

equal basis. This was not only good policy; it was good medicine. Veterans with service-connected disabilities were included in the highest enrollment categories to ensure complete and speedy access to the system. In fact, because of their service-connected disabilities they were even exempted from enrollment requirements. If these high-priority veterans are having difficulty accessing VA health care now, as the Secretary has stated, then the problem lies in the inability of the Administration to fund the VA properly and the incompetence of VA admitting clerks who ignore current eligibility law and the high priority these veterans already have. Both of these problems should be rectified without the institution of new regulations. The \$275 million in emergency supplemental funding that the White House refused to allocate to the VA last month could have gone a long way to ease the burden on the system. The re-characterization of health care access in the proposed regulations is a major step backward toward the chaos that existed in the pre-eligibility reform days.

There is no question that the VA is grossly overburdened. A product of its own success, the system, because of the quality and accessibility of the health care services it provides, has attracted unprecedented numbers of new veteran users. While eligibility reform has been blamed for opening the gates to the system, the real cause of this influx of patients are the new health care markets VA has established by opening 800 outpatient clinics across the country. Among other factors are a private health insurance system that is pricing itself out of reach of most Americans and a Medicare plan that ignores the need for a quality prescription drug benefit for seniors and people with disabilities.

VA is pulling in the reins, attempting to ration care and dissuade veterans from coming into the system. These new regulations are only one attempt. We are certain to see other proposals in the months ahead. But if we go down the road of pitting one group of veterans in the health care queue against other groups of veterans where does it stop? These regulations completely ignore the other key missions of the VA health care system to care for the poor and medically indigent and those veterans with special disabilities such as spinal cord dysfunction, blindness and mental illness. With these regulations in place a hospital administrator could logically ignore these responsibilities as well in contravention of direct statutory requirements.

Finally, we seriously question the VA's opinion that it has sufficient authority under existing statutes to move forward with these interim final rules. The VA's sophisticated argument ignores the plain language of the statute providing the VA limited flexibility in managing the enrollment system established by Congress in 1996.

All in all, we do not see why veterans should be denied an accessible, quality health care product just because it is unattainable or unaffordable elsewhere, and the Administration and the Congress do not want to come up with the dollars to fund it adequately.

Sincerely,

DELATORRO L. MCNEIL,
Executive Director.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Finally, Mr. President, we have seen a rush by the Administration to implement these new regulations, without the normal comment period for Congress, veterans, or veterans advocates to make their views known. I believe VA's finding, that it has "good cause" to dispense with a normal notice-and-comment pe-

riod, is without factual merit. If an emergency situation exists, the Administration could have surely provided the \$270 million in additional funds which Congress already appropriated to deal with the unacceptably long waiting times.

We must work together to find a better solution for veterans and these regulations must be rescinded to protect access to care for all veterans.

RESCUE OF MINEWORKERS BY FMC

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I know all of us in this Chamber shared in the profound sense of relief and elation which accompanied the heroic rescue of nine miners from the Quecreek Mine near Somerset Pennsylvania earlier this summer. It was truly a remarkable story which combined the very best of the human spirit with the most modern mine safety and rescue technologies and produced nothing short of a miracle.

Somewhat lost in the press accounts after the rescue was the role played by the Mine Safety and Health Administration which sent 70 of its own employees to Somerset to assist in the rescue. One of MSHA's important missions is to prepare miners and local health and safety officials for responding to the sort of near disaster that we witnessed last month. The rescue in Pennsylvania was no accident. It was the result of thousands of man-hours dedicated to salvaging the best from the worst. We all saw firsthand how it works.

I am very proud to be able today to recognize that a group of individuals from my own state has won this year's National and International Mine Rescue Contest. The Mine rescue competitions are designed to test the knowledge of miners who might be called upon to respond to a real mine emergency. The contest requires six-member teams to solve a hypothetical mine emergency problem—such as a fire, explosion or cave in—while judges rate them on their adherence to mine rescue procedures and how quickly they complete specific tasks.

This year a team from Green River Wyoming, representing FMC Corporation, which operates a mine in my state, won this prestigious competition. I would like to recognize the individuals who are part of this number 1 team: Bob Knott, Alan Jones, Rick Owens, Leroy Hutchinson, Glen Weinmaster, Dave Thomas, Melvin Lovato, Robert Pope, Bill Oleson, Bob Robison, Tony Herrera, John Key, Rod Knight, Mike Padilla and David Hutchinson.

