

thousands of military beneficiaries in the region. Beneficiaries who had previously received care at the Naval Health Clinic Great Lakes would either be ineligible for care or would be charged a significant co-pay for certain care, including emergency, hospitalization, outpatient, and behavioral health services. The facility is scheduled to begin joint operations on October 1, 2010.

While my legislation was not included in the underlying bill, it is my understanding that Senator Durbin will be able to include similar language in the Senate NDAA. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the Senate on its inclusion, and encourage passage of the underlying bill.

“A VISION FOR HEALTH CARE”
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS BY
SENATOR RICHARD T. MOORE

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, my friend, Senator Richard T. Moore was honored recently at the commencement of the New England College of Optometry. I wanted to share his remarks, as his address justly paid tribute to the school, its faculty, and graduates for their commitment to public service.

A VISION FOR HEALTH CARE

President Chen, Chairman Manfredi, Vice Chairman Ferrucci (my friend and personal Optometrist), Members of the Board of Trustees, parents, alumni, friends, and most especially, my fellow graduates of the Class of 2009 . . . I'm honored to share in your celebration today and to receive a degree from this prestigious institution with its well-deserved reputation for improving access to care, enhancing the quality of life by preventing blindness, and developing innovative, economically viable models of eye care.

Visus per mentem, vision through the mind, has long been the motto of this great College. It is a phrase that reflects a sincere commitment to learn the skills and knowledge necessary to serve others, as well as a deeply felt belief that you can help people to see the world with more clarity and purpose—to give in a way, the gift of sight—or at least improved vision. Hopefully, your clinical experience working at the New England Eye Institute and in community health centers and school or elderly vision clinics, has kindled in you to a desire to devote some portion of your time, treasure and talent to bring quality eye care to the underserved of our society.

Few, if any of you, in the Class of 2009 could have attended New England College of Optometry for four or more years without deriving from your studies, from your outstanding instructors and most of all from your own inner hearts some sense of inspiration and idealism as well as an appreciation of your social responsibility as a newly-minted health care professional.

CONTINUE THE LEGACY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Graduates of New England College of Optometry who preceded you have blazed a trail of community service through vision research and care that is almost legendary! They left an inspiring legacy upon which you and your classmates can now build. With your OD degree in hand, challenge yourselves to follow in the footsteps of exemplary alumni such as Charlie Mullen OD '69 (who

addressed you a few moments ago) and Kenneth Myers OD '74, who firmly established vision care as a focus of the U.S. Veterans Administration. Their pioneering work is, today, helping wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to see beyond the trauma of war and return to productive lives in our communities.

Then, there's Edward Goodnig OD '76. He brought his knowledge and skills to underserved regions expanding primary care opportunities for Alaska's Native American settlements and schools. You may also know of Frank Thorn OD '79, today's Commencement Marshal and an expert on the causes and development of Myopia, who has shared his professional knowledge and restless energy from this campus on the banks of the Charles River to remote villages in the Amazon Rain Forest and—in Marco Polo fashion—from Europe to China. Their exciting and fulfilling careers, chronicled in the College's 2008 Annual Report, offer a glimpse of the potential that awaits you as today's graduates.

Such stories of successful graduates can teach, they can offer hope, they can provide inspiration. But they cannot supply the courage to follow your own path. For that each of you must look into your own hearts. Accept your degrees today with the same pride, enthusiasm, and commitment that launched those pioneers of Optometry into rewarding lives of caring service.

CONTINUE TO LEARN AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE

Never be too busy to keep from learning how to better serve your patients. That includes sharing your real world knowledge of your patients and the condition of their eyes with those involved in academic research here at New England College of Optometry and elsewhere. It also means staying informed about the rapidly changing science of your profession. Each of you, my fellow graduates, as our newest health care professionals, have a responsibility to continue your education by maintaining competency in vision care and in the technology necessary to deliver the best quality of care to all who seek better vision.

Whether your career takes you to remote regions of America or the world, or takes you back to wherever you may call "home," remember one of the basic concepts that you learned here in the Back Bay, that eye care professionals are an integral part of the team of primary care providers, and deserve to be treated with the same degree of professional respect as any other health care professional! In this era of health care reform, each of you will play an essential role in not only diagnosing and treating conditions of the eye, but you will also serve as part of the team of professional caregivers who assist and support each other for the benefit of every patient.

