

their lives on September 11th. Their presence can never be replaced, and their absence remains with all of us.

I have met many of the families who lost loved ones in the terror attacks, and I share their pain having lost a cousin and many friends myself that day. I know that the pain of that day does not simply disappear with the passage of time. Today, we not only offer our enduring respect to those who died we honor their friends and families who carry on with their lives.

We must never forget that the attack by Al-Qaeda on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were not just an attack on those inside the buildings. They were attacks on the United States of America. The terrorists believed that September 11th would weaken Americans, our values and our way of life. They were wrong. We will not rest until justice is served to those who attacked and murdered innocent American civilians.

IN RECOGNITION OF CALPINE CORPORATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Calpine Corporation on the 50th Anniversary of their commercial operations at The Geysers in Lake County, California.

Calpine Corporation owns and operates the world's largest renewable geothermal power facility at The Geysers. The company's 15 geothermal power plants there are capable of generating up to 725 megawatts of baseload renewable, green energy around the clock.

Calpine is expanding its production at The Geysers through wastewater discharge projects in which clean, reclaimed wastewater from local municipalities is recycled into the geothermal fields where it is converted to steam for electricity production. This provides an environmentally-sound wastewater discharge solution for the neighboring cities and increases the long-term productivity of The Geysers.

In addition to The Geysers, Calpine operates natural gas fueled power plants in 21 states and Canada. Its 93 power plants have nearly 29,000 megawatts of generating capacity. It is the nation's largest operator of combined-cycle and cogeneration plants.

In April 2010, the California Department of Conservation recognized Calpine for its ongoing commitment to safety and the environment for its facilities at The Geysers.

At The Geysers, Calpine owns and operates the Cartwright Geothermal Visitors Center, a 6,500 square foot learning center that is open to the public. More than 60,000 visitors from all 50 states and 77 countries have visited the center. Calpine regularly hosts open houses for the community and guided tours of its plants there.

The 330 full-time Calpine employees at The Geysers volunteer in the community and each year host a popular Earth Day event and contribute to the Blood Bank of the Redwoods and United Way. Calpine helps underwrite local paramedic services, community pools, sports fields and recreation areas.

Madam Speaker, Calpine Corporation is an industry leader and one of the leading community partners in my district. It is therefore appropriate that we honor them today on the 50th Anniversary of their operations at The Geysers.

TYLER SPARKS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Sparks. Tyler is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tyler has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Tyler has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is a member of the Order of the Arrow. Tyler has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Tyler designed and constructed 6 raised historical gardens at Watkins Mill State Park outside of Kearney, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tyler Sparks for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING AMERICAN TROOPS WHO DIED ON D-DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on June 6, 1944—D-Day—Allied forces crossed the English Channel to land in Normandy, France. Code-named Operation Overlord, the Normandy landing remains the most massive and complex opposed amphibious invasion in history.

With tremendous courage, the Allies pushed entrenched German forces back from the beaches of Normandy. Thus began the liberation of France and the massive campaign that would ensure the defeat of Nazi Germany in western Europe.

American leadership and the courageous sacrifices made by American servicemen and women were essential to the success of the operation. Led by President Franklin Roosevelt, Supreme Allied Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower, and General Omar Bradley, American soldiers and airmen sacrificed dearly to defend the United States, our allies, and the world against the savage aggression of Nazi Germany and the Axis powers.

Today, let us honor the courage and sacrifice of those thousands of brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to de-

fend the American people and the people of the world from tyranny.

INTRODUCING H.R. 6127—"EXTENSION OF HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERANS WHO SERVED AT QARMAT ALI ACT"

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill, H.R. 6127, the Extension of Health Care Eligibility for Veterans who Served at Qarmat Ali Act, to extend the VA healthcare enrollment period for certain veterans who served in the Qarmat Ali region of Iraq.

