

VA-HUD APPROPRIATIONS

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I will offer a technical amendment tomorrow that calls on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to submit a report to Congress reporting on resource sharing agreements for services, programs and facilities the department undertakes with the Department of Defense (DoD).

Every American knows that the face of health care has changed dramatically over the past decades. This is no less true for military and veterans' health care. It is clear from all the studies undertaken by the departments of Defense and Veterans' Affairs that the integration of health care services—where possible—will enhance the quality of care for the men and women who are serving our country today and those who served our Nation in the past.

My district is home to the North Chicago VA Medical Center and the Great Lakes Naval Hospital. During the last Administration, officials made two attempts to close the North Chicago VA Medical Center. On June 19, 2001, the VA released its Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) study. The CARES study developed four options to improve veterans health care in the Chicago area, each of which recommended the preservation of services offered at North Chicago. The CARES study also recommended increasing the level of cooperation between North Chicago VA and the Great Lakes Naval Hospital, located less than a mile apart.

Integration of the two medical facilities is both practical and also urgent in North Chicago, Illinois, where the Great Lakes Naval Training Center Hospital and the North Chicago Veterans Medical Center both sit underutilized and in such close proximity. Combining these two facilities in a state of the art, federal health care center will maximize the use of tax payer dollars, enhance the training opportunities for young naval medical corps personnel and, most importantly, bring the health care we promised these men and women into the twenty-first century. By directing the VA to report to Congress on the issues facing resource sharing, Congress will be able to better understand and utilize resource sharing agreements when moving forward with the cost shaving approach.

I have met with Secretary Principi and Secretary Rumsfeld to discuss enhanced cooperation and health care resources sharing between the DoD and the VA. Both secretaries are committed to providing our men and women in uniform, veterans and retirees with world-class health care in an efficient manner. Both agree that cooperation between the two agencies, when possible, will enable the departments to meet the growing needs of active and retired soldiers.

As an officer in the Naval Reserve and fellow veteran, I understand the sacrifices made by the men and women who wore their country's uniform. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I would like to thank Chairman WALSH, ranking member MOLLOHAN, and the staff of the VA-HUD subcommittee for their help with this amendment. I hope to continue working with

them on this issue as this bill moves into a conference committee with the other body.

ROBERT A. BORSKI POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2003

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the accomplishments of my dear friend and former colleague, Robert A. Borski. Today, we acknowledge his legacy with H.R. 2328 by designating a post office in his former district, the Robert A. Borski Post Office Building.

I've known Bob Borski for 25 years. He is a man who has always had the courage of conviction to fight for the City of Philadelphia. He is a man who spent 20 years "paving the way" for many people whose voices were not previously heard—how fitting that he was a member of the prestigious Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He is a man that refused to be anything less than a tireless and forceful advocate for his community.

A role model to us all, Bob has spent his life as a public servant. Shortly after the completion of his educational pursuits, he became a member of the Pennsylvania State House. After three terms, he successfully won the bid for the Third Congressional District which encompassed Northeast Philadelphia, the River Wards, Society Hill and portions of Queen Village.

Bob Borski retired after 20 years of distinguished service to the Philadelphia area, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the United States of America. His mission has always been simple—to serve and represent the people of the great City of Philadelphia. I am proud and privileged to have had Bob as a colleague, a friend, and a mentor.

Although his tenure in the House has finished, Bob remains an active advocate for the City of Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania here in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of my distinguished colleagues to honor Robert A. Borski with the passage of H.R. 2328.

SUPPORT FUNDING OF UNFPA, H.R. 1950: STATE DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to speak on the matter of the U.N. family-planning program or the UNFPA. Last year, President Bush cancelled three years' worth of funding to the UNFPA after allegations that the UNFPA's program in China violated the Kemp-Kasten law. This law prohibits the United States from providing funding to any organization that supports or participates in involuntary sterilization. In May of last year, President Bush sent his own three person team to China to investigate but even after they returned finding no evidence in sup-

port of these rumors, the President still cancelled funding to this much needed organization, endangering the lives of women across the globe.

