

things we should and CAN provide to our Guard and Reserve members. Extending the military pay raise, providing meaningful tax relief for military families, and improving overall quality of life entitlement programs is the very least we can do for the families and servicemembers who have endured extraordinary—and in some cases—supreme sacrifices for our country.

The mistreatment of our Guard and Reservists and its repercussions on them and their families' morale and well-being must stop. Is it too much to ask that our government provide basic necessary services such as comprehensive health coverage and timely compensation to our Guard and Reserve members?

I urge my colleagues to include funding for these measures in this year's Defense Authorization Act and to push for passage of the many proposals addressing these issues which are currently stalled in Committee.

HEALTH CARE'S BREWING STORM

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I had the pleasure of inserting into this forum a very good editorial from the Boston Globe about the excellent work that is done by Bristol Community College, which I have been privileged to represent for more than twenty years. It is important for us to spread good news. But it's also important for us to give people the bad news, especially when it is bad news that could be made worse if we do not act.

One of the most important institutions in the part of Massachusetts which I represent is the Southcoast Health System, which joins major hospitals in Fall River, New Bedford and Wareham. The President of that system, John Day, is an extremely knowledgeable student of health care in America, and not only does a first-rate job of administering the hospital system, he also has been an important source of information for me and others about health care policy.

Sadly, but honestly, he recently wrote an op-ed piece in the Boston Globe which began with the quote "warning" that "a devastating health care crisis is closer than you think." John Day is deeply committed to providing the health care that people need, and he has been a leader in providing it to people of below average income in a part of the state of Massachusetts where that has been an issue. His eloquent plea for a change in our health care policy, and his dire—but hardly exaggerated—warnings about what will happen if we do not change, deserve our attention and I ask that his article be printed here.

HEALTH CARE'S BREWING STORM

(By John B. Day)

Warning: A devastating health care crisis is closer than you think. Like the side-view mirrors on our cars that warn us "objects are closer than they appear," a rupture in the Massachusetts health care system is more of a real threat than it seems at first or even second glance. The professional health care that patients receive today has given us a false sense of security over the imperiled state of the entire system.

Patients across Massachusetts have been insulated from this reality by the health

care community's medical, moral, and legal obligation to fulfill its mission at all costs. Patients continue to receive an abundance of health care services even as the economic vise on hospitals tightens.

The warning signs are easily recognizable—from the previously unacceptable delays in gaining access to doctors to the intolerably long waits in emergency rooms to ambulances being diverted from hospital to hospital. Because these cracks in the system have been incremental and the degeneration of the system gradual, we have come to accept them as routine when they are anything but. They are, in fact, alarm bells signaling the onset of a crisis.

Today's delays, long waits, and diversions are mere inconveniences compared to what may lie ahead. Do you want to see the day when patients are flatly turned away for lack of beds? Or when critical and costly services, such as psychiatric care, are eliminated? Or when resources become so scarce that only the fortunate few will have enough money and power to afford access to the advanced technologies and treatments to which many currently feel entitled?

Such dire scenarios may seem unthinkable in a state whose health care system was once the model for the nation. But there's a rapidly advancing storm poised to wreak havoc, already leaving shuttered local hospitals in its wake. In 1980 there were 118 hospitals in Massachusetts. Today there are 67.

As president and CEO of one of the largest community hospital systems in the state—and the largest employer in southeastern Massachusetts, it is my responsibility to issue the storm warning, before it hits us head-on.

I entered Massachusetts health care just after the famous blizzard of 1978, an act of nature that caused more destruction than most of us had ever experienced. The cost of the destruction and the loss of life might have been less had we the capability to warn people just how bad it was going to be.

Already, we are seeing the state eliminate insurance coverage for those who can least afford it. Health care providers are refusing to provide essential services because they cannot receive reimbursement for those services. For the first time, many of my colleagues at hospitals have begun to discuss the elimination of health care services.

SouthcoastHealth System, which I oversee, gives me a close look at this dilemma. Our patient population is older, sicker, and poorer than elsewhere in Massachusetts. More than 75 percent of our patients rely solely on Medicare and Medicaid, which reimburse hospitals substantially below our actual costs. Unlike public safety-net hospitals, community hospitals like Southcoast have no statutory entitlement to local or state funds in order to underwrite the cost of providing free care to the uninsured.

Our merger of St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford, Charlton Memorial Hospital in Fall River, and Tobey Hospital in Wareham allowed us to stabilize the financial footing of our region's health care system. By cresting efficiencies of scale and sharing resources, we now provide care where it is needed most—in our own community. A decade ago there did not exist the continuum of care that is available today for tens of thousands of families in southeastern Massachusetts.

