

Not only are physicians in short supply in many of rural communities, but other health professionals are as well. That is why I introduced today a bill that focuses specifically on issues related to increasing nursing faculty. I am told by my friends in nursing that the problem is not that people don't want to go into nursing, but that it is difficult to get nurses to leave the clinic to spend time in the classroom.

Personnel is one piece of the puzzle and building up our health care institutions in rural area is another.

The Critical Access Hospital program has provided financial stability to many struggling rural hospitals that are the cornerstones of their communities. It is essential that Congress protects this program now and into the future. Prior to this program, hospital closures were common and the rural health care system was fragile.

Without the Critical Access Hospital program and support for rural providers, there would be a floodgate of small community care systems closing and potentially converting many small towns into ghost towns.

Debra Boardman, president and CEO of the Riverview Healthcare Association in Crookston has shared her story with me:

The Critical Access Hospital program has afforded many rural hospitals the opportunity to modernize their facilities and helps assure they will remain viable and accessible to the residents of rural America. Prior to receiving Critical Access Hospital designation in 2001, RiverView Healthcare Association had not done a major building project since 1976. With this designation we were able to afford to physically restructure our building and update our infrastructure to accommodate the way health care is provided in the 21st Century.

Since that time we have also been able to add new physicians, vital new health care services and programs. As the largest employer in the county, a secondary benefit of the program is that it has made RiverView Healthcare Association a more secure economic engine for our local rural community.

Because of the important role that Critical Access Hospitals play in community stability, I have introduced a bill to provide direct and guaranteed loans to complete the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Nation's Rural Critical Access Hospitals within the 5 years covered by the new farm bill.

In more ways than we can possibly measure, rural communities are the heart of America. They provide us with food, energy and more importantly the values and leadership that keep our Nation on track. Just as we care for our bodily heart, we need to care for our spiritual heart in rural America or the whole Nation will suffer.

That is why my legislation attempts to raise the needs of our small town neighbors to become a national priority. I encourage all of my colleagues to consider joining me in ensuring that every American has access to the care that they need to lead healthy and productive lives. I invite you to cosponsor one of my seven bills aimed at doing just that.

From birth, through chronic disease management, to end-of-life care Critical Access Hospitals meet the health-care needs of our communities. And our communities trust that we will continue to do so far into the future.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAQ

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the issue that is presently before this body—whether it will be here formally or not we will see—the issue of Iraq. I think it is critically important we discuss it. I am glad to see we are having private discussions about it, but I think it is time to engage.

I want to say, as one who does not support the troop surge, I think it is important we have a full process. I think it is important we have a full process where amendments are allowed and where people are allowed to bring forward different ideas and thoughts. It is the key issue of our day. It is an important issue of our day. It is something that shouldn't be drug out, but I don't think asking for three, or four even, amendments to this resolution is something that would drag it out because that is what allows full discussion, and we certainly need a full discussion on the record on the ways forward.

I think it is also appropriate for us to do that in light of the division of powers between the executive and legislative branches. The President is the Commander in Chief, and he or she must move forward in that capacity. We are the funding arm, the legislative body. We are entitled to put forward our ideas, but there is one Commander in Chief. I think it is important we have this discussion to put forward our ideas, but it needs to be a full discussion of the ideas.

I would urge the Democratic leader, the majority leader, to bring this issue forward in a way that we could debate various options. I have been in this body certainly during debate on contentious issues wherein we are given different viewpoints to allow people to vote, and on one that is so important and so critical, I think it is important for us to have multiple viewpoints put forward. So even as one who does not support the troop surge, which I don't believe is the wise route to go, I believe this body should have options.

I would not support a cloture motion that says we will only have one option to vote on. I don't think that is a fair or an appropriate process for this body to follow. I think it is important that

we have a full debate on the full range of issues.

My goodness, for us to take a couple of weeks to discuss this would not be inappropriate, given the importance and the magnitude and the seriousness of the moment.