Over the past 33 years, the UNFPA has provided more than \$6 billion in assistance to more than 160 countries for voluntary family planning and maternal and child health care. It has provided life-saving reproductive health services in over 150 poor countries around the world, but has not provided or paid for abortion services anywhere in the world. The UNFPA has actually worked to reduce the need for abortion by promoting voluntary family planning.

The fact remains that today nearly 600,000 die each year from causes related to pregnancy; 99 percent of these women are from developing countries. Many of these deaths could have been prevented by providing the means or information to choose the size and spacing of their families. And while contraceptive use has increased, there are 350 million women in developing countries who do not have access to a range of safe and effective family planning methods.

With the UNFPA program, it will provide reproductive health care, including family planning services but not abortion, to the world's poorest women. The loss of each year's funding will have a severe impact in the developing countries the UNFPA serves: \$34 million would prevent 2 million unintended pregnancies; nearly 800,000 abortions; 4,700 maternal deaths; nearly 60,000 cases of serious maternal illness; and more than 77,000 infant and child deaths. These numbers are astounding and certainly something I would want to prevent.

The evidence is clear: funding to the UNFPA must be restored. The UNFPA has time and time again proven to be a necessary organization ensuring the safety and well being of women and their families. It will continue to provide safe methods of contraception to women, giving them a choice with their health and with their lives.

HONORING AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR FROM THE GREATEST GENERATION**HON. WALTER B. JONES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation aimed at honoring American Prisoners of War from the Greatest Generation.

Over two years ago, two of my constituents who were POWs during World War II in the Pacific Theatre approached me about awards they felt they should have received. The Japanese has imprisoned each of the men, one of whom was a survivor of the Bataan Death March. These men were beaten, tortured and starved—one weighed 70 pounds when he was liberated. After their release, each of them was awarded the Prisoner of War Medal because of their internment. However, despite the harsh and sometimes violent treatment received at the hands of their captors, neither received the Purple Heart.

Current law for POWs held prior to 1962 requires documentation from the camps or detailed statements from former POW commanding officers in order to be eligible for the

Purple Heart. But the Japanese, and later the North Koreans, certainly provided no documentation. Now when World War II and Korean war vets are dying by the thousands every day, it is becoming even harder to find survivors from specific camps.

The bill I am introducing recognizes the hardships borne by World War II and Korean war POWs by providing additional assistance to those who would have earned the award if they had today's record keeping. It requires the Department to provide some additional historical information from the period and gives them some benefit of the doubt with respect to injuries.

This legislation is not about lowering the standard for a sacred award—the Purple Heart. Instead it is about properly recognizing the realities of the horrible suffering endured in the Japanese and North Korean POW camps for a small number of surviving heroes.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (APSA) CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend and congratulate the American Political Science Association on the occasion of having reached a milestone of 50 years of existence, 50 years of growth, and 50 years of providing opportunities for individuals to obtain first-hand experiences in learning about and being involved about and being involved in the art of public-policy decisionmaking. It has been my experience to have talented, energetic, and eager to learn individuals interact with me and members of my staff in a very professional and sincere way as we worked together in pursuit of mutual goal. I also take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to the American Political Science Association (APSA) Congressional Fellowship Program for doing an excellent job of helping to prepare many of our future leaders. We thank you APSA and I yield back the balance of my time.

TRIBUTE TO THE MISCOWAUBIK CLUB ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes today to extend my heartiest congratulations to the members, past and present, of the Miscowaubik Club in Calumet Township, Michigan. On August 16th, 2003, the Miscowaubik Club will proudly celebrate 100 years of existence with an evening of music, dancing and, no doubt, storytelling about the club's rich history.

Named after an Ojibwe Indian word for "copper," the Miscowaubik Club was founded in January, 1903 as a social haven and ath-

letic facility for the executives of the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company and local businessmen, who were then placing their mark on the remote and spectacular Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan. The club was modeled after the Tennis and Racket Club of Boston.

