

have significant rehabilitation needs. Some of these beneficiaries have already exceeded their therapy limits for 2010.

Since the exceptions process that would have allowed these patients to receive more needed therapy has expired, beneficiaries with the greatest need for therapy will be the hardest hit. Congress must address this issue immediately.

A second issue of major concern is the need for additional payment for mental health services. A provision that expired at the end of last year provided an additional 5-percent payment for Medicare mental health services provided by psychologists and mental health counselors. This provision has been key to improving access to mental health care services for veterans and other military personnel suffering from post-traumatic stress and other disorders since TRICARE coverage is based on Medicare rates.

Significant shortages of mental health personnel have made it exceedingly difficult for Medicare beneficiaries and some of our military returning from overseas to find this critically needed help. The expiration of this provision has made it even more difficult for them to obtain these services. Congress needs to act immediately to help Medicare beneficiaries and members of the Armed Forces in need of mental health services.

A third issue concerns additional payments for ambulance services that are routinely extended, year after year. Many ambulance providers need them to survive. But those provisions also expired at the end of last year.

Another provision would ensure that Medicare beneficiaries can continue to get vital medical supplies such as diabetic test strips, canes, nebulizers, and wound care products from their local community pharmacies.

Under current law, suppliers of durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and other supplies must get accredited to prove they comply with quality standards. Many eligible professionals, such as physicians, nurse practitioners, physical therapists, and others are specifically exempted from this requirement. This provision would exempt pharmacies from being accredited under certain circumstances. Pharmacies must have been enrolled as a Medicare supplier with a provider number for at least 2 years, have DME billings that are less than 5 percent of their total sales, be in good standing with Medicare, and meet other criteria.

Medicare beneficiaries living in rural and underserved areas are particularly at risk of losing access to these critical medical products. This provision is essential to ensure they do not.

There are also a number of expired provisions in this package that improve payment for hospitals, especially rural hospitals. These hospitals rely on these provisions to keep their doors open.

The impact of a hospital shutting its doors would be especially hard on rural

and underserved areas where hospitals are the only point of access for health care.

Our country is facing record unemployment and Americans are struggling to make ends meet. The failure to extend these essential Medicare provisions immediately will make access to health care or needed medical services simply unavailable for many beneficiaries. The impact will be even worse for those in rural areas already facing health care access problems.

These examples show some of the damage that failing to extend these Medicare provisions will do to our seniors' health care.

We need to get back to work on the bipartisan package that was in the works until the Senate Democratic leadership's dramatic change in direction.

Medicare beneficiaries are counting on us to work together and get this done.

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

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate convenes Wednesday, February 24, all postcloture time be considered expired, except for any time available until 9:55 a.m., and that at 9:55 a.m. the Senate proceed to vote on a motion to waive the applicable budget points of order; further, that if the points of order are waived, without further intervening action, the second-degree amendment be withdrawn and no further amendments be in order; the Senate then proceed to vote on the Reid motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2847, with amendment No. 3310; provided further that upon disposition of the House message with respect to H.R. 2847, the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

GUNS ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in 2009, bills aimed at weakening the ability of universities to regulate the possession of firearms on campus were introduced in 12 State legislatures, including the

Michigan State Legislature. In 2008, 17 States saw similar legislation introduced. Fortunately for the safety of students, faculty, and visitors, none of these bills passed. In fact, according to the Wall Street Journal, as of July 2009, State legislative efforts to allow firearms on college campuses had been defeated 34 straight times nationwide. However, while this statistic demonstrates a clear national consensus that guns do not belong at universities, the National Rifle Association, NRA, continues to push for weaker gun regulations.

Already in 2010, efforts have been undertaken that would weaken the ability of colleges to determine their own security needs in Arizona, Georgia, Virginia, and Colorado. These legislative efforts are part of a strategy to pressure State legislatures into passing legislation that would force colleges to allow the possession and use of firearms by students, faculty, and others on campus. According to a report from the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, entitled "No Gun Left Behind: The Gun Lobby's Campaign to Push Guns into Colleges and Schools," this strategy can be seen as a response to the horrific shootings at Virginia Tech in 2007. According to this strategy, the way to prevent future violence on college campuses is to have more guns on campuses.

Increasing the number of guns in university settings is likely to increase the threat of violence. Every day at colleges across the country, young people engage in risky behaviors involving alcohol and drugs. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, binge drinking and illegal drug use is highest among 18- to 24-year-olds. Furthermore, a report by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University found that "nearly half of America's full-time college students abuse drugs or drink on binges at least once a month." This behavior is dangerous enough without introducing a weapon into the environment. Additional threats to public safety stemming from firearms on campuses include the high risk of gun thefts in typically insecure college living environments, as well as an increase in the number of accidental shootings.

Students and faculty should feel safe while on campus. Contrary to the claims of some, more guns on campus will not create a more secure campus. More guns will increase the threat of violence, and that is why legislation that would force universities to allow firearms on campus is misguided.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST MARC DECOTEAU

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to remember and honor Army SPC Marc Paul Decoteau of Waterville Valley, NH, for his service and supreme sacrifice for his country.

Specialist Decoteau demonstrated a willingness and dedication to serve and

defend his country by joining the U.S. Army. Just as many of America's heroes have taken up arms in the face of dire threats, Marc dedicated himself to the defense of our ideals, values, freedoms, and way of life. His valor and service cost him his life, but his sacrifice will help spare millions from lives under tyranny and oppression.

An exceptional student-athlete, Marc played an integral role in two Plymouth Regional High School State football championships and was also a standout lacrosse player. Marc graduated from Plymouth High School in Plymouth, NH, in 2008 and, sensing a call to duty, enlisted in the Army shortly thereafter.

