Vows to continue fight against those who would effectively end Medicare's protections for American seniors

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (NY-28) today marked the 47th Anniversary of the creation of Medicare – the program which provides healthcare benefits for more than 48 million Americans, primarily senior citizens. Signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965, Medicare was a cornerstone of the "Great Society," a series of social reforms designed to erase poverty and injustice and build towards a better vision of our nation.

"At a time when Medicare and other vital social programs are under relentless attack, it is fitting and appropriate to take a moment to reflect upon the origin of these important initiatives," said Slaughter. "Programs such as Medicare were created to provide a better standard and quality of life for Americans. They spoke to the idea that, in the greatest nation on the planet, senior citizens who have lived valuable and productive lives, should not die in poverty or be subject to illness because of a lack of resources. That fact – and the rationale for Medicare and other social programs currently on the Republican chopping block – is as true today, as it was 47 years ago. I will continue to fight to protect these programs and the millions of Americans who depend upon them."