

Other provisions in this legislation include prohibiting the VA from collecting copayments from veterans who are catastrophically disabled; creating a pilot program to provide specified dental services to veterans, survivors, and dependents of veterans through a dental insurer; providing hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for certain Vietnam-era veterans exposed to herbicide and Gulf-War era veterans who have insufficient medical evidence to establish a service-connected disability; and expanding the organizations offering transitional housing and other support for homeless veterans that can receive grants or per diems from the VA, which is particularly important to veterans in rural areas.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and for the Senate to swiftly act so that this legislation can become law and our veterans can begin to benefit from the important programs this comprehensive bill implements.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS S. HIGGINS'  
75TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 2010*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th birthday of Thomas S. Higgins. Mr. Higgins has lived a life of compassion and dedication towards his family and his community and for this he deserves great praise.

Mr. Higgins was born in Camden, New Jersey on April 23, 1935. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in political science from St. Joseph's University before earning his Juris Doctorate at Villanova Law School. After graduating, Mr. Higgins and his partners founded a successful practice in Laurel Springs, New Jersey. During his forty-year tenure as an attorney, he specialized in environmental law, serving as counsel to the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority and the Cape May Municipal Utilities Authority. Mr. Higgins represented both governmental and personal clients with the utmost vigor and integrity.

Mr. Higgins has also served as chairman of the Health Care Facilities Finance Authority. In this role, he helped obtain financing for the construction, expansion and renovation of hospitals and other health care facilities throughout the state of New Jersey. Additionally, he has served as a Camden County Freeholder, as a chief fundraiser for the Camden County Democratic Committee and as a member of the Finance team for the campaigns of New Jersey Governor Jim Florio in 1989 and 1993. Among his most rewarding moments was preparing the background information for the successful nomination of Governor Florio for the 1993 John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage Award.

All who know Mr. Higgins know his love of law and politics is exceeded only by his love for his wife, Kathy, his partner and teammate for 27 years. Until her passing in 2006, the two were inseparable and together were an inspirational story of love and dedication. A devoted family man, Mr. Higgins' takes great pride in the successes and achievements of his seven children, and in the blissful faces of his twelve grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Thomas S. Higgins's contributions to his field and the state of New Jersey, and his commitment to his family should not go unrecognized. I am honored to be a part of his special day, and I would like to personally wish him a Happy 75th Birthday.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY SENIOR GAMES AND EXPO

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 2010*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo on the occasion of this organization's milestone 25th Anniversary. The Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo will be held at Montgomery County Community College from May 10 through 14, 2010.

The Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo originated in 1985 through the efforts of Montgomery County's state legislative delegation. Through the continued support and tireless work of talented volunteers, the Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo has been successful in ensuring that this annual event combining healthy exercise and community spirit has continued. The Games & Expo is comprised of weeklong competitive events for Montgomery County senior adults and culminates with an Expo featuring health screenings and various exhibits with services and products to benefit the lifestyles of senior citizens. This event gives seniors the opportunity to not only gain information about their health resources, but to come together in the spirit of community to engage in sports and recreation. I am proud to represent the volunteers who work so hard to organize this outstanding event, as well as the participants who take advantage of such a wonderful experience.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo's 25th anniversary and in wishing the volunteers, participants, and community many more years of health and fellowship.

HONORING ISRAELI  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2010*

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the State of Israel on the occasion of its 62nd anniversary. For 62 years, the United States and the modern State of Israel have shared a deep friendship and strong bonds of cooperation. Since the establishment of our ally in May 1948, the United States and Israel have been united by their strong ties and mutual democratic values.

This week, we pay tribute to the tremendous accomplishments of the State of Israel, which has developed a prosperous, educated, and

vibrant nation since its establishment 62 years ago. During that time, the United States has stood in vigorous support of Israel's right to exist and will continue to do so in the future. As a democracy, Israel's people enjoy freedom of speech and religion, an open political system, an independent judiciary and many other practices. Israel's colleges and universities are highly respected, which strengthens the Israeli economy and allows the country to be a leader in research and innovation.

