

of military personnel in Iraq, after the United States and the United Kingdom. South Korea has currently deployed 3,300 troops to Iraq, performing important functions in the northern part of the country, freeing up U.S. forces for operations elsewhere.

The South Korean government, through legislation passed by its National Assembly in December 2005, extended the time period of deployment of their troops for another year, despite political pressures to withdraw altogether. The extension of the stationing of troops is an expression of South Korea's deep and abiding support for the U.S. efforts to rebuild Iraq and establish a permanent peace there. By its actions, South Korea demonstrates its firm commitment to a rapid reconstruction of Iraq and to establishing stability as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, South Korean troops have been stationed in Iraq since they were first dispatched in August 2004. Named the Zaytun Division, derived from the Arabic term for "olive" and symbolizing peace, the unit has been actively involved in rehabilitating civilian infrastructure facilities for local residents and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).

The South Korean National Assembly announced that there will be a gradual reduction of the Zaytun troops by one-third to 2,300 over the course of the coming year. It will be a phased reduction in close consultation with the U.S. and dependent on the Iraqi police force's readiness and the situation on the ground. It is important to note, however, that while there will be a gradual reduction in presence, the role of Zaytun will be enhanced.

In fact, the South Korean troops will soon provide security service for the Irbil Regional Office of the U.N. Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), protecting UNAMI's middle ring and its convoys. Additionally, the USAID office will now be stationed within the Zaytun compound and protected by South Korean forces.

Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that our South Korean friends have not been thanked loudly or frequently enough for this contribution to the stabilization of Iraqi society. It is a genuine shame that the news media in the U.S. missed this significant story, which was widely reported in the Korean press.

On January 18, 2006, a letter from Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was delivered to the commander of South Korean forces in Irbil, a city in northern Iraq, expressing our country's appreciation for their peace-keeping efforts. The letter said, in part, "The humanitarian and reconstruction activities your troops have undertaken have made lasting and substantive contributions to the quality of life for the people of Irbil."

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my personal appreciation to the government and people of South Korea for their lasting contribution to the coalition forces in Iraq and for their commitment to playing an important and responsible role in the international community. As a staunch ally of the United States with a mutually comprehensive alliance partnership that has spanned over fifty years and four major conflicts since the end of World War II, South Korea deserves our recognition and expression of support.

COMMEMORATING MESA VERDE'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, I will join the people of Colorado at Mesa Verde National Park to celebrate its 100th anniversary.

On June 29, 1906, Congress designated Mesa Verde as a national park unique for its archaeological treasures, spectacular views, and abundant wildlife. Located at the intersection of four states, Mesa Verde is a tremendous resource to the entire nation and a jewel in my congressional district.

Every year, 450,000 people travel to Southwest Colorado to visit the park. For those who have hiked the trails carved out by the Anasazi Indians, they know that Mesa Verde is truly a special place and one of the finest National Parks in our country. As the first cultural and historic national park in the history of the world, Mesa Verde helped spur Congress to preserve other important historical and archaeological sites.

I am proud to represent Mesa Verde National Park—Colorado's first national park—and its surrounding communities in Montezuma County here in Congress.

HONORING THE FOUR CHAPLAINS WHO SERVED ON THE U.S.S. "DORCHESTER"

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of the four chaplains who gave their lives in service of our nation while serving on the U.S.S. *Dorchester* during the Second World War. The *Dorchester*, known as the 'Grey Ghost' by U-boat crews, carried nearly 1 million U.S. troops to Europe during her tenure, which came to a tragic end 63 years ago today.

At 12:55 a.m. February 3, 1943, a German U-boat launched a torpedo that struck the *Dorchester*, killing many of the 902 aboard instantly, injuring hundreds of others, and creating chaos as the ship took on water.

Captain Hans J. Danielsen gave the order to abandon ship. As men struggled amid the turmoil to board life boats, the ship's four chaplains, Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed, offered solace and counseled courage.

As the supply of life vests dwindled, each chaplain removed his own life vest and handed it to a soldier. "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, one of the 230 survivors.

Survivors recount their last glimpse of the U.S.S. *Dorchester* in the icy waters off the Newfoundland coast: The four chaplains linked arms in prayer and went down with the ship. We mark their heroism today, February 3, as "Four Chaplains Day."