Soon after the conflict in Iraq began in 2003, Army National Guard units from my home state of Indiana as well as units from Oregon, West Virginia, and South Carolina and National Guardsmen mobilized as individual augmentees from across the nation were called up and tasked with guarding the Qarmat Ali water treatment facility.

For 6 months—from April to September—these National Guardsmen from across the nation bravely guarded the plant, located just outside Basra. Their mission was to secure the facility and provide protective services for the independent contractors who were working throughout the region to restore Iraqi oil production.

Recently, they have been notified of their possible exposure to a toxic chemical known as sodium dichromate and are being asked to come forward, be evaluated, and enroll in VA's Gulf War Registry. Health problems associated with such exposure include respiratory issues, skin lesions, and burns. Contact may cause increased rates of lung cancer and other ear, nose, throat, and skin disorders.

The men and women of these National Guard units completed their mission—and served our country—well. It was hard for me to discover that despite their safe return, their service may continue to put them at risk. In particular, I am very sensitive to the Hoosiers who may have been injured.

Under current law, combat veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of "hostilities" after November 11, 1998 are eligible to enroll in the VA health care system, notwithstanding sufficient evidence of service-connection, for five years following separation from service.

This includes members of the National Guard and Reserve who were activated and served in combat support or direct operations as long as they meet certain requirements.

When Congress established the 5 year period of open enrollment for VA health care it was with the understanding that some wounds of war may not manifest themselves until years after a veteran leaves military duty.

But despite our best intentions, we are finding that some veterans are faced with combat-related health problems that were not apparent even 5 years after the veteran re-entered civilian life. This creates a gap in services that unfairly penalizes these men and women for conditions out of their control.

I commend the VA for their efforts to contact these veterans and create the Qarmat Ali Registry to aggressively track and treat veterans exposed to this toxic chemical as part of the Gulf War Registry.

However, it is also important for them to have immediate access to VA's high quality health care system. The use of VA health care will help to identify potential medical conditions, and provide counseling, immunizations, and medications to prevent illness. Appropriate preventative care can substantially improve health outcomes and the quality of life for our honored heroes.

But, some of the Qarmat Ali veterans who separated from service following their deployment in 2003 may no longer be eligible to enroll in VA health care under the 5-year open enrollment period. As a result, they must first file a claim and seek a service-connected disability rating before enrolling in the VA health care system and gaining access to the comprehensive medical care VA provides.

Unfortunately, the claims process can be both time-consuming and daunting. It is unacceptable that the Qarmat Ali veterans, already subjected to harmful toxins during service to our country, must now await the outcome of a lengthy and sometimes adversarial claims processing system before they can enroll in VA health care.

The VA was established expressly to care for veterans like these who willingly left their homes, families, and lives to protect and defend our nation and may find themselves sick or injured as a result of such selflessness.

H.R. 6127 would correct this unintended gap in services by extending the enrollment eligibility period for Qarmat Ali veterans by 5 years from the date of notification. This would allow them to immediately begin receiving services at VA medical facilities for any and all of their health care needs.

Breaking down barriers to needed care is the very least we, as a grateful nation, can do for the men and women who fight for our freedoms, in Qarmat Ali and around the world.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6127 and these brave American heroes.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
SERGEANT MAJOR ROLANDO
MOORE, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of SGM Rolando Moore, Jr., upon his retirement from the U.S. Army, which follows nearly 30 years of honorable and dedicated service to our country.

In 1981, Sergeant Major Moore enlisted into the U.S. Army, completing basic training at Fort Leonard in Wood, Missouri. He received advanced training at Fort Sam in Houston, Texas. Throughout his military career, Sergeant Major Moore Jr. sought higher learning in the military, where he excelled in numerous courses and training programs, and also at private institutions of higher learning. He earned a Bachelor's degree in business management from Columbia College, and is cur-

rently pursuing a Master's degree from the University of Phoenix.