MASSACHUSETTS AS A MODEL FOR THE NATION

For the past four years, as each of you have been immersed in becoming competent, dedicated vision care professionals in the classrooms at 424 Beacon Street, I've been learning the lessons of health care reform about a mile away in the State House meeting rooms at 24 Beacon Street. The grades are now in, and the results are clearly informing the growing national debate on health care. Massachusetts is leading the way in health care reform! We are:

First in the nation in health care access.

First in electronic health records and e-prescribing.

In the forefront of patient safety, quality improvement, and cost containment.

Leading the way in prescription drug ethics.

In just three years, 432,000 Massachusetts residents, who were previously un-insured,

have gained access to health care and the many stories of lives saved or improved are truly heart-warming.

OPTOMETRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTH
REFORM

One of the challenges facing Massachusetts and the Nation in fully realizing the health improvement and cost savings benefits of health care reform is the need to expand patient access to primary care. It is just as important—and less expensive—to keep people healthy, as well as to treat those who are ill. We have made great progress in expanding access to health insurance for the people of Massachusetts, but there is still an unmet need for easy access to primary care providers. I believe that optometrists, such as each of you, are ready—even anxious—to help to fill some of that void.

To address this challenge, those who pay for health care need to embrace new payment models that support wellness as well as coordinating care for those who suffer from illness, injury or less than good health. Any such wellness effort needs to include regular screening—such as vision screening—and be coordinated with health information technology such as through a centralized vision care registry.

Major stakeholders in health care reform obviously include the physician community. The Massachusetts Medical Society, the oldest, continuously operating state medical society in the United States, is the primary voice of physicians in the development of public policy. However, it sometimes seems to me that the society's policy positions have evolved far more slowly than the progress of science itself.

An old baseball player once said, "I don't question the integrity of an umpire, just his eyesight." Similarly, I don't question the integrity of our state medical society, just their vision! As fewer medical doctors enter the field of primary care, the medical profession needs to embrace other health professionals who, with appropriate training such as that provided by the New England College of Optometry, can do much to provide safe, cost-effective care for patients needing attention.

It's high time for all Massachusetts physicians to rise above the tradition-bound guild mentality that confounds health care progress, and respect the education and experience of all health professions in treating the whole person. It's time for Massachusetts to embrace treatment regimens for optometrists that are already fully accepted in 49 other states, if we are to offer quality care that is convenient and affordable for patients. You, the Class of 2009, must make your voices heard as that debate unfolds!

It was Robert Kennedy who once challenged an earlier graduating class at another college—"to decide, as Goethe put it, whether you will be a hammer—or an anvil. The question is whether you are to be a hammer—whether you are to give to the world in which you were reared and educated, the broadest possible benefits of that education." So I challenge you to get involved in writing the health care policy of your generation—be a hammer!

A VISION FOR HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

You are graduating at a most exciting time in health care! As you begin your professional careers in vision care, health reform is about to take center stage in the national arena. National health reform is likely to include minimum standards for benefits, an individual insurance mandate, a guaranteed issue requirement for health insurance, a prohibition on excluding coverage of pre-existing conditions, the creation of an insurance exchange where people can sign up for coverage—all factors that are included in the Massachusetts health reform effort.

If we view health reform through the lens of the ongoing Massachusetts experiment, there are some fundamental principles to anchor the national effort.

1. Each of us has an individual responsibility to take care of our health—including screenings and check-ups, as well as maintaining health insurance to help pay for our care and that of our families.

2. Each of us has a collective responsibility, as citizens of a caring society, to support public policies that guarantee access to safe, high quality, affordable and patient-centered health care for everyone in society.

3. Each of us, in the field of health care, has a professional responsibility to strive for the highest level of competency, to ensure that we, and our colleagues in the patient care team, deliver the right care at the right time and in the right place.

These principles can serve as a shining beacon for health reform in the nation, much as this Commonwealth led the nation in propagating the principles of democratic government, social progress, and educational excellence throughout its proud history.

Massachusetts' first Governor, John Winthrop, wrote in 1630 about the social experiment being launched in this New World. He called upon his Puritan brethren and all their descendants to share their resources and gifts with others, "rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together so that—"the world will say of succeeding plantations, may the Lord make it like that of New England . . . we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us." Sharing our gifts with others is the cornerstone of health care reform in Massachusetts and, I hope, it will be your personal cornerstone in your health care careers as well.

Truly, the eyes of all people in America are focused on the Massachusetts health reform experience as a framework for bringing expanded access to quality care to all Americans. But that's not all we're contributing to health care. This morning, Massachusetts is sending forth from this city upon a hill, a new class of highly skilled, and energized health care professionals with their degree in optometry in hand!

