in 2009 to provide guidance and opportunities for professional development, networking and community activism for African-American students and professionals in gerontology. AAIG aims to improve the quality of life for elderly African-Americans.

According to Young, "Ours is a mission that supports quality service to and honoring of our elderly; Partnering with the 2010 Census ensured their voices were heard."

"African Americans In Gerontology was proud to observe its 2nd Annual Reverence Day: Honoring Elderly African Americans Day (TM) on August 1, 2010."

Recommended Reading

Specifically for Minorities:

Download the updated 2011 list for minorities [here](#).

1. Minorities, Aging and Health. / Markides, K S; Miranda, M R.: Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 1997, 467 p., 1997(Document; Book) MH98D3418
2. Aging and Ethnicity / Markides, K; Mindel, C. / Sage Library of Social Research v. 163.: Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, 1990, 272 p., 1987 (Document; Book)MH91D1015. This publication is out of print. Please contact a local library for more information on how to obtain a copy.
3. Aging and Health: African American Elders / Richardson, J.: Stanford, CA: Stanford Geriatric Education Center, 1990, 69 p., 1990 (Document; Report) MH93D1834 This publication is out of print. Please contact a local library for more information on how to obtain a copy. New edition available at \$20.00
4. Critical Perspectives on Racial and Ethnic Differences in Health in Late Life: Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2004; xv, 735 p. Includes index., 2004 (Document; Report; Book) MH04D6390 <http://www.nap.edu/books/0309092116/html/>
5. Facts and Figures: Statistics on Minority Aging in the U.S.: Washington, DC: Administration on Aging, 2010(Document; Fact Sheet) MH01D4646http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Aging_Statistics/minority_aging/Index.aspx
6. State of Aging and Health in America 2007: Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2007, 38 p., appendix, 2007 (Document; Report) MH08D8562http://www.cdc.gov/aging/pdf/saha_2007.pdf
7. Aging in Black America. / Jackson, J S; Chatters, L M; Taylor, R J, Eds.: Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, 1993, 338 p., 1993 (Document; Book) MH93D1772 This publication is out of print. Please contact a local library for more information on how to obtain a copy.
8. Black Adult Development and Aging / Jones, R L.: Hampton, VA: Cobb & Henry Publishers, 1989, 448 p., 1989(Document; Book) MH98D3535
9. Black Aged: Understanding Diversity and Service Needs / Harel, Z; McKinney, E.: Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, 1990, 264 p., 1990 (Document; Book) MH00D4235 This publication is out of print. Please contact a local library for more information on how to obtain a copy.
10. Racial and Ethnic Differences in the Health of Older Americans / Martin, L; Soldo, B.: Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 1997, 312 p., 1997 (Document; Book)MH00D4334 <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/5237.html>

Advocacy Correspondence

May 26, 2011

Senator Michael Bennet
Hart Senate Office Building, Room 702
Constitution Avenue and 2nd Street, NE
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet,

I am writing to urge you to oppose cuts and spending caps on Medicaid--America's only health care safety net for poor, vulnerable seniors, children, and people with disabilities.

Cutting Medicaid would have a devastating impact on millions of seniors in greatest need and their families.

Medicaid pays for 62% of long-term care costs--both for nursing home and home and community-based services--while providing relief to caregivers. The program also pays Medicare premiums for almost 5 million beneficiaries who can't afford them.

A block grant would also jeopardize current consumer protections to improve nursing home quality, prevent unaffordable cost sharing, and prohibit forcing children to pay for their parents' long-term care.

I urge you to protect Medicaid against unfair proposals to balance the budget on those who can least afford it.

Sincerely,

African Americans In Gerontology
PO Box 8148
Colorado Springs, CO 80933-8148
[\(719\) 581-9437](tel:7195819437)

Dear African Americans In Gerontology:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the fiscal year 2012 (FY2012) federal budget. I appreciate hearing from you.

As you know, Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin has introduced an FY2012 budget proposal. On April 15, 2011, the House of Representatives passed this budget 235 to 193. While I agree with Rep. Ryan that we need to be aggressive about getting our fiscal house in order, I have concerns that his budget disproportionately affects middle and low-income Americans and seniors. It would undermine our country's ability to compete globally.

My focus in the Senate has been on crafting a bipartisan and comprehensive solution based on the path laid out by the Fiscal Commission. A comprehensive approach should meet three standards. It should substantially reduce the deficit, it must demonstrate that everyone is in it together and it must be bipartisan. In fact, Senator Mike Johanns of Nebraska and I, along with 62 of our Senate colleagues sent a letter to President Obama highlighting the work of the bipartisan Fiscal Commission and calling for a comprehensive solution to address deficit reduction.

While I don't agree with everything in the Fiscal Commission's report, it represents a bipartisan blueprint for comprehensive budget reform that would start us down a path of fiscal responsibility. In the coming months, it's my hope that the Senate has the opportunity to debate and improve upon this blueprint.

Please be assured that I intend to be a part of a long-term solution to our structural debt problem. I hope you will continue to share your thoughts and concerns with me.

For more information about my priorities as a U.S. Senator, I invite you to visit my website at <http://bennet.senate.gov/>. Again, thank you for contacting me.

Sincerely,

Michael Bennet

United States Senator

May 2, 2011

Senator Michael Bennet
Hart Senate Office Building, Room 702
Constitution Avenue and 2nd Street, NE
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet,

I am writing to urge you to oppose the cuts and spending caps included in the House FY12 Budget Resolution. The dramatic Medicare, Medicaid, and community services cuts included in this plan represent an assault on America's most vulnerable seniors.