I am also pleased to celebrate the ties between the American and Israeli people and the rich history of the American Jewish community. For hundreds of years, the United States has benefited from Jewish contributions to American culture. As a nation of immigrants, the United States is better and stronger because Jewish people from all over the world have chosen to become American citizens. When the first Jewish settlers came to this land, they sought a place of promise where they could practice their faith in freedom and live in liberty. American Jews have strengthened our country and helped shape our way of life. By recognizing those contributions to the fabric of American life, we promote awareness and understanding.

Israel is an integral and essential partner and I look forward to opportunities to continue and enhance the strong bonds between our nations. As a defender of the inherent rights of all people and nations, I am proud to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHARLES W. DENT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 2010*

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I regret that due to other legislative business, I missed the last vote on April 22, 2010. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 220, H. Res. 1270, Expressing support for Mathematics Awareness Month.

RECOGNIZING WORLD MALARIA  
DAY 2010

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 2010*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of 2010 World Malaria Day, an issue of great importance to me. I witnessed the widespread devastation malaria can cause both times I lived in Africa, first in Ghana with a program called Operation Crossroads and then when I worked in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) as a Foreign Service Medical Officer. While the disease affects people in every corner of the globe, it is particularly destructive to sub-Saharan Africa. There are 250 million malaria cases worldwide and nearly one million deaths are caused by malaria every year, ninety percent of which occur in sub-Saharan Africa. About 3.3 billion people—about one-half of the world's population—are at risk of contracting the disease. It is important to recognize the

damage that this disease afflicts on the generation of the future: seventy percent of the deaths caused by malaria happen to children under the age of five, and one in every five childhood deaths in Africa is due to malaria.

Though the statistics are staggering, it is important to recognize the progress that we've made in treating the disease. We are farther along than ever in developing a successful vaccine to combat malaria and more and more people have access to anti-malarial drugs. And because of an increased focus on outreach, people are being educated about the importance of taking preventive steps like utilizing netting to prevent mosquito bites which spread the disease.

Yet with all of the progress, we must continue to press forward with attempts to develop new tools and technologies to combat the spread of malaria. With the work and dedication of many nongovernmental organizations, including PATH, a nongovernmental organization located in my district that is leading the way in developing global health technology, I am confident that we will have made even greater progress when we observe World Malaria Day next year.

#### CAREGIVERS AND VETERANS OMNIBUS HEALTH SERVICES ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2010*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to express my support for the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act (S. 1963). This important piece of legislation is a tremendous step forward for our nation's bravest men and women, and the dedicated caregivers who support them.

This landmark legislation will strengthen health care services for our nation's veterans by expanding services for women veterans, providing resources to caregivers of wounded veterans, improving health care for veterans living in rural areas, providing greater access to mental health services, and expanding assistance to homeless veterans. Importantly, the legislation has received strong endorsements from numerous veterans groups, including the VFW, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, the Wounded Warrior Project, and Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Among its many critical provisions, I am particularly proud of the expansion of VA services offered to the 1.8 million women who have courageously served their country, including child care for women receiving intensive mental and physical health care services, and post-delivery health care for newborns. In addition, the expansion of mental health benefits, greater support for caregivers, and help for homeless vets will improve the lives of millions of brave men and women and their families.

This important legislation exemplifies the Democrat-led 111th Congress' unwavering commitment to our veterans and their families. Tremendous advances in battlefield medicine have increased the survival rate of wounded soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan and made it even more important that we constantly work

to improve veterans' health care and its many support services.