Tragically, on January 29, 2010, this brave 19-year-old gave his life for this Nation while in support of combat operations in the Wardak Province of Afghanistan. At the time of this hostile action, Specialist Decoteau, a member of the 6th Psychological Operations Battalion out of Fort Bragg, NC, was serving his first tour in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

A beloved member of the Waterville Valley community, Marc was respected and admired by all those around him. As a loyal member of the U.S. Army, he continually performed above and beyond all expectations. Specialist Decoteau will live on as a decorated hero and a patriot.

Marc was recognized for his service several times, receiving the National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Parachutist Badge. He was also posthumously awarded the Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, and NATO Medal.

My condolences and prayers go out to Marc's parents Mark and Nancy, his brother Andrew and sister Maddie, and his family and friends. I offer them my deepest sympathies and most heartfelt thanks for their sacrifice. Marc exemplified the words of Daniel Webster who said, "God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it." Because of his efforts, the liberty of this country is made more secure. God bless Marc Decoteau.

SELDON TECHNOLOGIES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to direct the attention of the Senate to an article that was recently published in the Rutland Herald about Seldon Technologies, located in Windsor, VT.

This article describes the laudable efforts of a Vermont company taking part in the ongoing disaster relief operation in Haiti. Seldon Technologies has donated one of its state-of-the-art water filtration devices to a nonprofit organization that provides clean water to people in developing countries and those affected by natural disasters,

such as Haiti. I commend Seldon for using its technology to help the many Haitians who are still desperately in need of assistance.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this article entitled "Windsor Water Company Ships Help to Haiti" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

WINDSOR WATER COMPANY SHIPS HELP TO HAITI

(By Josh O'Gorman)

WINDSOR, VT.—A local company is doing its part to help with disaster relief in Haiti.

Seldon Technologies, which develops state-of-the-art water filtration devices, has donated one of its products to Water Missions International, a South Carolina-based nonprofit that works to provide clean water to developing countries and disaster areas such as Haiti.

Seldon Technologies donated a Seldon WaterBox Mobile Filtration System, which will help Water Missions aid workers stay healthy and provide immediate, clean, drinking water to temporary shelters.

"The Seldon staff are excited about the opportunity to utilize our new filtration products on behalf of those in need," said CEO Alan G. Cummings. "Such use matches our corporate mission. Seldon's progress has been helped immeasurably by our Senator Leahy and his interest in new technology initiatives in Vermont."

Democratic U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy has secured several Department of Defense contracts for Seldon to develop water filtration products for civilian and military use.

The WaterBox, which retails for \$2,695, can provide water to 390 people a day, based upon the World Health Organization's disaster standard of 1.9 gallons per person, said Heidi Luquer, who handles disaster and relief for Seldon Technologies.

Brad Reed, president and chief operating officer for Water Missions International, said the donation fits his organization's mission.

"It's a good example of groups trying to help each other when one approach complements the other," said Reed, whose organization has been working to provide clean drinking water in Haiti since 2004 and had 22 clean-water projects up and running prior to the Jan. 12 earthquake that killed more than 200,000 people and left more than 1 million homeless.

Water Missions International has increased its efforts since the earthquake, bringing in an additional 12 aid workers from Germany, Honduras and the U.S., and will have 80 water projects in place by the end of the week, Reed said.

Seldon's WaterBox is currently en route to Haiti and is expected arrive by the beginning of next week, said Reed.

To learn more about Seldon Technologies, visit www.seldontechnologies.com. For more about Water Missions International, visit www.watermissions.org.

NATIONAL EYE DONOR MONTH

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues that March is National Eye Donor Month. In 1983, President Ronald Reagan announced, "One of the most magnificent presents that one human being can bestow upon another is the gift of sight. Incredible as it may seem, it is within the power of each of us to give this precious gift simply by mak-

ing arrangements to donate our eyes after death." In less than 50 words, President Reagan expressed how simple and incredible it is to give the gift of sight. He declared March as National Eye Donor Month, and today his words hold no less relevance.

During National Eye Donor Month, we should take time to honor past donors and their families for the tremendous gift of sight they have given. These gifts have helped to improve the lives of over 1 million recipients since this procedure was introduced into America's health care system. Throughout the United States today, more than 40,000 corneal transplants take place yearly, over 750 each week. The Eye Bank Association of America was founded in 1961 and promulgates medical standards for eye banks throughout the world. Its initial membership of 25 member banks has grown to 85 banks in the United States and 15 international banks.

Corneal transplants can restore sight to people of all ages and all walks of life, whether it be a newborn, an adult or an aging grandparent. While success rates for corneal transplants have always been high, advancements in recent technology have increased success rates to over 95 percent. When the procedure was first performed, patients would spend upwards of 1 month in the hospital recovering from the transplant. Today, it is an outpatient procedure.

Today, we possess the knowledge and technology to give the gift of sight to thousands of individuals through the generosity of eye donation. Anyone can become an eye donor. Cataracts, poor eyesight or age do not prevent a person from being a donor. I encourage all Americans to become eye donors. It is a very simple process. All you need to do is sign up on your State's donor registry and talk to your family to ensure they understand that you wish to give the gift of sight.

Donated human eyes and corneal tissue are used for research, education and transplantation. There is no substitute for human tissue donation. Corneal transplants cannot take place without the priceless gift of corneal donation from one human to another. I encourage my colleagues to work with their local eye banks to help raise awareness within your communities and throughout our country. I am honored to recognize March as National Eye Donor Month today in the RECORD.

GETTYSBURG COIN ACT

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the Gettysburg Coin Act, which I was proud to introduce with Senator SPECTER. This legislation commemorates one of the most significant events in our Nation's history.

The Gettysburg Coin Act would produce a commemorative coin in 2013 recognizing the 150th anniversary of the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg and President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. The Battle of Gettysburg