While past experience may teach us to be skeptical of the promises of any politician, to those of you who will dedicate your health care careers to the betterment of your state and all her people—I can promise a lifetime of challenge and opportunity, sometimes exciting and rewarding, sometimes slow and difficult, but always, always worthwhile.

And let me add one final bit of parting wisdom: No one ever injured his or her eyesight by looking on the bright side of things! The economy will improve! You'll earn a good living! And those of us in government can't wait to share in your success every April 15th!

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN MICHAEL
T. DOYLE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Captain Michael T. Doyle, upon his retirement from the Cleveland Police Department, following thirty years of dedicated service to the citizens of Cleveland.

Captain Doyle graduated from Normandy High School in Parma, Ohio, then went on to graduate with honors from Cleveland State University. Shortly thereafter, Captain Doyle

accepted a position in law enforcement as the Assistant Deputy Sheriff for Medina County. After four years, in 1981, he began his service to the City of Cleveland as a Cleveland Police officer.

Captain Doyle's service to our community extended across nearly every police district in the City and included work as patrol officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant and captain. Throughout his tenure, Captain Doyle fostered trust, communication and cooperation among individuals throughout our community, from neighborhood block club members to elected officials at Cleveland City Hall.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Captain Michael T. Doyle for his unwavering dedication to protecting the citizens of Cleveland, Ohio.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the FY 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 2892

Account: FEMA, State and Local Programs

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of La Habra

Address of Requesting Entity: 201 E. La Habra Blvd., La Habra, CA 90631

Funding Secured: \$254,500

Description of Request: Currently, the City of La Habra's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is a very small conference room within the Police Station. The maximum occupancy is less than a dozen individuals, and there is not adequate space or equipment to serve as an Emergency Operations Center, particularly if there were a large-scale emergency such as an earthquake, wildfires, act of terrorism, etc. During the recent "Golden Guardian" earthquake exercise in California, the team evaluating the City's performance noted the inadequacy of the facility and its hindrance to the exercise. The problems would be even more pronounced should there be an actual emergency requiring the mobilization of our first responders and emergency personnel. This project would provide for necessary equipment and modifications to establish the various required components of an EOC (Planning and Intelligence, Operations, Communications, Public Information, etc.). I believe that it is critical for Congress to use taxpayer dollars responsibly by investing in Southern California communities to prevent, combat, and contain the devastating threat of fire and natural disasters that routinely ravage the Southern California landscape

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR.
DAVID GORDON PERSONS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Doctor David Gordon Persons on the occasion of his retirement from Wayside Presbyterian Church after thirty three years of leadership. It is my pleasure to recognize Reverend Dr. Persons and acknowledge him as an influential role model in the Western New York area.

Reverend Dr. Persons' leadership abilities were apparent at an early age. As a student of Sherman High School, he was lettered in both basketball and track and he was a member of the Top Math Team to represent Western New York at Boys Town. Upon graduating from Sherman High School in 1961, he received the American Legion Citizen of the Year award.

Reverend Dr. Persons' commitment to the Western New York community is evident by his leadership, devotion and dedication to the people in our community. His community service extended to the Lake Shore Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as Chaplain and Life Member for over thirty years. He was also a member of the Kiwanis Club from 1979 to 1986.

His belief that understanding and reaching out to the world can make a difference led to his co-founding of the Task Force to Reduce the Nuclear Arms Race at the United Nations, which later became the Peace Committee of Western New York. He has been a major influence and inspiration in the lives of young people. From 1979 to 1986, he led yearly youth group bike tours in Western New York and Southern Pennsylvania. Reverend Dr. Persons also led a youth group to the 20th Anniversary of Martin Luther King's speech.

Foremost, Reverend Dr. Persons has been integral to the life of his congregation. Over his religious career, he has officiated at some six hundred funerals, six hundred weddings and one thousand baptisms. His skills were recognized by his colleagues, and from 1965 to 1967, Reverend Dr. Persons was President of the Preaching Association in Seminary. In 1987, he was awarded grants to study meditation in ashrams in India. He is currently Moderator of Wright's Memorial Presbyterian Church—Native American Church in Irving, New York as well as Moderator of Presbytery of Western New York. He also holds the positions of the Chair of Presbytery Church and Society Committee as well as the Head of Presbytery Worship Committee.

Madam Speaker, along with his family, friends and great admirers who will join together today at the Wanakah Country Club, I am honored to pay tribute to the admirable accomplishments of Reverend Dr. Persons. His life of leadership, compassion and service to others is truly an example for us all on the enormous difference one person can make. I wish him all the best in his retirement.