As a nurse, I've seen first-hand the devastating consequences of inadequate health care for our nation's veterans. America has a sacred obligation to ensure these brave men and women receive the highest quality care and today that commitment extends to those dedicated individuals who care for our wounded warriors.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION (AOA)

**HON. TOM PRICE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 2010*

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on April 19, 1897 a group of osteopathic medical students at the American School of Osteopathy in Kirksville, Missouri founded what is today the American Osteopathic Association. Today I along with Dr. BROUN, Dr. BURGESS, Dr. CASSIDY, Dr. FLEMING, Dr. GINGREY, Dr. KAGEN, Dr. PAUL, and Dr. ROE, rise to honor the anniversary of the American Osteopathic Association and recognize the more than 67,000 osteopathic physicians (D.O.s) for their contributions to the American healthcare system.

Over the past 113 years, osteopathic physicians have provided high quality care to millions of patients and contributed to the advancement of medical science. The osteopathic profession's commitment to primary care and caring for underserved communities are commendable and are essential to the success of our health care system.

Over the past 20 years the profession has experienced tremendous growth. Today, one out of every five medical schools students are enrolled in a college of osteopathic medicine and total enrollment in the nation's colleges of osteopathic medicine exceeds 16,000 students. The profession is well positioned to play an important role in alleviating the physician workforce shortage over the next decade.

Osteopathic physicians practice in every specialty and subspecialty of medicine. They practice in the most elite academic institutions and successful group practices. However, a majority of osteopathic physicians continue the profession's long-standing tradition by focusing their careers on primary care specialties, general surgery, emergency medicine, and obstetrics.

These dedicated professionals provide an invaluable service to our nation, and we applaud their history and their ongoing efforts to improve the health of our nation.

#### HONORING MARGARET "MIDGE" COSTANZA

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 2010*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Margaret "Midge" Costanza, a personal friend of mine, a mentor to women in politics across our country, and a naturally charismatic and color-

ful American treasure. Midge was outspoken and altruistic, passionate, witty and direct. You always knew where you stood with Midge and, whether you agreed with her or not, you valued her perspective and enjoyed being around her.

During her more than fifty years of public service and civic activism, Midge did more than break down barriers. She established new patterns. History records her accomplishments as a series of firsts. She was the first woman elected to the Rochester City Council. She was the first woman with an office in the West Wing of the White House. She was one of the first women in politics to grace the cover of Newsweek. But being first wasn't what defined Midge; it was what she did once there that marked her legacy.

When President Carter gave her an office in the West Wing, Midge used it to be a "window to the nation." She brought constituencies into the White House that had never been there before. She met with gay and lesbian leaders, the poor, and the disabled. She was particularly active in fighting for women's equality, advocating for issues including the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and the protection of women's reproductive rights.

Midge championed women in politics, supporting female candidates at all levels and working to appoint more women to high office. When she worked in the White House, there were only eighteen women in the House of Representatives and two in the Senate. Today, seventy-six women serve in the House and seventeen serve in the Senate. As a prime example of her dry wit Midge once remarked on this subject, "When we start electing and appointing mediocre women—then, and only then, we will achieve total equality with men."

I attended some of the numerous trainings Midge conducted for women candidates of both parties. She coached us in the art of public speaking. She was a wonderful teacher who helped women develop confidence in their abilities. But she was more than a public speaker; she was a storyteller. She could captivate an audience with a story of her time in the Carter Administration, boasting that Mikhail Baryshnikov flirtatiously asked her to dance at a White House event, or she would show a photo of herself playfully sparring with Muhammad Ali.

Midge's gift for speaking was her ability to move her listeners. She could make an audience feel as strongly as she did about an issue, and charm them with the force of her convictions and the forcefulness of her words. And she could instantly move an audience from heartfelt passion to unbridled laughter.

I learned a great deal from Midge, and I was proud to have her as my guest at President Obama's inauguration. Part of her legacy is the fact that today, it is not just women working in the West Wing who make the cover of Newsweek, but women running for President who do as well.

Midge was fond of hearing people say to her, "You've come a long way, baby." She would coyly reply, "Gosh, have I come a long way. And I love being called baby." Because of Midge, our political system has come a long way, as well. Many of us in office today owe a debt of gratitude to Midge Costanza, our mentor and friend, because she was willing to go first.