I want to thank Commander of the Combined Veterans Association of Illinois Victor

Cibelli and event chairman John Bigwood for arranging a tribute to the four chaplains at the Northwest Suburban Jewish Congregation in Morton Grove, Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, this tribute provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the spiritual strength, patriotism, and dedication to their fellow sailors exhibited by these four chaplains as they made ultimate sacrifice. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the memory of the four chaplains of the U.S.S. *Dorchester*.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, Coretta Scott King's passing is a tremendous loss for our country and for all who have worked to uphold America's promise of equal justice under the law. She led with great passion, integrity and with a spirit that should be a guiding light for all of us.

When Americans visit our Nation's Capital, they are overwhelmed with beautiful monuments honoring the great leaders of our country. From the Jefferson Memorial to the Washington Monument to the U.S. Capitol, every building and statue is in place to remind Americans of the legacy left by these leaders and their contributions to the framework of our Nation. There is no monument or building dedicated to the heroic actions that mark Mrs. King's life in the Nation's Capital, but I believe her legacy lives on in ways that cannot be adequately honored with a statue. Mrs. King's legacy is honored when African-American women join their neighbors at the local poll to vote on Election Day. And she is honored when children read for the first time a sign that says "Whites Only," not in their community, but in a museum.

Mrs. King, who was faced with the tragic and early loss of her life partner, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., did not act bitterly towards the violence that interrupted her life, but continued to spread the message of peace and equality to all corners of the world. As founding President, Chair, and Chief Executive Officer of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Mrs. King spent her life furthering the Civil Rights Movement, and later, creating the largest archive of documents from this era. With this collection in place, future generations will have the ability to educate themselves beyond what is read in textbooks, and will have the opportunity to experience firsthand the sacrifices that were made to build the world we live in today.

Like all who have sacrificed for the most fundamental American value—that equality and justice are the birthright of everyone in our society—Mrs. King has left us a country that is better today than when she arrived. However, there is still much work that remains to ensure that every American has the opportunity to fulfill their potential and we must uphold her legacy by continuing her work.

I hope that all Americans will pause to remember the values for which she stood and to

consider how we can work together to make sure the promise of America is enjoyed equally by all.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER STEVEN STEVENSON

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in appreciation of Commander Steven Stevenson's 21 year of service with the Civil Engineer Corps of the United States Navy. I also wish to congratulate Commander Stevenson on his upcoming retirement.

Commander Stevenson was raised in Western Colorado and graduated from Olathe High School in 1981.

Beginning in his youth, Commander Stevenson chose to put family and country before self, attending the Naval Academy at Annapolis. Upon his graduation in 1985, Commander Stevenson was assigned to Amphibious Construction Battalion One, where he served with distinction as Assistant Bravo Company Commander and Assistant Operations Officer.

From 1987 to 1990, Stevenson served as the commander of the Construction Battalion Unit 418 and was selected for the highly competitive US Navy Ocean Facilities Program. Stevenson, displaying his characteristic level of determination and intellect, succeeded in earning a Masters of Science in Ocean Engineering.

When the Navy needed a capable leader to establish a new Construction Battalion Unit during the 1990's, it turned to Commander Stevenson. And when the Navy needed a well educated officer to bring the Seabees into the information age, once again it turned to Commander Stevenson, who went on to modernize everything from Seabee equipment to training.

Commander Stevenson's scholarly and engineering excellence is only exceeded by his devotion to his country. Stevenson represents the very definition of the famous Seabee valor having earned two Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy Commendation Medals, a Navy Achievement Medal, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation over the course of his career.

Commander Stevenson's life of service exemplifies the Seabee motto "Constrimus, Batuimus"—"We build, We Fight". He spent his career building a better and safer future for our country, all the time ready to put his life on the line for that brighter tomorrow and the ideals he has held dear.

And so today I would like to both congratulate Commander Stevenson on his retirement, and personally thank him for his 21 years of devoted service to his country.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF DR. CARL EDWARD HYMAN

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Dr. Carl Edward Hyman.

Born on June 29, 1924 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Dr. Hyman passed away on December 31, 2005 and I would like to recognize his life and achievements.