I support the troops. We all support the troops, and we need to support the troops in the field. That doesn't mean we can't have a debate, but it also doesn't mean we should be limited to just one thought that we can have to vote on. We should have a multiple set of ideas, fully vetted and fully discussed.

As I have traveled across this country and in my home State, this is one subject about which people have a lot of different viewpoints and a lot of different ideas. Everybody supports the troops, but they may not agree with how the war is proceeding. They think there ought to be other tactics employed, and they want viewpoints expressed. I think that is fully appropriate. I think the President invites us to, in responsible ways, bring these ideas and viewpoints forward. But you don't do that with having just one viewpoint and that is it; one vote and you can't have an option; one proposal without amendments, when there is a full debate and discussion that is needed on this topic.

So I want to voice my opinion on this issue; that is, I think the way forward is for us to engage in the full process that the Senate is fully capable of doing and desirous of doing. I think it would be important as well to our troops in the field to have a full debate on this topic. I hope that we do that, and we could start engaging in it now rather than putting it off and delaying it further.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE NORWOOD

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I want to speak briefly on one other issue aside from the war effort, as that is the one that really needs to, and does, occupy our time. But a good friend of mine has just recently passed away, Congressman Charlie Norwood. Charlie and I came in together in the House of Representatives in the 1994 election cycle. He recently passed away due to complications in his liver from a long battle that he had with pulmonary fibrosis and the difficulties that he had.

His legislative accomplishments are significant, and those are in the RECORD and well known. What I want to talk about is the person because he was a beautiful man. He served in Vietnam as a dentist. He had this beautiful, folksy way of presenting a tough topic. He would boil down the essence of a difficult topic in a folksy sentence or two, and you would listen to it and you would say: You know, I think that is about accurate.

He could take difficult things and boil them down. He cared a lot about health care issues, and he worked a lot

on health care issues. What I remember is a kindly gentleman who was very active and involved in the issues of the day and who cared about other people. He taught adult Sunday school classes. He worked as a small businessman. He was a dedicated public servant, even as he felt that the Government had grown too big and was taking over too much authority.

It reminds me that, as we leave these places—and we all will—when you look back on it, there is a legislative career, and there are a number of legislative items that each of us are associated with, and the cares and concerns and the passions that we have of the day, but there is also a person who is there, and the soul and the character of that individual. In this case, Dr. Charlie Norwood had a beautiful soul. He was someone who touched people in a positive way. I am not sure you can say a lot more at the end of our days than that.

Congressman Norwood is survived by his wife Gloria, sons Charles and Carlton Norwood, and grandchildren, all of Augusta.

During his life, Norwood has served as a Member of Congress, longtime patients' and individual rights champion, dentist, Vietnam veteran, and small businessman.

Norwood, a seven-term Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995 to 2007, served most of east Georgia at some point during his congressional career due to redistricting in 1996, 2002, and 2006. He won re-election every year since 1998 by landslide margins, and was elected to the 110th Congress in November by a 68 percent margin. His 10th District seat will be filled in a special election to be scheduled by Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue.

Norwood achieved national recognition after introducing the first comprehensive managed health care reform legislation to Congress in 1995, which subsequently passed the House of Representatives in both 1999 and 2001. Norwood's Patient's Bill of Rights legislation became a key issue in the 2000 presidential election, and will likely be revived in the 110th Congress.

Norwood was instrumental in health care reform for military retirees and veterans as well as patients-at-large. The former Army dentist was co-author of the Keep Our Promises to Military Retirees Act in 1999, which provided fully funded health care for life for the Nation's military retirees. The majority of the bill was enacted as part of the Defense Authorization Act of 2000.

In addition to his longtime national advocacy for patients, Norwood succeeded in passing reforms across a broad range of public policy areas, spanning education, private property rights, telecommunications, and environmental regulations.