The period of the club's founding coincided with the heyday of community prosperity that accompanied the mining activity in Upper Michigan's copper range. At the peak of that activity between 1867 and 1884, Calumet & Hecla mines produced half of this country's supply of copper.

In 1903, 175 invitees paid \$36 in fees and dues to become charter members. Guest book logs show visits to the club from visiting celebrities, including boxers Jack Dempsey, Jack Sharkey, and Max Schmelling.

Present membership has recognized the changing times, and the club elected its first woman president in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my House colleagues join me in raising a figurative glass to toast the Miscowaubik Club on its 100th anniversary. I wish the club and its members a second happy century of social discourse.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MS. NICOLE JONES

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Nicole Jones on her graduation from Harvard University, July 24, 2003:

Whereas, Harvard University, which celebrated its 350th anniversary in 1986, is the oldest institute of higher learning in the United States of America; and

Whereas, Harvard University has grown from nine students with a single master to an enrollment of more than 18,000 degree candidates, including undergraduates and students in ten graduate and professional schools; and

Whereas, Seven Presidents of the United States of America, John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, Rutherford B. Hayes, John Fitzgerald Kennedy and George W. Bush were graduates of Harvard; and

Whereas, its faculty has produced nearly 40 Nobel laureates; and

Whereas, Harvard University continues to be recognized as one of the very best and most outstanding academic institutions in the world today; now therefore, be it resolved that I Danny K. Davis take this opportunity to congratulate my next door neighbor, Ms Nicole Jones on this outstanding milestone in her career; and be it further

Resolved, That I commend and congratulate my neighbors Mr. George and Ms. Jenny Jones, her proud parents, for the contributions which they have made to Nicole's nurturing and development. We all wish her well as she moves on to the University of Michigan Law School to make further preparation for a lifetime of service.

GOD BLESS YOU, JONATHAN DAVID ROZIER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak of a brave young Dallas area resident, 2nd Lt. Rozier, who was killed in combat in Iraq on July 19, 2003. I am humbled and grateful that he was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to this Nation.

He is our fallen hero. A grateful Nation should never forget that he had family, friends, and plans for the future. He was just 25 years of age, old enough to dedicate his life to protecting our country. The attack happened just three days after his birthday.

Lt. Rozier was born in Dallas. In 1991 moved his family to Katy, Texas. He is a graduate of the Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in economics, where he and his wife served in the Corps of Cadets together.

Lt. Rozier was a distinguished and decorated soldier. He earned a Bronze Star by bravely helping to rescue injured soldiers under fire, and by enlisting to serve our country in the armed forces he demonstrated his courage and sense of duty. Lt. Rozier made the ultimate sacrifice for all of us, and we all owe him immeasurable gratitude.

His uncle, a good and close friend of mine, former DeSoto Mayor Richard Rozier expressed to me the sadness of Rozier family the grief of those who knew and loved him, including his wife, Jessica and his son, Justin.

Mr. Speaker, Lt. Rozier will always be remembered by his friends, family and loved ones and will surely be honored by the entire constituency of the Dallas/Forth Worth Metroplex community for his bravery and heroism.

I join with this House and with the people of Dallas/Forth Worth Metroplex and Americans all across the country in saying God bless you, Jonathan David Rozier. And God bless America.

PASSING OF PAUL BERNAL, PUEBLO INDIAN ELDER

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the Taos Pueblo and Native Americans across the country are mourning the loss of an elder, statesman, and military veteran. I rise today to pay tribute to this extraordinary man, whose death is a great loss not only for all Indian Nations but also for the entire country.

Paul Bernal, a Taos Pueblo leader in the fight for religious freedom, died this month at the age of 92. Also known as "Pa chal ma," or Deer Catcher, Paul was an activist who devoted his life to returning control of the Sacred Blue Lake to his Pueblo.

In creating the Carson National Forest in 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt carved away thousands of acres of Taos Pueblo land. This land, viewed as sacred by the Indians, surrounded and included Blue Lake, a vital religious shrine in Pueblo religion. Sixty-four