

medical director in 1978, and chief medical director from 1980 to 1984. He assumed this latter position at a crucial point in the VA healthcare system's history. Cumulative shrinking budgets in the Carter and Reagan administrations placed considerable strain on VA, the nation's largest healthcare provider—a trend that continues today.

Still, Custis's goal was to streamline. He strove to find ways to "do more with less" while gaining a reputation as a real fighter for every dollar he could find in the budget battles with Congress and the Office of Management and Budget. His skill and tenacity as an advocate for the VA health-care system—and the veterans it was designed to serve—won lasting admiration from friend and potential foe alike in the so-called "iron triangle" of veterans affairs: the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs, VA itself, and the veterans' service organizations (VSOs). These friendships last to this day.

On August 19, 1994, in support of Dr. Custis's nomination for the AMA award, Senator Jay Rockefeller (R-W.VA), then chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, wrote, "... I rely on Dr. Custis' advice and counsel on a regular basis. ... His insights and understanding about the Federal Government's role in health care, especially as a provider of care ... have been invaluable to me. ... He studies and analyzes, writes and speaks, leads, persuades, cajoles, and makes a difference on the role of the Federal Government in health care. And through all of his work, he remains the quintessential gentleman and professional."

Despite tight budgets, Dr. Custis drove VA—long centered on the traditional bearing of providing services for World War II and Korea War—veterans—to adapt itself to respond more readily to the needs and expectations of the new generation of service men and women from the Vietnam War. The Readjustment Counseling Program for Vietnam Veterans (Vet Center Program) was designed and implemented under his tenure.

In his farewell remarks to the VA Department of Medicine and Surgery, Dr. Custis wrote about his fellow Vietnam veterans: "My memories are made of this. I'll remember Vietnam. The brave men who fought and so often died there remain indelible on my mind. Not that their sacrifice exceeded those in previous conflicts, but because there was so little unity of national purpose to sustain them. How sad. It was the poignancy of that recall which brought me into VA as I left the Navy. How crass and cruel the accusation that we who care for him who has borne the battle, do so without empathy!"

Responding to the obvious needs of a rapidly aging veteran population, Dr. Custis nurtured the beginnings of VA's well-suited foray into geriatric medicine; he instituted training programs, research, education, and long-term-care services that have made VA the leader in geriatric medicine in the United States today. He strengthened the agency's long-standing role as the nation's largest partner in academic medicine through its affiliations with 126 medical schools. He expanded its award-winning research programs and saw the department's duty as backup to Department of Defense medicine in time of national emergency or crisis codified by Congress.

Dr. Custis remains an active, consummate advocate for the men and women who have served in defense of the United States. On joining PVA's staff, he conceived, directed, and implemented The Independent Budget Project, which publishes yearly detailed analyses of VA budget trends and needs. He forged the unprecedented coalition of VSOs (AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and PVA) to draft

"The Independent Budget" and disseminate the document on Capitol Hill and to federal budget policymakers. The report continues to be published each year and is widely respected as a definitive statement of VA budget policy and needs.

In the early 1990's, Dr. Custis foresaw the battles that would be waged over national reform. He judged that sweeping changes calling for universal health-care, or even state reforms, could impose a direct threat to the survival of the VA system unless the department was allowed to compete and interact with those new national forces of change. To prepare PVA and the entire veterans' community for the storm that was coming, Dr. Custis convened a blue-ribbon panel of nationally recognized health-policy experts to review various scenarios for national reform and identify the appropriate VA response to those changes. Published in 1992, "Strategy 2000: The VA Responsibility in Tomorrow's National Health Care System" was a "first-of-its-kind" analysis showing that unless VA reformed itself in light of national changes, the department could lose its traditional reason for existence.

"Strategy 2000, Phase II: Meeting The Specialized Needs of Americans Veterans," the sequel published in 1994, challenged this same theory against the pending national reforms under consideration by Congress. The document's message, however, stated that with or without major congressional reforms and because of rapidly changing healthcare systems in the public and private sectors, VA should move swiftly to streamline and improve its own systems—or face the consequences. At risk were most VA healthcare programs, especially specialized services such as spinal-cord-injury medicine, advanced rehabilitation, prosthetics, mental health, long-term-care, and others that had been designed to meet the unique needs of the veteran population.

While veterans' needs may change along with VA's ability to meet those requirements, Dr. Custis has remained an alert watchman and a tenacious advocate. Writing of his commitment, Representative G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery (D-Miss.), long-time chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and currently ranking minority member of the committee, said, "Don Custis has dedicated his life to helping those who served in our armed forces. His work as a physician in the Navy and his involvement both as Surgeon General of the Navy and Chief Medical Director (of VA) allowed him to be involved in every major healthcare-policy decision in recent years."

Fortunately for PVA members (and all veterans) that involvement, level of devotion, and commitment continues.

