

Care, the paragraph that specifically pertains to what I was talking about.

[From GAO, September 2003, Defense Health Care]

MOST RESERVISTS HAVE CIVILIAN HEALTH COVERAGE BUT MORE ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED WHEN TRICARE IS USED

Until recently, DOD has administered a transitional benefit program that provided demobilized reservists and their dependents 30 days of additional TRICARE coverage as they returned to their civilian health care. The 2002 NDAA extended the transitional period during which reservists may receive TRICARE coverage from 30 days to 60-120 days, depending on the length of active duty service. This change more closely reflects the 90 days that USERRA provides reservists to apply for civilian reemployment when they are mobilized for more than 181 days, and the change will provide health care coverage if they elect to delay return to their employment subsequent to demobilization. However, the 2002 NDAA did not provide any transitional benefit for dependents.

Overall, the percentage of reservists with health care coverage when they are not mobilized is similar to that found in the general population—and, like the general population, most reservists have coverage through their employers. According to DOD's 2000 survey of Reserve Component Personnel, nearly 80 percent of reservists reported having health care coverage. In the general population, 81 percent of 18 to 65 years old have health care upon coverage. Officers and senior enlisted personnel were more likely than junior enlisted personnel to have coverage. Only 60 percent of junior enlisted personnel, about 90 percent of whom are under age 35, had coverage—lower than the similarly aged group in the general population. Of reservists with dependents, about 86 percent reported having coverage. Of reservists without dependents, about 63 percent reported having coverage.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today not only in support of the gentleman from New York's motion to instruct conferees, but also in support of the brave men and women who actively serve in the National Guard and Reserves. Their commitment to service is second to none, whether it is providing aid during natural disasters, the war on domestic terrorism, or on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Pennsylvania boasts the largest Army National Guard, as well as the fourth largest Air National Guard, making it the largest National Guard in the country. Many of these men and women serve at Ft. Indiantown Gap, the largest National Guard base in Pennsylvania in the heart of my Congressional District. Beyond all of this, the National Guard is the sixth largest employer in Pennsylvania and has a presence in over 100 communities throughout the commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, the National Guard and Reserves are an integral part of my district and of Pennsylvania. But I also know they are essential to every state and commonwealth, as well as the country as a whole. The protection they provide for us should be given back to them in their healthcare coverage. This is why I strongly support providing TRICARE coverage for these men and women.

Medical readiness is essential for National Guard and Reserve members if they are to continue their role as part of a cohesive, seamless force. These men and women train hard, take time off from their civilian jobs, and make many family sacrifices in order to serve.

They are expected to be a ready force when deployed. To facilitate the use of the National Guard and Reserve as an integral part of our armed forces, we need a consistent health care option that covers our members and their families whether they are deployed or not.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, TRICARE should be an option for all members of the National Guard and Reserves and I support the motion to instruct conferees.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANKS of Arizona). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. FRANKS of Arizona). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

TOM MANCHESTER INDUCTED INTO BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, a person once told me that only silly people have heroes in their lives. If that is true, then this silly person rises today to congratulate and thank a hero in my life, my high school basketball coach, Tom Manchester, who is being inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Coach Manchester is a native of Racine, Wisconsin, and played basketball and baseball at Wartburg College, Iowa. Fortunately, for many of us northsiders, kids who grew up on the northside of La Crosse, Wisconsin, Coach Manchester accepted a teaching position at Logan High School and became the head basketball coach in 1977. He coached from 1977 to 1997, and finished with a 224-209 record and many city titles and Big Rivers Conference Championships.

I had the pleasure of playing for him starting in my sophomore year in high school in 1978 and finishing in 1981. I was a member of his team when we struggled to be competitive my sophomore year, and then saw the remarkable transformation the next 2 years when we won back-to-back city championships, and also won our conference and became one of the top-ranked teams in the State of Wisconsin.

□ 2015

He must have seen something in me that I did not at the time because he plucked me off the streets and made me a starting guard my sophomore year even though it was obvious that I was wet behind the ears and qualified as a "work in progress."

I will never forget one of my first games with Coach Manchester. I took the in-bounds pass to break a full-court press, asked for my teammates to clear out the second half of the court so I could break the press by myself, and then proceeded to dribble off my heel when I went between my legs on a dribble. The whistle blew when the ball went out of bounds. The buzzer sounded for a substitution. I ran to the bench assuming I was going to be replaced, only to have Coach Manchester ask me what I was doing. The substitute was for someone else, and he told me to get back out there and get used to making some mistakes because we had some learning to do.

Basketball for Coach Manchester was more than winning and losing. Everyone likes to win, but I never had the impression playing for him that all that mattered was the score at the end of the game. He was always first and foremost concerned about his players, not only how we were playing, but how school was going and whether things were going well in our lives.

For many of us growing up on the north side of La Crosse, which was considered the wrong side of the railroad tracks in town, presented us with some unique challenges and some choices to make. We could, if we wanted to, hang out on the street corners and run with the wrong crowd, getting into trouble and disappointing our parents, or we could find another channel for our energies and focus. That channel for many of us was in sports and in school, and Coach Manchester knew this. The gym became our safe haven and the team our extended family. There was no greater feeling of comfort and security than walking into that dark, cold,

smelly gym on a weekend winter night for practice before a big game and having Coach Manchester check on our personal lives and get us prepared for the next contest.