Norwood is further recognized as the father of the Nation's current Class A broadcast television service, by authorizing and passing into law the Commu-

nity Broadcasting Protection Act in 1998.

In congressional oversight action, Norwood played a key role in the 1996–1998 Teamster's investigation, the 1998–2002 investigations of theft and fraud at the U.S. Department of Education, and the impeachment of former President Bill Clinton in 1998.

Norwood received a bachelor's degree from Georgia Southern University in Statesboro in 1964, and a doctorate in dental surgery from Georgetown University Dental School in Washington, DC, in 1967, where he was elected president of the Dental School Student Body in his senior year. He married the former Gloria Wilkinson of Valdosta in 1962 while attending Georgia Southern.

After dental school, he volunteered for the U. S. Army and served as a captain in the Dental Corps from 1967 to 1969, beginning with an assignment to the U.S. Army Dental Corps at Sandia Army Base in Albuquerque, NM. In 1968 he was transferred to the Medical Battalion of the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam, and served a combat tour at Quin Yon, An Khe, and LZ English at Bon Son. In recognition of his service under combat conditions, he was awarded the Combat Medical Badge and two Bronze Stars.

After Vietnam, he was assigned to the Dental Corps at Fort Gordon, GA, where he served until his discharge in 1969. Norwood was awarded the Association of the United States Army Cocklin Award in 1998, and was inducted into the Association's Audie Murphy Society in 1999. He remained a lifelong member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Military Order of the World Wars.

Dr. Norwood began private practice dentistry in Augusta immediately after his discharge. During his dental career, he served as president of the Georgia Dental Association and was a delegate to the American Dental Association.

In addition to his dental practice, Norwood also founded Northwoods Nursery in Evans, providing trees and shrubs to wholesale outlets throughout the Central Savannah River Area, and Augusta Dental Laboratory, which manufactured dental devices for patients.

He became a stalwart supporter of small business and property rights interests in Congress, receiving the 1995 Fighting Frosh award of the United States Business and Industrial Council, the Guardian of Senior's Rights Award of the 60 Plus Association, the Friend of the Family Award of the Christian Coalition, the Friend of the Taxpayer Award of Americans for Tax Reform, the Guardian of Small Business Award of the National Federation of Independent Business, the Spirit of Enterprise Award of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Thomas Jefferson Award of the U.S. Food Service Council, the Champion of Property Rights Award of the League of Private Property Owners, the Taxpayer's Hero

Award of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, and the Taxpayer's Friend Award of National Taxpayers Union.

Dr. Norwood and his wife Gloria were longtime members of and taught adult Sunday school at Trinity-on-the-Hill United Methodist Church in Augusta. He was also a past board member of the Augusta Opera Society and a member of the Augusta Symphony Guild.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, are we now in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REAL ID CARD

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, if the Chair would please let me know when I have a minute left.

Mr. President, when we come back from the recess we are going to turn our attention to the 9/11 Commission recommendations which have been enacted by the House. I want to discuss an issue I hope will come up when we discuss the 9/11 Commission recommendations and that has to do with the so-called REAL ID card, the de facto national ID card.

This is a law that was enacted in early 2005. It was House-passed legislation that would require States to turn more than 190 million driver's licenses into de facto national identification cards, with State taxpayers paying most of the costs. I am not very much of a prognosticator. My predictions have never been all that accurate, but at the time of that passage, I objected to it.

The first thing wrong with the REAL ID law was that the House stuck the law into an appropriations bill that supported our troops in Iraq and sent it over to the Senate. None of us wanted to slow down support for our troops in Iraq while we debated ID cards, so it was stuck in there and we passed it. But the second and larger problem with what the House did 2 years ago, and which we agreed to and it became law, is that States not only got to create the ID cards, but they will likely end up paying the bill. I said to my colleagues, and at that time we had a Republican Congress: This is one more of the unfunded Federal mandates we Republicans promised to end.

Well, now we have moved ahead about 2 years, and I believe I have