MORRIS K. UDALL WILDERNESS ACT

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with Senator ROTH and other "true" conservatives who want to preserve our natural heritage in introducing the Morris K. Udall Wilderness Act. This legislation is needed to provide permanent wilderness designation and protection for Alaska, a magnificent and special place, the Northern Coastal Plain, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge [ANWR].

The ANWR coastal plain is a unique ecosystem, long recognized for its rich biological diversity. Today over 200 notable species of

wildlife depend upon the coastal plain for survival. The conspicuous—Muskoxen, wolves, polar and grizzly bears and the countless inconspicuous yet complex fauna and flora create a web of life, a substrata, like no place else on the face of the Earth.

One of my first assignments in Congress was to serve on the Alaska Lands Subcommittee with then-Chairman Mo Udall and John Seiberling. Over a 4 year period, Congress debated the appropriate disposition, designation and use of the Federal land in Alaska.

The final version of H.R. 39, signed into law by President Carter, is one of the most significant pieces of environmental laws ever enacted. While this legislation protected many of Alaska's unique resources, the final disposition of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge [ANWR] was left with limited safeguards, but not resolved. The House of Representatives strongly supported wilderness designation for ANWR, however, the compromise left open the possibility that this area could be opened for further exploration and development.

For the past 14 years the coastal plain has been in a twilight zone enjoying the status of wilderness without the full force and protection of the law. Today, the failure to designate the coastal plain as wilderness haunts us and places this unique ecosystem at risk. Opening the coastal plain is a top legislative priority for the oil and mineral industries and their advocates in the U.S. Congress. The developers have kept the pressure on today to proceed and are mounting an aggressive offensive to enact legislation which would open this special area. If we allow such a policy to be implemented, the unique ANWR ecosystem will be irreparably harmed. America's natural legacy would be significantly diminished by such a policy path.

The wilderness legislation which Senator ROTH and I are introducing today is intended to challenge and defeat the concerted effort for a short term boom and bust exploitation policy. Our initiative is certainly the policy path supported by the American people. The public recognizes and supports a strong national stewardship role by our Federal Government to save our natural legacy, our future generation's inheritance.

The American people want adequate protections for those special natural resources such as ANWR. The Udall Wilderness Act finally provides sound protection for ANWR.

Serving with Mo Udall was a distinct pleasure and honor. Chairman Udall was dedicated to protecting our Nation's crown jewels for future generations. He took such responsibilities seriously but always had a knack for making his points with wit and poignancy. In talking about the Alaska lands legislation, Mo spoke eloquently to all Americans: "not in our generation, not ever again, will we have a land and wildlife opportunity approaching the scope and importance of this one. In terms of wilderness preservation, Alaska is the last frontier. This time, given one great final chance, let us strive to do it right."

We couldn't do better than to honor Chairman Udall with this designation that he fought so hard to achieve. The American reservoir of values, vision and inspiration that Mo Udall evoked will be enlisted today as the 104th Congress acts to determine the fate of ANWR.

The wilderness designation of ANWR is indeed our last chance. Hopefully we will follow

Mo's wise counsel and do it "right", as real conservatives.

EXTENSION OF COPYRIGHT TERM

HON. CARLOS J. MOORHEAD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. MOORHEAD. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation which would extend the term of ownership of a copyrighted work from the life of the author plus 50 years to the life of the author plus 70 years. I am pleased that the gentlelady from Colorado, Mrs. SCHROEDER and Messrs. COBLE, GOODLATTE, BONO, GEKAS, BERMAN, NADLER, and CLEMENT are cosponsoring this legislation. This change will bring U.S. law into conformity with that of the European Union whose member states are among the largest users of our copyrighted works.

The last time the Congress considered and enacted copyright term extension legislation was in 1976. At that time the House report noted that copyright conformity provides certainty and simplicity in international business dealings. The intent of the 1976 act was twofold: First, to bring the term for works by Americans into agreement with the then minimum term provided by European countries; and second, to assure the author and his or her heirs of the fair economic benefits derived from the author's work. The 1976 law needs to be revisited since neither of these objectives is being met.

In October 1993, the European Union [EU] adopted a directive mandating copyright term protection equal to the life of the author plus 70 years for all works originating in the EU, no later than the first of July this year. The EU action has serious trade implications for the United States.

The United States and EU nations are all signatories of the Berne Copyright Convention which includes the so-called rule of the shorter term which accords copyright protection for a term which is the shorter of life plus 70 years or the term of copyright in the country of origin. Once this directive is implemented, U.S. works will only be granted copyright protection for the shorter life plus 50 year term before falling into the public domain. The main reasons for this extension of term are fairness and economics. If the Congress does not extend to Americans the same copyright protection afforded their counterparts in Europe, American creators will have 20 years less protection than their European counterparts—20 years during which Europeans will not be paying Americans for their copyrighted works. And whose works do Europeans buy more of than any other country? Works of American artists. This would be harmful to the country and work a hardship on American creators. I intend to schedule hearings on this issue in early summer.

