

UTHSC's leaders foresaw the evolving trends in medical research and practice—from the rise of managed care to the recognition that the best medicine is often preventative medicine, and the revolution in treating diseases through medicine at the molecular level. Their leadership has helped create a new model for academic health centers to follow. Leaders such as Cheves Smythe, M.D., founding dean of the medical school; Reul A. Stallones, M.D., founding dean of the school of public health; Alton Hodges, Ph.D., founding dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences; and Elizabeth C. Jones, founding dean of the school of nursing, all played key roles in building an institution that is on the cutting edge of education and research.

Their success in anticipating the future direction of medical science culminated in 1995 with the establishment a new institute for the 21st century. The Institute of Molecular Medicine for Prevention of Human Diseases. This institute will help doctors and scientists at UTHSC continue to develop breakthrough therapies for widespread chronic diseases such as atherosclerosis, diabetes, and cancer. UTHSC has also been conducting groundbreaking research on the disaster relief and emergency medical services [DREAMS] telemedicine project, which will provide state-of-the-art, emergency medical services to military personnel in remote areas and help field-test recent advances in military telemedicine. This project will test innovative technologies and apply them to real world situations, helping our soldiers in hot spots around the world, and then translate those breakthroughs to civilian medicine to help patients of industrial accidents, natural disasters, and other traumas.

The University of Texas Health Science Center is setting the pace for biomedical research. Between 1989 and 1996, a time when other research institutions struggled, UTHSC research funding by contracts, grants and gifts nearly doubled, growing from \$49 million to \$95 million. Through aggressive research fundraising and the new institute of molecular medicine, the foundation has been laid for even greater success in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the University of Texas Health Science Center for 25 years of excellence and innovation in medicine and wish them greater success as they build for the 21st century.

TRIBUTE TO NATALIE GITELMAN

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to pay tribute to Mrs. Natalie Gitelman, for exceptional service to the House of Representatives as our first director of the House Child Care Center. After a decade of dedicated service, she is retiring.

A graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Mrs. Gitelman has committed herself to working with the most delicate among us, our children. Her service and commitment to children dates back to 1953 when, upon receiving her bachelors degree, Mrs. Gitelman began work as a child care worker.

Mrs. Gitelman began her career as a counselor to children destined for foster and adop-

tive families. Her recruitment endeavors and preparatory counseling with natural, foster, and adoptive parents ensured homes for children ranging in age from birth through adolescence.

1966 saw the advent of Mrs. Gitelman's career in education. As the head teacher at Green Acres School in Rockville, MD, she developed and implemented classroom programs for the cooperative school. Over the course of her tenure Mrs. Gitelman handled much of the admissions work, served on the new director search committee and as one of two staff representatives on the board of trustees.

In 1975, she was named head teacher of the early childhood department of Pingry School in Short Hills, NJ and later named director and teacher of Prospect Cooperative Nursery School in Maplewood, NJ. Again she was responsible for the development and implementation of the department's teaching program and admissions criteria.

The following 2 years produced two more teaching opportunities for Mrs. Gitelman at the Prospect Cooperative Nursery School in Maplewood, NJ the Summit Child Care Center in Summit, NJ. And from 1979 until 1984 Mrs. Gitelman served as one of six education coordinators with the Newark Pre-School Council, the Head Start Grantee Agency for Newark, NJ.

Mrs. Gitelman's lifelong endeavor of working with children should not obscure her commitment to learning about them. Though she received her master of science in education from the Bank Street College of Education in 1978 she would continue with nondegree course work on early childhood education and its administration for years thereafter.

In 1984 Mrs. Gitelman was adopted founding director of the United Nations Day Care Centre. It was here that Ms. Gitelman could use her inherent love of children and well fostered administrative skills to construct a model day care program others would strive to emulate.

In fact, in 1987 Mrs. Gitelman was called upon by the House of Representatives to recreate with success a day care program fit for the institution and staff it would support.

Over the past 10 years the House of Representatives Child Care Center has become such a place. Mrs. Gitelman's vision of a warm and healthy sanctuary for children has provided some respite as well for parents, who rest in the knowledge that their children are in a safe and caring environment.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of HRCCC's success as a premier child day care facility and Natalie Gitelman's 10 years of commitment, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting her and wishing her a very happy and active retirement.

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN WAYNE WRIGHT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to pay tribute to Mr. Norman Wayne Wright of Colorado, who was taken from us and sent to the Lord on August 19, 1997. Norman was a dedicated

Republican committed to the beliefs and ideals of the Republican party. He never failed to lend support when it was needed. The Baca Weekly in Colorado described Mr. Wright the following way:

As one who entered this life on August 17, 1954, in Hutchinson, Kansas, to bless the home of George and Madge Wright. There he joined two brothers, Gary and Jerry, and was later joined by a brother Mark, and two sisters, Carol and Melinda. He lived in several different states during his childhood and was graduated from the Lovington High School in Lovington, NM in 1972.