But while we are proud of these accomplishments, we know that mergers, consolidation, and cost-cutting maneuvers are not enough. The continuing state and federal funding cuts leave many hospitals with no choice but to cut core clinical services—services everyone expects to receive at their local community hospital.

During the blizzard of '78, many coastal residents refused to believe they were in real

danger until the waves were crashing against their door. Let us not wait until we are on the brink of disaster to accept the dire circumstances that await us. It is time we recognize the tide is rising against the health care industry. It is imperative that state and federal governments, health care providers, industry leaders, and patients work cooperatively to find sustainable solutions to ensure that core medical services remain available to every resident of Massachusetts.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION DESIGNATING THE NEWELL GEORGE POST OFFICE IN KANSAS CITY, KS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, joined today by Representatives TODD TIAHRT, JIM RYUN and JERRY MORAN, I am introducing legislation that would designate the United States Postal Service facility located at 550 Nebraska Avenue in Kansas City, Kansas, as the "Newell George Post Office Building."

Newell Adolphus George served as a member of the 86th Congress, from 1959–61, representing the Second District of Kansas, which was redesignated as the Third District following the post-1960 congressional reapportionment. He was a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. Born in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1904, he attended Hawthorne Grade School and Wyandotte High School in Kansas City, Kansas, as well as Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, Missouri, and Park College in Parkville, Missouri.

After studying law at the University of Kansas City School of Law, Newell George obtained employment as a Capitol Hill elevator operator through the patronage of Senator George McGill of Kansas and graduated from the George Washington University Law School. He then was an attorney for the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in Washington, D.C., from 1935–1937, a regional counsel for the War Manpower Commission from 1942–43, and a regional attorney for the Bureau of Employment Security and the Federal Security Agency from 1937–52. After the Democratic Party lost control of the Executive Branch, George served as first assistant Wyandotte County Attorney from 1953–58. At that point, he began running for Congress, losing to incumbent Republican Errett Scrivner in 1954 and 1956. In 1958, however, a strong anti-Republican tide ran through the farm and western states, resulting in the defeat of numerous incumbent Senators and Representatives, including the defeat of Representative Scrivner by Newell George.

With Republican dominance returned to Kansas in 1960, Representative George was defeated for re-election by Robert Ellsworth of Lawrence, making Newell George the most recent resident of Kansas City to represent Kansas in the U.S. Congress. After his defeat, however, George was the first U.S. Attorney nominated for appointment by the new Kennedy-Johnson Administration. Newell George served as U.S. Attorney for Kansas from 1961–68. After losing another congressional race in 1968 to Representative Larry Winn, Jr., George practiced law privately in Kansas City, Kansas, and died in 1992.

Married to the former Jean Hannan of Kansas City, Kansas, Newell George was an intrepid public servant and active, concerned citizen. In addition to his political activities, he was a member of Abdallah Shrine, Scottish Rite; a master of the West Gate Masonic Lodge; president of the Kansas City, Kansas, Hi-12 Club; a member of the Kansas State Hi-12 Association; a member of the Breakfast Optimist Club; a member of the Wyandotte County, Kansas and American Bar Associations, the American Judicature Society, Delta Theta Phi law fraternity, the American Academy of Political And Social Science, the Kansas City, Kansas Chamber of Commerce, the Terrace Club, the Top o' the Morning Club, and the First Presbyterian Church of Kansas City, Kansas.

Newell George's other public service included membership on the Kansas Public Disclosure Commission; the Civil Service Commission of Kansas City, Kansas; the Kansas State Government Ethics Commission; and service as a director of the Kansas Multiple Sclerosis Society. Nicknamed "Punk" by his friends, George's other activities included managing a string of boxers, after boxing himself at Wentworth Military Academy; bowling; and adding to a collection of old books—mainly Bibles and McGuffey readers—begun by his father.

In short, Mr. Speaker, Newell A. George was the kind of community oriented, politically active individual who made things happen on the state and local level in so many American cities during the middle third of the twentieth century. With regard to Kansas and Kansas City, he was one of a small but hardy group of Democratic activists who kept two-party government alive in one of our country's most Republican states. It is fitting, therefore, that the House consider the legislation introduced today by the bipartisan Kansas House delegation that will designate Kansas City, Kansas', civic center post office in memory of U.S. Representative Newell George.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 56th anniversary of Israel's independence.

For 56 years, Israel has faced existential threats. Born out of the ashes of the Holocaust, Israel has offered its shores to the most vulnerable of the world's Jewry.

Israel is a refuge to the persecuted and has rescued Jews from Germany, Morocco, Iraq, Iran, Cuba, Ethiopia, Russia and other countries where Jewish minorities were threatened.

She has persevered because to fail would take away the one safe haven that Jews around the world have from historical charges and anti-Semitic acts.

It was 56 years ago that the Jewish State of Israel declared its independence and became the first and only democratic nation in the Middle East.