EAGLE SCOUT HONORED

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to bring to the attention of my colleagues an outstanding young individual from the Third Congressional District of Illinois who has completed a major goal in his scouting career. Douglas Pratt of Chicago, IL, has completed the requirements required to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. Douglas will be honored at an Eagle Scout Court on February 26, 1995.

The eagle rank is one of the highest and most prestigious ranks a Boy Scout can earn. It is important to note that less than 2 percent of all young men in America attain the rank of Eagle Scout. This high honor can only be earned by those Scouts demonstrating extraordinary leadership abilities. Douglas worked long and hard to learn and perform all the skills necessary to achieve this rank.

Douglas has been active in Scouting for several years at St. Mary Star of the Sea. In addition to being an outstanding member of Boy Scout Troop 1441, Douglas served as a den chief for the younger Cub Scout troops for 2 years. Because of his patience and skill with the younger boys, Douglas proved to be a natural leader and an excellent role model.

Douglas has also excelled in activities outside of Scouting. He is currently a sophomore at the Illinois Math and Science Academy. He is a writer on the school paper and editor for the satire paper. In the spring, he plans to join the basketball team. At the Ted Lenard Gifted Center, he graduated with honors and an impressive list of achievements. For example, in eighth grade, he was a member of the Academic Olympics team and also won the City Competition Science Fair.

For his Eagle Scout project, Douglas did an excellent job cleaning and repairing the area around Bachelor's Grove cemetery. In fact, Douglas is such an ambitious and talented Scout that has earned enough merit badges to attain the honor of Eagle Palm, a honor even more prestigious than the Eagle Scout. Douglas is an outstanding young man who deserves to be commended for his leadership, hard work, and service. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Douglas on his achievement as Eagle Scout. Let us also wish him the very best in all his future endeavors.

THE DOMESTIC OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION TAX INCENTIVE ACT

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce along with my Oklahoma colleagues the Domestic Oil and Gas Production Tax Incentive Act.

Recently, the Secretary of Commerce reported the results of an investigation conducted, under the Trade Expansion Act, into the impact of crude oil imports on the national security of the United States. The investigation determined that oil imports threaten to impair

the national security of the United States. Clearly, it is vital that we take immediate action to remove this threat to our national security. By removing unnecessary impediments to domestic exploration and development we can fortify our domestic oil and gas industry and begin to correct this dangerous oil trade deficit.

The preservation of marginal well production and the encouragement of new oil and natural gas production provides a blueprint for fast, effective action to protect our Nation's vital economic and security interests.

Currently, nationwide we plug a marginal well about every 30 minutes. Since 1983, some 450,000 petroleum jobs have been lost, and nearly half of our independent oil companies have gone out of business during the same time period. In 1993, nearly 17,000 domestic oil wells were abandoned, an average of 46.3 per day. Plugging an oil well is permanent. After a well has been plugged it is then cost prohibitive and not always technically feasible to re-lease and reequip the well to recover the remaining oil and gas.

It is my belief that this bill provides a positive first step toward revitalizing our Nation's dwindling energy industry. I encourage my colleagues to join me in this effort to decrease our reliance on foreign crude imports and reinvigorate a vital component of our economy—the domestic oil industry.

RICHARD DEMARY: A FLIGHT ATTENDANT ON USAIR FLIGHT 1016

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, sometimes, when confronted with appalling circumstances beyond our most ardent imagination, individuals summon forth courage and fortitude that nearly defies belief.

Such is the case of Richard DeMary, a flight attendant from Coraopolis, PA, who was aboard the doomed USAir Flight 1016 which crashed near Charlotte, NC, on July 2, 1994.

Flight 1016 took off from Charlotte/Douglas International Airport in heavy rain and wind. Moments later, the DC-9 plummeted into the woods, broke apart, and burst into a fireball.

No Hollywood screenwriter could devise a more compelling story than what Mr. DeMary did in the next few minutes. An official account later read:

After the aircraft came to a rest, DeMary first freed a severely injured fellow flight attendant from her seat and carried her from the wreckage. Despite the threat of secondary explosions, DeMary returned to the aircraft and rescued a small child from the tail section. He re-entered the torn fuselage to pull the child's injured mother to safety and returned a third time to rescue another passenger.

His efforts did not stop there. He kicked open the door of a house in which part of the aircraft was embedded and attempted to reach other trapped passengers until heavy smoke forced him to withdraw. Despite burns on his arms and an injured ankle . . . DeMary helped move a downed telephone pole that was blocking a street and preventing fire fighting equipment from getting closer to the wreckage.