In 1973, Norman joined the Armed Services, where he served for 3 years in the Army until 1976. During that time he was stationed in Fort Leonard Wood, Fort Polk, Fort Riley and for 1 year in Germany. During the early part of his Armed Services stint, he met Paulette Alfrey, and they were married on January 12, 1974. They have shared the blessing and direction of the Lord upon their lives for more than 23 years and their children Shade Harley, Lea Ann, and Gabriel Henry.

When Norman was around 10 years of age, he accepted Christ as his personal savior. The story of the rest of his life could be told in terms of God's gracious dealings in his heart. In July of 1974, he joined the membership of First Baptist Church of Walsh, CO, where he faithfully served the Lord until his passing. He grew to believe that the greatest possession of his life was his relationship to Christ, and the sharing of that relationship with others was his greatest accomplishment. Norman had an open heart and an open home, and he ministered to many people because of it.

Norman had varied interests and abilities. He loved horses; riding them, breaking them, shoeing them, training them and working them. He liked to braid cowboy gear, go hunting, fishing, looking for arrowheads, guiding people through the canyons while explaining the writings and the ancient paintings on the canyon walls, or just sitting down with a good history book, or even Baxter Black's poetry. He enjoyed good simple music with a clear message like one might hear from the Chuckwagon Gang, and he also liked to sing along with friends and his guitar. Family activities were special to him, and getting together with friends, whether for coffee or for branding, brought him a great deal of joy.

Norman volunteered his time to serve in his church, taught a Sunday School class, and ushered faithfully. He has served as a municipal judge, a city council chairman, a representative for "Colorado For Family Values" and as a guest speaker for the Baca County Historical Society. Some of the recent, cherished highlights of his life include fishing with Gabe, taking his family out, going to Indianapolis with John to see Shade and watch the Speedway Races with him, speaking to Boy Scout Troop #71 in Colorado Springs on commitment, sharing in the 25th Anniversary of his parents' pastorate in Junction City, KS, and celebrating his 43rd birthday on Sunday, August 17.

Norman was preceded in death by his brother George Henry Wright Jr. in 1952. He leaves to mourn his passing his wife Paulette and children Shade, Lea, and Gabe of the home in Walsh, CO; his parents George and Madge of Junction City, KS; his three brothers, Gary and wife Sheila also of Junction City, KS; Jerry and wife Nita of Chapman, KS; Mark and Alicia of Fredonia, KS; and two sisters, Carol and husband Lionel Martin of Queses, Portugal; and Melinda and husband Rod Thompson of Moore, OK. Also missing him are his father-in-law and mother-in-law Eugene and Verna Lee Alfrey of Walsh, CO, brother-in-law Loyd Brown and

wife of Granada, CO; John Brown and wife Patricia of Campo, CO; sister-in-law Cheryl and husband Paul George of Amarillo, TX; plus many nieces and nephews, and a host of friends and relatives.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to share some thoughts his wife Paulette shared with me. "I can truthfully say my husband was honorable. His heart dictated what was true and honest. In my eyes, many times, he always took the hard road. The easy way out was never the right way. For every situation God had already set the standard."

Mr. Speaker, Norman Wayne Wright is a symbol of what America stands for, family values, hard work and a solid faith in the Lord. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share his memory with the House today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I was unfortunately detained in my district Monday, October 6, 1997 and a portion of Tuesday, October 7, 1997 and missed several votes as a result.

Had I been here, I would have voted in the following way: I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 490, 491, 492, 493 and 496; I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 494 and 495.

As exporting becomes increasingly more important to U.S. businesses, the role of the Export-Import Bank must be maintained. The Export-Import Bank places businesses in my district and districts across the nation on a level playing field when competing against foreign businesses subsidized by foreign governments. This program allows for the expansion of U.S. markets thereby increasing the stability of our economy and preserving American jobs. I would, therefore, have voted in favor of reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank.

I would also have voted for the conference report on the Department of Agriculture Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 1998. Among many important programs, this conference report includes full funding for the Food and Drug Administration's initiative to curb underage smoking in our country. In addition, the bill provides over \$3.9 billion—\$118 million more than approved by the House of Representatives—for the important Women Infant and Children's (WIC) nutritional program.

I would also have voted in favor of instructing the House conferees to Foreign Operations Appropriations Conference Committee to insist on the House approved provisions to reinstate the "Mexico City" policy. It is my belief that federal funds should not be used to fund abortions here or abroad.

MEDICARE PARTIAL HOSPITALIZATION INTEGRITY ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Representative KAREN THURMAN and myself, I am

today introducing legislation to reform Medicare's partial hospitalization benefit.

The partial hospitalization benefit is an important addition to Medicare, helping people with substantial mental health needs, who in the absence of this service would need to be hospitalized.