First, the proposal dismantles Medicare and replaces it with a voucher contribution program that will significantly increase out-of-pocket costs for beneficiaries.

Second, the proposal would turn Medicaid into a block grant program and cut it by almost \$1.4 trillion over 10 years. Medicaid is America's health care safety net for poor, vulnerable seniors, children, and people with disabilities. It also pays for almost two-thirds of our nation's long-term care system, paying for both nursing home care and home and community-based services while providing needed relief to family caregivers.

Third, the proposal cuts and caps discretionary spending programs, which would drastically reduce or eliminate jobs, housing, and volunteer opportunities for older Americans in need.

I urge you to oppose the drastic cuts in senior programs included in the House Budget Resolution. This plan would have disastrous consequences for current and future older Americans.

Sincerely,

Miss Aisha Young
PO Box 8148
Colorado Springs, CO 80933-8148
[\(719\) 581-9437](tel:7195819437)

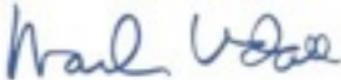
Dear Aisha,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). I appreciate that you took the time to share your specific views with me.

Like you, many Coloradans have also contacted my office with their opinions on a wide range of issues, including energy, defense, health care, the environment, small businesses, education and other important topics. I believe the most fundamental aspect of my job as your senator is to listen carefully to the views of every Coloradan. That is why I am grateful that you decided to contact me regarding your support of the SCSEP. Your thoughts are essential to my understanding of where Coloradans stand on the important issues facing our state and nation.

I will continue to listen closely to what you and other Coloradans have to say about matters before Congress, the concerns of our communities, and the issues facing Colorado and the nation. My job is not about merely supporting or opposing legislation; it is also about bridging the divide that has paralyzed our nation's politics. For more information about my positions and to learn how my office can assist you, please visit my website at www.markudall.senate.gov.

Warm regards,



Mark Udall
U.S. Senator, Colorado

Dear Aisha,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security programs as they relate to the Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12) budget resolution passed by the U.S. House of Representatives. I appreciate hearing your views on this critically important issue.

As you know, Chairman Paul Ryan of the House Committee on the Budget released his FY12 budget (H.Con.Res.34), which the full House of Representatives subsequently passed on April 15, 2011, by a party line vote of 235-193. I disagree with a number of approaches taken by Chairman Ryan when it comes to his plan. Among my chief concerns is his privatization of the Medicare system, whereby beneficiaries would receive a "voucher" to help purchase health coverage on the private insurance market. I believe senior citizens, who have paid into the system their entire lives, deserve secured health care upon retirement, not to be subjected to the whims of private insurers. By privatizing the Medicare program, I believe Chairman Ryan's plan goes too far in stripping seniors of their right to accessible health care and would impose burdensome out-of-pocket costs that would disproportionately affect those who already live on a fixed income. As such, I joined 49 of my Senate colleagues on May 5, 2011 in sending a letter to President Obama opposing such a dangerous policy.

Another proposal from Chairman Ryan is an overhaul of Medicaid that would turn this safety-net health program into a block grant for states. To inform President Obama that I support him in opposing this idea, I sent him a letter on May 5, 2011, outlining the importance of the current Medicaid program to our state and the negative effects Congressman Ryan's plan would have. In Colorado alone, Medicaid serves over 578,000 Coloradans, providing core health services to children, low-income families and those with disabilities. Under the Ryan proposal, the financial burden associated with the Medicaid program would be shifted to state and local governments, leaving states with

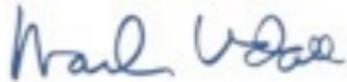
cash-strapped budgets, like Colorado, unable to respond to the needs of their populations. Chairman Ryan's proposal would strip states of flexibility and federal support when they need it the most - during tough economic times or other emergency situations. This could result in reduced access to care, poorer health outcomes, and a greater number of Americans relying on emergency rooms for their care - more expensive care that is ultimately paid for by federal and state governments. Not only is this bad for the health of Colorado families, but the resulting increased costs associated with a rise in uncompensated care is ill-advised at a time when we should be focusing on deficit reduction.

With respect to Social Security, protecting its viability has been a priority of mine since first being elected to the U.S. Congress over a decade ago. Last year marked the 75th anniversary of the Social Security Act of 1935 becoming law, and I am committed to the efforts under way to maintain this vital program for an additional 75 years and beyond. While the program was never intended to serve as a stand-alone retirement policy, it was designed to provide a safety net guaranteed to be there when people need it most. As many baby boomers are set to retire in the coming years, we must continue to look for ways to keep our promise to the millions of Americans who have worked so hard and rely on the program's solvency and long-term stability.

In the last few months we have made significant strides in reviving our nation's economy. While we must address our fiscal challenges through targeted spending cuts, including getting rid of redundant and unnecessary programs, we must also strengthen programs that protect senior citizens and our nation's most vulnerable while enabling our economy to produce new jobs and innovations. The real challenge we face is our long-term debt, and for that we need a comprehensive bipartisan approach to balancing our budget. I believe implementing a credible, comprehensive plan that addresses our long-term fiscal challenges will have a positive impact on our economy, providing the certainty the private sector needs to make investments and create American jobs. Coloradans can count on me to represent them in this fight. I appreciate your continued engagement and support.

I will continue to listen closely to what you and other Coloradans have to say about matters before Congress, the concerns of our communities, and the issues facing Colorado and the nation. My job is not about merely supporting or opposing legislation; it is also about bridging the divide that has paralyzed our nation's politics. For more information about my positions and to learn how my office can assist you, please visit my website at www.markudall.senate.gov.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Udall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Udall