After graduating from Merrill High School in Pine Bluff, Dr. Hyman then attended Frisk University and Meharry Medical College in Tennessee. He then became a resident in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Hubbard Hospital in Nashville and completed post graduate studies at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 1959, Dr. Hyman was appointed Chief Resident of Provident Hospital in Chicago.

For almost half a century, Dr. Hyman was in a private Obstetrician/Gynecology practice in Pine Bluff, where he became the first residency trained African-American specialist in the State of Arkansas. Over the course of his lifetime, Dr. Hyman earned a reputation as a generous and selfless community leader in Jefferson County. Among numerous accomplishments, he was a Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the first African-American to serve on the Pine Bluff Civil Service Commission, a lifetime member of NAACP and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, and a member of the Trustee Ministry at Kings Highway Missionary Baptist Church. Perhaps most notably, Dr. Hyman was appointed by Governor Bill Clinton to become the first African-American appointee to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, a board which he served for 28 years.

Dr. Hyman led an exemplary life both professionally and in unwavering service to his community and his state. While Dr. Hyman may no longer be with us, his spirit and legacy will live on forever in the lives he touched. My deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences go out to his wife, Dr. Edith Hyman; his son, Dr. Carl Alta Hyman; and his extended family of brothers, sisters, nephews and grandchildren.

PATIENTS BEFORE PROFITS ACT OF 2006

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation—the Patients Before Profits Act of 2006—that will right some of the many wrongs in the budget reconciliation bill passed by Congress last week and signed by the President today. This legislation, which is also being introduced today in the Senate by Senator CLINTON, will realign our priorities to protect the healthcare coverage of working families rather than the profiteering of HMOs and private insurance companies.

The Patients Before Profits Act eliminates Government overpayments to Medicare HMOs through removal of a "slush fund" provision and ensuring these HMOs are only paid what is appropriate for the consumers they serve. This bill would then use these savings to restore protections against excessive out-of-pocket costs for necessary medical visits, prescription drugs, and emergency room care. It will also restore the benefit protections that provide medically necessary treatments under Medicaid and ensure families have adequate benefit coverage, not bare-bone packages.

The Patients Before Profits Act is needed because of the recently passed so-called Deficit Reduction Act, which the Republicans designed and the President is signing into law today. In the dark of the night, the Republicans removed provisions that transferred \$32 billion in taxpayer overpayments to Medicare HMOs and insurance plans.

The Senate bill had cut \$36 billion in overpayments to the HMOs in Medicare. That included \$26 billion in savings by more accurately calculating their payments. But the negotiators rewrote the provision to save just \$4 billion, providing a \$22 billion windfall to the HMOs. The Senate bill also eliminated a \$10 billion slush fund designed to entice HMOs to participate in the prescription drug program. The Republican conferees dropped this provision, providing another \$10 billion gift to the HMOs for a total of \$32 billion.

This bill takes back the money given to Republican-favored companies and restores to our most vulnerable citizens the needed healthcare that was cut. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, of the \$28 billion in savings from Medicaid over 10 years, about 75 percent of that amount is due to provisions that reduce the number of people who can afford to participate. It will increase the number of uninsured and under-insured by raising the copayments that people will have to pay to see their doctors, increasing premiums, cutting medically necessary treatments, and tightening access to long-term care.

By 2015, 4.5 million children will be affected by higher cost-sharing charges for healthcare services such as doctor visits. A total of 13 million people will face higher charges to access their healthcare services. Twenty million people will face higher charges to obtain needed prescription drugs. One-third of those individuals affected by the drug cost-sharing (6.6 million) will be children and half (10 million) will have incomes below the Federal poverty level (monthly incomes of less than \$1,380 for a family of three). All this because of a Republican unwillingness to take back overpayments to HMOs.

Congressional Budget Office analysis also concludes that the Republican legislation assumes that the number of uninsured will increase. Twenty percent of the savings from new premium charges under this law will derive from families who are no longer able to maintain their Medicaid coverage due to increased costs. Sixty percent of those who will lose coverage due to new premium charges will be children. Again, all of this because of a Republican unwillingness to take back overpayments to HMOs.

The Patients Before Profits Act of 2006 is a good start to right some of the wrongs that the Republican-led Congress and the President have inflicted on working families, individuals with disabilities, the elderly, pregnant women, and children. I urge my colleagues to join me in this fight.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID LAWRENCE

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. David Lawrence of