We pray that this outstanding team will never have to put into practice what it has trained to do over countless hours. However, it is also encouraging to know that such teams are deployed throughout mining country and stand ready to perform the sorts of heroic feats that we all witnessed a few

weeks ago in Pennsylvania and coal country.

All of us in Wyoming are very proud of the accomplishments of the FMC Mine Rescue Team and salute all of those involved in the mining industry for their dedication to safety.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BRADY HOWELL

• Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, the terrorism of September 11 changed America forever, and it profoundly changed Americans, as well. The people we lost left behind legacies, the compilation of the meaningful things they accomplished throughout their lives, actions and words that still touch their friends and families after their deaths. Those legacies inspire all of us with the bravery and courage of the human spirit, and also remind us of the precious frailty of life.

Brady Howell lost his life in the attack on the Pentagon. This letter, written by Brady's brother Carson Howell to commemorate the one year anniversary of that terrible event, articulates the legacy Brady left behind. I would like to enter this letter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so all my colleagues can remember the great example these Americans are to us. In the words of Carson Howell, "The men and women who perished that day are not heroes because of how they died; they are heroes because of how they lived."

Let me read the letter in its entirety:

Today is a sad day for our family. Not just our family, but also families just like the Vauk family, the Conaty family, the Andrews family, and thousands of others. It's a sad day for our American family as we all remember and pay tribute to the thousands of friends, family, and fellow Americans that lost their lives one year ago today. It's a day that many will remember as the day we learned that heroes aren't found only in comic books. No, there are heroes greater than Superman and my brother is one of them.

Brady Kay Howell loved this country. He was an Eagle Scout. He loved children and taught the youth in Sunday School classes while living in New York and later Virginia. He loved his family and actually had plans to return to Idaho that following weekend for a welcome home party for my parents and for my wedding reception. He loved his wife, Liz, to whom he'd been married for only five short years.

Brady was working in naval intelligence as an intern. Shortly before his death, he and I had a telephone conversation. In it he told me that one of his goals in his life was to have top-secret clearance. I'm proud to say that he accomplished that goal.

I could go on and on about how great my brother was. But, if it were he speaking here today, he wouldn't use this opportunity to speak of his accomplishments. I believe that he would talk about service. He would talk about what a great country this is that we live in and how proud he was to serve and protect all of us.

The work that Brady and many others did that died that day was for all of us. Brady prepared briefings for the Chief of Naval Intelligence and other high-ranking officials so

that they could best be informed of how to protect us the American public. Everyday he was protecting our country. Everyday he was fighting for our freedoms that we enjoy. To Brady, it didn't matter how much money you had, it didn't matter what the color of your skin was, it didn't matter which religion you believed. To Brady, what mattered were the people.

Ongoing community service initiatives to commemorate Brady's commitment to public service are being conducted in the Washington, DC area and there are plans for at least one such initiative in Utah. Generous contributions from all over the country have allowed us to create an endowed memory in Brady's name to continue the influence of his story. These contributions will also support an endowed lecture series in Brady's name that has been established and now approved by the BYU-Idaho Board of Trustees.

I miss Brady very much. I remember with fondness building bases and battling with our G.I. Joe action figures, waking up early Saturday morning to watch the Bugs Bunny and Tweety Show together, and climbing trees together. I always looked up to Brady and for me, he was always a hero. As his story is told, others are hearing about the hero whom I was privileged enough to call "brother".

September 11th wasn't the first day that this country has known heroes, nor has it been the last. We should take this time to pay tribute not only to the heroes of September 11th, but all of the heroes that have fought for freedom. Thousands of men and women are working today to protect us from evil. The men and women who perished that day are not heroes because of how they died; they are heroes because of how they lived. Heroes are the men and women who have put themselves in harms way for the cause of democracy and freedom since long before September 11, 2001. Heroes are the men and women who serve each day to protect people they will never know. Heroes are the men and women who spend more waking hours caring for and about others than they do for themselves. Let us remember the heroes of September 11th 2001, along with the heroes who stood before, who stand now, and who are preparing to stand against evil. Because it is to all of you who have served this country, have given your children for the service of America, and are currently serving that we, the American people, pay tribute this day; the fire fighters, the police officers, the emergency medical crews, and the soldiers of freedom.