In those 56 years, Israel has defended itself from war, terrorism and anti-Semitism. It has endured unbearable losses and terrible sacrifices.

As U.S. troops fight in Iraq, a safe and democratic Israel becomes ever more important. America stands side-by-side with the only democratic nation in the Middle East and commemorates the 56th anniversary of its independence.

HONORING NORTHSIDE COLLEGE PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Northside College Preparatory High School of Chicago for its achievement on winning the first place title in the citywide Academic Decathlon and the second place position at the Illinois Academic Decathlon competition on March 13, 2004.

The Academic Decathlon is a team competition wherein students are tested through a diverse group of scholastic categories including: art, economics, essay interview, language and literature, mathematics, music science, social science and speech.

With up to nine members from each team competing in all ten events of the decathlon and representing a diversity of scholastic aptitude, the true spirit of this year's "America: The Growth of a Nation" theme has been advanced.

The decathlon, which was first created by Dr. Robert Peterson, has helped maximize the learning potential of young minds through competitive challenge. Northside College Preparatory has shown its ability to shine among the best and brightest of Chicago's academic community.

As winners of the citywide Academic Decathlon, the eight students from Northside College Prep High School went on to compete in the Illinois Academic Decathlon, and participated in the semifinals of one of the most prestigious high school academic competition in the United States.

I commend each of our Northside College Preparatory High School competitors: Andrew Miller, Catherine Cobb, Gathi Abraham, John Fitzgerald, Caitlin Lill, Aidan Roche, Geoffrey Kriston and Daniel Roe.

Reaching this level of competition is a tremendous achievement and one that deserves special recognition. Northside College Preparatory students set the strong example for academic excellence that the Academic Decathlon seeks to attain.

Mr. Speaker, I join with all residents of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois in congratulating Northside College Preparatory High School on its achievement. I wish the Academic Decathlon competitors the best of luck and continued success as their education continues. I am very proud of these young and future leaders of tomorrow. It is my privilege to represent them in the U.S. Congress.

HONORING BILLIE JEAN KING

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Billie Jean King, a true American hero.

King single-handedly revolutionized women's tennis, bringing world attention to the excitement of the women's game and fighting to ensure that men and women compete for equal prize money. King's brilliant play and unyielding quest for equal opportunities opened doors for all women competing in sports.

A true star in her own right, King won a record 20 Wimbledon titles (winning women's singles 6 times, doubles 10 times and mixed doubles 4 times), 13 U.S. Open titles and 29 Virginia Slims singles titles. King is the only woman to win U.S. singles titles on all 4 surfaces on which it has been played (grass, clay, carpet and asphalt). She is one of only 8 players to hold a singles title in each of the Grand Slam events. In 1967, she won the triple crown of singles, doubles and mixed doubles championships at both Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

In 1968, King became professional and by 1971, she was the first woman athlete in any sport to earn more than \$100,000 in a single year. Over the course of her career, she earned nearly \$2 million in prize money. By the time she stopped playing competitively in 1984, she had won 71 singles championships and had been ranked in the world's top ten 17 times, number one in the world 5 times and number one in the U.S. seven times. Explaining her success, she has said, "No one changes the world who isn't obsessed."

King had been a strong advocate of women's tennis and women's rights throughout her career. She convinced her colleagues to form a players' union in 1973, the Women's Tennis Association. She was then the 1972 U.S. Open women's singles champion and had been outraged that her prize money was \$15,000 less than the male champion. She threatened not to play unless the prize money was equalized by the following year and she persuaded U.S. Open organizers that the other women players would also sit out the game. In 1973, the U.S. Open became the first major tournament to offer equal prize money for men and women.

In 1973, she accepted a challenge from Bobby Riggs, former Wimbledon champion and self-professed male chauvinist pig. The prize was a winner-take-all \$100,000. The heavily promoted match drew 30,472 spectators to the arena and attracted 50 million television viewers worldwide, a record for any tennis match. King played along with the theatrics: She was carried in on a litter by four men in short togas. Riggs was wheeled in on a rickshaw pulled by models he dubbed "Bobby's Bosom Buddies." Once the game got underway, however, they were all business. King thrilled the crowd with an outstanding game of tennis, beating Riggs in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3 and 6-3. She proved that women's tennis was at least as exciting as the men's game, and that women deserved the same attention and prize money as their male counterparts.

King co-founded the Women's Sports Foundation, dedicated to promoting sports opportunities for women. In 1989 she helped found the coed World Team Tennis and served as its CEO. She is currently the director and official spokesperson for the organization, as well as a TV commentator.

Additionally, King coached the U.S. Olympic team, leading the U.S. squad to four Olympic medals. She also coached the U.S. Fed Cup teams to victory in 1976, 1996, 1999 and