Unfortunately, Congress' effort to provide this improved benefit has become prey to some unethical and corrupt "health care providers." In some areas, the benefit is being badly abused. I include an article from the Miami Herald of September 2, 1997, which describes the situation in Florida.

The bill we are introducing today will deny coverage of services in home and nursing home settings; establish quality standards that will prevent fly-by-night operators from being eligible to participate; establish a prospective payment system for the partial hospitalization benefit, so that costs are brought under control; and provide a demonstration project to determine whether more comprehensive services by quality providers can indeed save Medicare some revenues.

The administration proposed most of these changes this summer, but the partial hospitalization problem was new to Congress and we did not have time to consider these proposals in this summer's Balanced Budget Medicare Title.

I hope that these provisions can be considered early in the next session of Congress, so that this abuse of the system can be stopped. The situation in Florida indicates that we cannot afford to wait.

The partial hospitalization benefit—when done right—is an important and cost-effective tool to reduce the length of stay of an inpatient hospitalization and to prevent the need for inpatient hospitalization altogether. The reforms we are suggesting have the support of the partial hospitalization, who are as anxious as we are to expel the bad actors from this specialty.

Why partial hospitalization is a useful service is well described in the following materials provided by the Association of Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.

[From the Miami Herald, September 2, 1997]

MEDICARE ABUSES SPARK CRY FOR ANTI-FRAUD LAW

(By Peggy Rogers)

Florida's notorious Medicare cheats have yet another type of record—abusing a special psychiatric program out of all proportion to the rest of the nation.

Patient snatching is among the home-grown scams employed in this "partial hospitalization" program, which is supposed to provide several hours a day of intensive psychiatric care. The unwitting elderly and mentally ill, often told they are going on recreational outings, are lured from boarding homes each day to be used as patients.

The boom is astounding. In 1993, Florida outfits billed federal insurers \$2.9 million for partial hospitalization. Last year, Florida's total was \$112 million—half of the \$220 million Medicare spent nationwide for partial hospitalization, federal anti-fraud authorities say.

So "aberrant" and "alarming" are Florida's numbers that state health-care administrators are proposing a state law to clamp down on abusers. If authorities with the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration secure a sponsor, the law requiring licensure of partial hospitalization programs would be considered during the next legislative session.

At the same time, federal authorities in Miami this summer have recommended a moratorium on Medicare billing by new companies.

In 1991, Washington expanded partial hospitalization payments to facilities outside of hospitals. It was intended to save mentally disturbed patients from full hospitalization and save taxpayers money. Services include therapy and stabilization, several hours a day, several days a week.

While Florida consumes half of the program's entire national budget, the state has 26 percent of the private companies providing the service and only 6 percent of the recipients inapplicable Medicare plans, according to a recent report by a Miami-based Medicare anti-fraud squad, Operation Restore Trust.

Eighty percent of the Florida companies are in Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties.

"We believe that the situation in Florida . . . warrants immediate action," warned Dewey Price, leader of Operation Restore Trust's Miami office.

A moratorium and other recommended actions "should be adopted as quickly as possible to protect both the [Medicare] Trust Fund and the beneficiaries who are supposed to receive partial hospitalization services at these facilities." Price urged policymakers in this report earlier this summer.

Audits in Florida report a "high incidence" of kickbacks to boarding homes for use of their residents, as well as other "widespread, fundamental abuses"—including a lack of medical eligibility by most of the people purportedly receiving treatment.

A temporary ban on admitting new companies to the program would allow Medicare time to regain control of the situation and create lighter policies, authorities say.

One policy now allows partial hospitalization programs to provide care outside their centers. One review found billings for patients from locations as distant as 150 miles.

The companies, typically for-profit outfits, are virtually unregulated.

They are supposed to provide patients with several hours a day of therapy and stabilizing treatment. But spot federal audits found that "none of the group sessions are being led by licensed staff as required by state law to provide psychotherapy" and that "no active treatment is being provided."

The state does not pay for partial hospitalization and has lost little money. But controlling quality is a big concern, along with helping Medicare safeguard public money, said spokeswoman Colleen David of the Agency for Health Care Administration.

"Our fundamental problem is that these programs are not licensed, and licensing is a proxy for monitoring quality," David said. "The program has clearly grown exponentially over a very short period of time."

The number of partial hospitalization centers billing Medicare in Florida grew from none in 1991, the year the federal government expanded the category, to 87 in 1994.

Since then, the number has tripled. Of the 259 Florida companies today, Dade County alone has 167, Broward County has 22 and Palm Beach, 20.

There is also a nationwide problem with increases in spending per patient. Operation Restore Trust's Dewey Price noted, "and nowhere is the situation more alarming than in the state of Florida."

In 1993, three of the state's partial hospitalization programs ranked among the 30 nationwide with the highest per-patient claims. A year later, Florida had 10 of the 30 highest billers. And in 1995, Florida had 22 out of 30.