

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:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: DAVID MONDT
(By Alexander Hutchins)

At 21 years of age, many kids are still wet behind the ears and trying to carve out a living for themselves. When David Mondt was 22, he was flying nighttime raids to drop paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne into the battlefields of Europe.

Mondt, 87, previously a first lieutenant in the Army Air Corps during World War II, was born in Boone and has lived in the community nearly his entire life. He lived in Perry for a year in his childhood, at which time he was hit by a Hawkeye Laundry truck. No lasting injuries resulted from the accident, but Mondt soon returned to Boone and continued his education.

"The biggest thing was getting a bicycle, which I eventually did," Mondt said of the most significant part of his childhood.

When World War II began, Mondt watched the Iowa National Guard mobilize and head to Louisiana.

"Then they started the draft, and I didn't want to wait for that, so I joined the Air Force," he said.

Mondt began training to be an Army Air Corps mechanic when he first joined, as pilot training was only available to soldiers 21 and older. While in mechanic training, the age requirements for pilot training were lowered, and Mondt, then 18, applied and was accepted into program. He went into the pilot school in Texas, and mere days before graduating the program was scrapped and modified to the Flight Officer Program.

"In one day, November the 10th, 1942, I was a Private, a Staff Sergeant and a flight officer in a matter of hours," Mondt said.

Mondt was eventually placed with the 62nd Troop Carrier Squadron, men with whom he would fly for the rest of the war. Every man in the squadron would return home alive at the war's conclusion.

The squadron flew mostly day-to-day supply and troop transport missions. Mondt flew a C-47 Skytrain cargo plane for the entirety of the war, and said he missed a pre-D-Day appearance by General Eisenhower because he was running a load of supplies. Mondt originally flew runs in North Africa, then as part of the American invasion of Italy where he dropped paratroopers on Sicily.

After the fascist collapse in Italy, Mondt was sent to England and prepared for the D-Day invasion. Mondt would drop members of the 82nd Airborne in the now-famous invasion of Europe, and in the nighttime raid the C-47s received enemy fire, but managed to deploy the paratroopers successfully.

"Everything was fine, as long as you were over England or over the water. When we hit the coast of France we started receiving fire from the Germans," Mondt said. One plane from the squadron was shot down, but the crew survived.

Mondt's plane would return from the mission, but it was hit by anti-aircraft fire. All the windows were blown out and Mondt was hit by the shrapnel flying about the cabin. Mondt received the Purple Heart for his injury, although he would carry pieces of shrapnel in his back for years.

Despite all the events conspiring around him that would become critical to world history, Mondt said that in the end the daily activities were orderly and regimented.

"Whatever they told you to do, you did," Mondt said. "It was really just an everyday occurrence. When you weren't dropping paratroopers, you were hauling supplies to front-line troops."

Mondt flew British and Polish soldiers into the Battle of Arnhem, but toward the end of the war more flights were daytime operations. Mondt said that after crossing the Rhine River, there were hardly any German

air forces left. The planes had all been bombed at the airfields by the Army Air Corps.

"If you got back from the flight, you got a place to sleep, and it was warm, and [you got] good food. The ground troops ate out of mess kits. We never did," Mondt said.

When he returned to the U.S. after his tour of duty, he was offered a chance to leave the Air Corps while in St. Louis. Mondt accepted and returned to Iowa. He didn't spend long out of an airplane, however, as he joined the Army Aviation of the National Guard upon returning to Boone. He would fly aircraft with the National Guard, including helicopter training in Texas, and would serve in the Guard until the age of 60. At one point Mondt was told the Army would be decommissioning all of its planes for helicopters, but he never heard what came of that plan.

Life was normal after the war. Mondt sold insurance when he wasn't on Guard duty, and he married his wife, Yvonna. They raised four children and lived a quiet life.

"Mowing grass," Mondt said jokingly when asked what he did for a hobby while living in Boone. Mondt said the war had little permanent effect on him, as his outlook on life after the war was similar to his outlook on life before the conflict.

"It [the war] hasn't affected me at all, as far as I can recall," Mondt said. Beginning in 1951 his squadron from the war began holding reunions, and the original gathering had 41 participants. Though the numbers have dwindled, Mondt still attends reunion functions for the war.

I commend David Mondt for his many years of loyalty and service to our great nation. It is an immense honor to represent him in the United States Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE HINDU TEMPLE OF CANTON

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the dedication of the Hindu Temple of Canton, a beacon of community and spirituality benefitting the Hindu community of Greater Detroit.

Just a little over a year ago, I stood at the Temple site along with the members of the Hindu Temple to turn the first shovels of soil for this center's major expansion. Its completion marks a new phase of growth and prominence for this vibrant community, and I am proud and honored to recognize this dedication.

In October of 1986, a small group of dedicated members of the Hindu community decided that there was a clear need to build a Temple that would cater to the western suburbs of Detroit. Construction began in 1988, and the Temple first opened its doors on December 25, 1990.

For the past 20 years, the Temple has fulfilled its role as a true center of the community—offering classes and concerts, hosting countless gatherings, annual celebrations of Indian Independence Day, and supporting the broader community through a Scholarship Program for graduates of Plymouth Canton High School.

With the completion of this new expansion, the Temple will be able to welcome ever-larg-

er numbers of members into its doors and continue to provide the rich and dynamic programming that has become its signature.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to mark the dedication of the Hindu Temple of Canton and the milestone of progress and growth it represents for the Hindu Community of metro Detroit.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. PASCARELL. Madam Speaker, it is difficult to believe that it has been 9 years to the day when our Nation was attacked by foreign terrorists who claimed the lives of 2,977 Americans including 411 of our Nation's bravest first responders.

As a Member of the Homeland Security Committee I am proud of the steps we have taken since that fateful day to make the American people safer, but our work is far from complete and this is a mission we, as public servants, can never stop striving to achieve.

I am also proud that this Congress passed the aptly-named Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act which designates September 11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

On September 11 more so than any other day of the year we should come together as Americans and find new ways to serve our Nation.

For it was on September 11 that so many Americans unexpectedly found themselves in the middle of a truly horrible situation and yet summoned the courage to help save others without regard to themselves.

So I say to all of you that many of the wounds of that fateful day will heal over time, but that we will never forget the heroism we witnessed, the lessons we learned, and the redemption the American people earned through our own strength.

On September 11, more than any other day in our history, we witnessed what it truly means to serve our Nation as a first responder.

We witnessed police officers, fire fighters, and paramedics racing up flights of stairs, hoping to save even a few more lives, without once thinking about their own safety.

Its not only those of you who are already serving our communities that understand this sacrifice, it is also evident in all of our current trainees, because after 9/11 no one could possibly make the commitment to being a first responder without fully understanding what kind of sacrifice was being asked of them.

As a public servant, I can not pretend to relate to this level of sacrifice, but I do strongly share your determination that those first responders who lost their lives on 9/11 should not just merely be commemorated, but in fact their memories should spur us towards making our Nation stronger and safer.

As a Member of Congress and as an original member of the House Homeland Security Committee, I believe we must commit ourselves to providing our Nation's first responders with all the tools they need to protect our communities.