His wife, Jan, must have been very understanding to allow him leave from his family to spend as much time as he did with us kids. But we were not always alone. His young son Paul was the classic gym rat, dribbling and shooting off in another corner while the rest of us were practicing. Paul would later grow up to enjoy a spectacular high school career playing for his father at Logan, and then a terrific collegiate career at the University of Platteville and then the University of La Crosse. I cannot imagine the pride Coach Manchester must have felt coaching his son and watching him grow up to be the person he is today.

It has been said that great teachers enjoy a form of immortality because their influence never stops radiating. If true, then Coach Manchester is immortal. That influence can be seen today in so many of us kids who had the pleasure to play for and learn from one of the finest coaches in the State of Wisconsin. I am glad the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association is recognizing that by inducting him into their Hall of Fame.

I just hope Coach Manchester realizes the impact he has made on so many of our lives. Young kids need guidance. They need role models, people in their lives to teach them right and wrong and how to be good citizens. They also need from time to time a hero to look up to. I found one of mine, and whether it is silly or not, I do not mind saying that it is Coach Tom Manchester of Logan High School.

I congratulate the coach and thank him for all he has done.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the Special Order time of the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

There was no objection.

MILITARY DEATH GRATUITY TAX REPEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, tonight I am on the floor again. I am asking the House leadership and also the Democratic leader-

ship to please bring to the floor H.R. 693, the Military Death Gratuity Tax Repeal.

Mr. Speaker, let me explain to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle that in the early 1990s, the Congress increased from \$3,000 to \$6,000 a death gratuity that is given to the family of a loved one who has died in uniform for this country. The Committee on Ways and Means, and it was not their fault, but the bill, the increase, was not sent to their committee so they could eliminate the tax. So since the early 1990s, anyone who has died in uniform for this country, their families have received a death gratuity of \$6,000 and also the next year receive a tax bill from Uncle Sam.

Mr. Speaker, now that we are fighting for freedom for the Iraqi people, our troops in Afghanistan and also in Iraq have been killed, and God bless and rest their souls and bless their families, but, Mr. Speaker, the reason I am on the floor tonight is I am asking the House leadership, both Democrat and Republican, to please, before we leave here in early November, to bring this bill to the floor and let us pass it in a bipartisan way and send it to the other body.

In fairness to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), ranking member, and the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS), they have included this language for 2 years in a larger bill to help our families in the military. But the other body, Mr. Speaker, has not passed the legislation.

So I hope that the Congress, the House, will join me in asking the leadership, both majority and minority, to bring this bill to the floor and let us send it to the other body and ask them to please pass this as a stand-alone bill.

Mr. Speaker, behind me are the photographs of those who have died for freedom. There are a lot more than these photographs, quite frankly. I have these photographs outside of my office in 422 Cannon because I do not want anybody to ever walk by my office and not understand the cost of freedom. We can see that it says, "Let us never forget," faces of fallen heroes. These are young men and one woman from across this Nation who have given their lives for freedom, and yet Uncle Sam next year will send a tax bill to those families.

We are talking about, Mr. Speaker, that in the year of September 11, 2001, there were over 292 families that had to pay this tax. In 2002, there were 1,007 families that had to pay this tax. It is important that we pass this legislation this year. It should have passed 2 years ago, but that is not the House's fault. It is the other body's.

Mr. Speaker, let me also read part of an e-mail I received recently. It happens to be from a constituent of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), Speaker of the House. It says: "Dear Representative JONES, thank you for your support of H.R. 693. Our son, Sergeant Jacob Frazier, was killed in ac-

tion on March 29, 2003, in Afghanistan. Upon being told we would be taxed on a portion of the \$6,000 benefit, I was shocked and insulted. My son was not married, but I am sure that there are numerous young widows that do not need another complication in their lives. Our country should not add to their burden with additional taxation."

Mr. Speaker, that is why I will continue to come to the floor of the House until the House leadership, both Republican and Democrat, bring this bill to the floor. Yes, we are doing a lot of important things on the floor of the House, but yet there is time to bring this bill to the floor. And let us in a bipartisan way, as we have done before, pass this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to share with the Members on the floor of the House, this is a young man whose name is Tyler Jordan. He is 6 years old. He has under his arm the flag that was draped upon his daddy's casket. His father was a gunnery sergeant in the United States Marine Corps named Phillip Jordan, who was killed in Iraq. We are looking at this photograph of this young man who is hurting very badly because his father has died for this country. But should we not in Congress, who are not being fired at with bullets, say to those who are dying for freedom not only for the Iraqi people, but for the American citizens that to this young man Tyler Jordan we are not going to send a bill from Uncle Sam asking him to pay a tax on the measly \$6,000?

That is not enough, Mr. Speaker, but that is not the issue tonight. The issue tonight is we need to remove this tax.

I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless America. Let us pass this legislation.

PAKISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to highlight the Pakistani Government's continued activities with regard to nuclear proliferation and cross-border terrorism in Kashmir. I am particularly concerned because Pakistan's leader, President Musharraf, continues to deny these activities and most recently in a New York Times interview this last weekend.

Mr. Speaker, with regard to exchange of nuclear equipment, it is abundantly evident that Pakistan has clandestinely provided rogue nations such as North Korea and Iran with necessary equipment for bolstering their nuclear weapons program. In fact, the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, the International Atomic Energy Agency, recently reported that Iran has admittedly received support from Pakistan in obtaining centrifuges and other equipment that was used as a catalyst