If the mark of a hero is one that cares about and fights for others, I hope that the destruction of September 11th has facilitated the construction of tomorrow's heroes. Wouldn't the greatest honor that we could pay to those that perished be if we could follow their example and give of ourselves as they did? We may not be called upon to die for this country, but we are all called upon to live for it. This country doesn't need more martyrs, but this country could use more doers.

Tens of thousands have given their time and tens of thousands have given their lives for America; this "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." To be "one nation", we need to be one state, one neighborhood, one home. Let us rededicate ourselves as we did after September 11th, to being Americans. Never in my life before September 11th, had I seen such a display and attitude of patriotism. We were friendlier, we were more patient, and we looked out for each other. I wish that those who died that day could have seen the America that we became. We became strong and united. We showed forth the America that we always should have been; the America that

those men and women sacrificed their lives for. Let us honor all of the heroes of America by not letting their sacrifices be in vain. Let us continue their legacies. Let us live for what they died for The United States of America.●

RECOGNITION OF THE ENTERPRISE FOUNDATION'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize The Enterprise Foundation as it celebrates its 20th year of rebuilding America's communities and creating opportunities for low-income people across America.

The Enterprise Foundation was founded in 1982 by renowned developer James Rouse and his wife, Patty, who were inspired by the commitment of members of the Church of the Saviour in Washington, D.C. to create safe housing in one of the most challenged neighborhoods in the District.

More than 65,000 hours of volunteer time and \$500,000 in grants were invested to clean out rats and garbage and to repair, paint and correct more than 940 housing code violations to create those first 90 apartments affordable to low-income families.

Since that humble start, Enterprise has grown to become a national nonprofit with offices in 16 cities, five subsidiaries and a staff of more than 450. Enterprise works with private sector and public partners through a network of more than 2,200 community-based organizations in 820 U.S. locations to provide affordable housing, safer streets and access to jobs and quality child care.

Since 1982, The Enterprise Foundation has raised and committed more than \$3.9 billion in equity, loans and grants to build or renovate more than 132,000 homes affordable to low- and very low-income people. Since its creation in 1985, Enterprise Homes has completed more than 4,000 homes for low- and moderate-income families totaling more than \$350 million in total development. Enterprise has partnered with more than 170 corporate investors and more than 580 nonprofit and for-profit developers to provide affordable homes for families, the elderly and people with special needs.

Enterprise's job training and placement programs have helped more than 32,000 low-income residents qualify for work and retain employment. More than 4,500 children have benefited from the Home-Based Child Care Program. Enterprise Child Care has awarded more than \$4.5 million in grants and loans since 1999.

My own State of Maryland has benefited greatly from the work of the Enterprise Foundation. I have personally seen the results of the Enterprise Foundation's work in the Druid Heights, Lauraville and Garrison/Forest Park neighborhoods in Baltimore. Their comprehensive approach to neighborhood redevelopment is what makes Enterprise an asset in Maryland, and in the Nation.

Today I ask that we pay tribute to Mr. Rouse's legacy and to the profound impact that The Enterprise Foundation has had on the lives of thousands of low-income Americans and their communities.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:04 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1834. An act for the relief of retired Sergeant First Class James D. Benoit and Wan Sook Benoit.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1784. An act to establish an Office on Women's Health within the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2245. An act for the relief of Anisha Goveas Foti.

H.R. 4102. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 North Maine Street in Fallon, Nevada, as the "Rollan D. Melton Post Office Building".

H.R. 5333. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4 East Central Street in Worcester, Massachusetts, as the "Joseph D. Early Post Office Building".

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 435. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the therapeutic technique known as rebirthing is a dangerous and harmful practice and should be prohibited.

H. Con. Res. 469. Concurrent resolution authorizing the Rotunda of the Capitol to be used on September 19, 2002, for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to General Henry H. Shelton (USA, Ret.).

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3253) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment within the Department of Veterans Affairs of improved emergency medical preparedness, research, and education programs to combat terrorism, and for other purposes, with an amendment.