Sergeant Moore's military education included in-depth training and education in the areas of patient advocacy and administration. He worked as a senior advisor, patient administration consultant and chief clinical officer at military medical facilities across the country and overseas, including: Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, DC; Eisenhower Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Georgia; and military facilities in Alabama, Colorado, Michigan, Hawaii and Korea. Sergeant Moore has been recognized with numerous military honors, including the Meritorious Service Medical Award with three oak leaf clusters; the Army Commendation Medal with three oak clusters; the National Defense Service Medal; the NCO Professional Development Ribbon; the Army Service Ribbon; and the Overseas Ribbon Award.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and gratitude of SGM Rolando Moore, Jr., for his exemplary service on behalf of our country. His military career is framed by dedication and unwavering commitment to the health and welfare of our veterans, and his work will have a positive impact on the lives of countless veterans and their families for years to come. I wish Sergeant Major Moore, his wife, Mary Moore, and his daughters, Jazmen Moore and Kalea Moore, much peace, health and happiness in all their future endeavors.

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE RELATING TO
EFFICIENCY AND REFORM PUR-
SUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, thoughtful stewardship of our national budget and accountability in government should be a top national priority. Toward that end, in the 111th Congress, the Committee on Energy and Commerce has been vigilant in conducting oversight hearings to identify waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in government, and this effort has informed the development of a number of legislative initiatives that would produce substantial deficit reduction. Pursuant to the instructions in H. Res. 1493, following is a discussion of major Committee initiatives in this area.

One of the main areas of the Committee's focus has been promoting efficiency and effectiveness in our nation's health care system. The Affordable Care Act, which the President signed into law earlier this year, contains reforms that will save the taxpayers \$130 billion over the next ten years and \$1.2 trillion over the following decade.

This legislation contains many important provisions to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in the health care system. These include new tools to identify fraudulent providers and prevent them from enrolling in Medicare and Medicaid; new and stronger penalties for providers that defraud Medicare and Medicaid; new data-sharing and data-reporting requirements to identify waste, fraud, and abuse; and

new funding to identify, prevent, and prosecute fraudulent Medicare and Medicaid providers.

The Committee has been reviewing additional cost-cutting initiatives involving health coverage. One concerns drug manufacturer rebates under the Medicare Part D program. The costs of drugs for Medicare-Medicaid dual eligible enrollees (which are paid almost entirely by the federal government) should be no higher under Medicare Part D than they are under Medicaid. The Committee-passed version of health reform included such a rebate provision. A version of this provision that passed the House (but was not enacted into law as part of the Affordable Care Act) would have saved taxpayers approximately \$115 billion over ten years.

Significant taxpayer savings for the federal government would also result by prohibiting "pay for delay" agreements between brand-name drug manufacturers and generic drug manufacturers under which the generic companies are paid to delay the marketing of generic products. Each year, the government spends billions of dollars on prescription drugs through programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, and the inflated drug costs that result from artificially delayed entry of generics onto the market mean higher costs for the government. The Committee and the House approved health reform legislation that included such a prohibition, but this language was not included in the version of the bill that became law.

Energy policy provides another potential for significant savings. Last year, the House passed comprehensive energy legislation that would have saved the taxpayers \$9 billion over ten years. This legislation has not yet been considered by the Senate.

Other areas the Committee is examining also provide avenues for savings. In the telecommunications area, efforts to improve spectrum management and identify opportunities for spectrum reallocation and auction could save taxpayers billions of dollars. Further, the universal service fund costs consumers approximately \$8 billion per year. Under the leadership of Subcommittee Chairman RICK BOUCHER, the Committee has been examining ways to make this fund more efficient and control costs.

The Committee will continue its broad-ranging efforts to consider these and other approaches to address waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in government and reduce the federal deficit.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID MONDT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize David Mondt, a World War II Army Air Corps and National Guard veteran from Boone County, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.

The Boone News Republican is currently running a series of articles that honors one Boone County veteran every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. David Mondt was recognized on Tuesday, June 29. Below is the article in its entirety: