

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING GAIL L. WARDEN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gail L. Warden, who will receive the Lifetime of Idealism award from City Year at City Year Detroit's annual Ripples of Hope Dinner on June 19, 2003.

The Lifetime of Idealism award is the highest award City Year bestows. Previous recipients of this coveted award include former President William Jefferson Clinton and Senator JOHN MCCAIN. This year, Gail Warden will be honored for fulfilling City Year's mission of "building democracy through national service" because of his long and distinguished career in the field of health care and his involvement in his community.

Gail Warden graduated from Dartmouth College and earned a master's degree in health care management from the University of Michigan. He received an honorary doctorate in public administration from Central Michigan University. Gail Warden has recently retired from the positions of president and chief executive officer of Henry Ford Health System, which serves approximately 70,000 patients each year.

Gail Warden's dedication to healthcare is exemplary. He is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, and he has served on its Governing Council and on its Board of Health Care Services and its Committee on Quality Health Care in America.

Gail Warden chairs the National Forum on Health Care Quality Measurement and Reporting, the Healthcare Research and Development Institute, and the National Center for Healthcare Leadership. In 1995 Gail Warden chaired the American Hospital Association Board of Trustees, and in 1997 President Clinton appointed him to the Federal Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry.

It is important to note that this list, though long, represents only part of the service Gail Warden has rendered to others. Indeed all that he has achieved in the field of healthcare, including being named one of Modern Healthcare's "100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare" in 2002 or one of Modern Health Care Magazine's top 25 individuals in the industry over the past 25 years in 2001, show only part of his character.

True to his nature, upon learning that he might be named for the Lifetime of Idealism award, he insisted that others were far deserving. In the words of one of his colleague, Gail Warden "seeks no recognition and argues that what we consider to be his extraordinary contributions . . . are a privilege unworthy of comment." It is, however, precisely this attitude which entitles him to our admiration and our thanks.

I have been privileged to witness Gail Warden's good works on many occasions, each of

which has only increased my admiration for him. I ask my colleagues to join me in offering a heartfelt tribute to Gail Warden for all his work on behalf of our community and citizens.

A CALL FOR ACTION: GEOGRAPHIC ADJUSTMENT OF PHYSICIAN WORK NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED IMMEDIATELY

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to announce that the Rural Equity Payment Index Reform Act, a bill that will address the significant differential in reimbursement levels to urban and rural skilled health care professionals, now has 72 bipartisan cosponsors.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services defines "physician work" is the amount of time, skill and intensity a physician puts into patients' visits. Rural physicians put in as much or even more time, skill, and intensity into a patient visit as do physicians in urban areas. Yet, rural physicians are paid less for their work. This is not only unfair, it is discriminatory.

Nebraska physicians and other health professionals are currently being shortchanged by about \$8.7 million annually in Medicare payments. If a Member represents a rural locality, their District's physicians and skilled health professionals are likely being short-changed as well. Physician work should be valued equally, irrespective of the geographic location of the physician.

Mr. Speaker, this Member urges his colleagues to support the Rural Equity Payment Index Reform Act and asks for language to be included in any comprehensive Medicare reform bill that is considered on the House floor. The legislation would gradually phase-in a floor to adjust the reimbursement upward for rural physicians without lowering pay in other areas.

INTRODUCTION OF FAIRNESS TO ALL VIETNAM VETERANS ACT

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from Long Beach, CA, Ms. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD to introduce the "Fairness to All Vietnam Veterans Act." This legislation directs the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress an appropriate way to recognize and honor Vietnam veterans who died in service of our Nation, but whose names are not listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. Our retired colleague, Steve

Horn, championed this legislation in the 107th Congress, and I am honored to carry on his good work.

I was moved when I learned the story of the 74 Navy men who died on the destroyer USS *Frank E. Evans* who are not listed on the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall.

For those who are not familiar with this story, in the spring of 1969, the destroyer *Evans* sailed from the Port of Long Beach, CA to Vietnam. After experiencing fierce combat off the coast of Vietnam, the *Evans* was sent to a brief training exercise called "Operation Sea Spirit" with over 40 ships of the South-east Asia Treaty Organization.

On the morning of June 3, 1969, the crew of the *Evans* awoke to the sounds of its hull splitting in half. Inexplicably the Australian carrier, *Melbourne*, had rammed the American destroyer *Evans*. The forward half of the ship sank within 3 minutes, taking 74 sailors with it. Although they were in the South China Sea, these lost sailors have been excluded from the wall because their sunk vessel was just outside the designated combat zone that determines inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall.

Although these men did not die in direct combat, they were instrumental in forwarding American objectives in Vietnam and participated in conflict just days before the collision that claimed their lives. In reviewing the historical and personal records of the *Evans*, I see a story of valor and patriotism, and, for 74 sailors, the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Mr. Speaker, examining the important role these men played in the Vietnam conflict, I believe my colleagues will agree that those who died deserve the honor of being listed on the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall.

Unfortunately, the case of the *Evans* does not just pertain to the families of the 74 soldiers who perished in June of 1969. Those who were stationed on the *Evans*, including eastern Connecticut's Bill Thilbeault of Norwich, are proud survivors of the accident and look forward to the day when their shipmates are finally given their recognition of service and sacrifice on the Wall.

My colleague Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD and I believe it is time for the Department of Defense to examine current policies for placement on the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall. Our legislation asks for a complete study of the current standards and for an examination of those who died, such as the 74 sailors on the *Evans*, which seem appropriate for inclusion on the wall.

The Fairness to All Vietnam Veterans Act has the support of the Frank E. Evans Association, as well as hundreds of family members across the country, hoping to see loved ones properly recognized. And Senator BEN NIGHORSE CAMPBELL of Colorado champions companion legislation in the Senate. I urge my colleagues to support and pass this bipartisan and long overdue piece of legislation.

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