

the compassion and the dedication of a group of men and women who serve and have served in a unique but often overlooked role in our military.

Force Master Chief Mark T. Hacala has written an eloquent history of the Navy Hospital Corps, which I commend to you as not only an important part of naval history, but also a well-earned public recognition for all of those who have been proud to call themselves a U.S. Naval Corpsman.

Tradition. Valor. Sacrifice. For 100 years, these ideals have marked the history of the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps. Since 1898, hospital corpsmen have cared for wounded and sick of the Navy and Marine Corps. Their continuous dedication to saving the lives of their patients, frequently at the risk of their own, has earned them accolades at sea and on land.

Prior to the establishment of the Hospital Corps, there was a role for enlisted personnel to care for the sick. Junior and senior medical department Sailors changed rating names through the 18th and 19th centuries, using colorful titles at each phase. The nickname "loblolly boy," one who carried loblolly or porridge to the sick, was used until the Civil War when it was replaced by "nurse." In the 1870s nurse was retitled "bayman," the Sailor who worked in sick bay. Senior personnel were known as surgeon's stewards and later as apothecaries.

By the late 1800s, the Surgeon General of the Navy advocated a new system of employing medical department Sailors. Rather than assigning one of the crew out of necessity and teaching him on the job, a trained group of volunteers was advocated. Based on the model of the Army's Hospital Corps, the Navy would seek recruits, pay them better, and train them uniformly. This plan was adopted in the midst of the Spanish American War when President William McKinley signed the law which established the Navy Hospital Corps on 17 June 1898.

Early history of the corps set a pace of conspicuous service that would continue to the present. During the Boxer Rebellion in Peking in 1900, Hospital Apprentice Robert Stanley volunteered for the dangerous mission of running message dispatches under fire. For his bravery, Stanley became the first in a long line of hospital corpsmen to receive the Medal of Honor. Five years later, when the U.S.S. *Bennington's* boiler exploded in San Diego harbor on July 21, 1905, Hospital Steward William Shacklette burned along with almost half the crew. Although seriously hurt, he rescued and treated many of his shipmates. He, too, was given the Medal of Honor.

Within a few short years, the Hospital Corps would face the rigors of combat with the Marines in World War I. Through machine gun fire and mustard gas, hospital corpsmen treated over 13,000 casualties in France. This group of 300 Sailors would earn 2 Medals of Honor, 55 Navy Crosses, 31 Army Distinguished Service Crosses, and 237 Silver Stars. Their 684 personal awards would make them the most decorated American unit in World War I. A Marine regimental commander noted of their performance at Belleau Wood, "there were many heroes who wore the insignia of the Navy Hospital Corps."

Hospital corpsmen set an exceptional record of valor in World War II. From Pearl Harbor to Okinawa, they worked in hospitals and hospital ships, set up beach aid stations in Italy and Normandy, bandaged kamikaze survivors at sea, and dodged bullets and shells during the bloody island campaigns in the Pacific. Their initiative and skill was

noteworthy. Pharmacist's Mates First Class Wheeler Lipes, Harry Roby, and Thomas Moore each performed a successful appendectomy, without the aid of a physician, while submerged in submarines in enemy waters.

Pharmacist's Mate Second Class John H. Bradley's heroism with the 28th Marines on Iwo Jima is typical of acts repeated by hospital corpsmen throughout the war. Bradley rushed through a mortar barrage and heavy machine gun fire to aid a wounded Marine. Although other men from his unit were willing to help, Bradley motioned them to stay back. Shielding the Marine from fire with his own body, the hospital corpsman administered a unit of plasma and bandaged his wounds. He then pulled the casualty through the gunfire 30 yards to safety.

PhM2c Bradley was awarded the Navy Cross for his valor, but he is not usually remembered for this act. Days later, he and five Marines were captured in Joe Rosenthal's photograph of the second flag raising on Iwo Jima's Mt. Suribachi. The image was reproduced more than perhaps any photo in history. It was the theme for the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, VA and made Bradley the first U.S. Navy Sailor to appear on a postage stamp. But Bradley's heroism was not an isolated act. In World War II, the Hospital Corps would earn 7 Medals of Honor, 66 Navy Crosses, 465 Silver Star Medals, and 982 Bronze Star Medals, as well as countless other commendations and debts of gratitude.

Although the U.S. commitment to the Korean War was limited, a staggering number of Marines and Sailors, 30,064, were killed or wounded. Here, as in its previous conflicts, hospital corpsmen distinguished themselves. All five enlisted Navy Medals of Honor for Korea were awarded to members of the Hospital Corps. One of those awardees, retired Master Chief Hospital Corpsman (SS) William Charette, reflected years later on his pride in being a hospital corpsman in Korea. "It's amazing that somewhere there are some people walking around that wouldn't be here unless we had been there."

In Vietnam, hospital corpsmen played a critical role in aiding the 70,000 Navy and Marine Corps casualties. At station hospitals in Saigon and Da Nang, aboard hospital ships offshore, with medical battalions, and in the field with Marines, they ensured the best possible care for the wounded, often at the risk of their own lives. When an enemy grenade landed near HM3 Donald Ballard and several casualties, he covered the grenade with his body to save his Marines' lives, earning him the Medal of Honor. "My job was needed," Ballard said recently. "I felt good about it." Bravery earned hospital corpsmen 450 combat decorations in Vietnam, but the war cost them 638 lives.

Hospital corpsmen continued to serve in peace, in war, and in situations which straddled that line during the 1980s. They treated gunshot and shrapnel wounds once again in Beirut in 1983, as a peacekeeping presence escalated into a shooting war. Of the 18 hospital corpsmen in the Marine Battalion Landing Team Headquarters building on 23 October, only 3 survived the truck bombing which killed a total of 241 Americans. Days later, other hospital corpsmen would participate in the invasion of Grenada. In the Persian Gulf, independent duty hospital corpsmen would care for casualties aboard the U.S.S. *Stark* in 1987 and the U.S.S. *Samuel B. Roberts* 1988, and in Panama in 1989.

Iraq's 1990-91 invasion of Kuwait once again provided challenges for the Hospital Corps. Hospital corpsmen around the globe reacted, as their ships, stations, and Marines deployed or prepared to receive casualties. Their numbers were augmented by Naval Reserve hospital corpsmen, 6,739 of whom were

recalled to active duty. The first Purple Heart awarded to a Sailor in the Persian Gulf War was given to a hospital corpsman.

While technology and equipment have changed through the years, hospital corpsmen's dedication to duty and devotion to their patients have remained their greatest asset.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. SENSENBRENNER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today until 2 p.m. on account of attending his son's graduation.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GOODLING) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HUTCHINSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAPPAS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LARGENT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STUMP, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. THUNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCHUGH, for 5 minutes each day, on June 16 and 17.

Mr. SOLOMON, for 5 minutes each day, on June 16 and 17.

Mr. BOEHLERT, for 5 minutes each day, on June 16 and 17.

Mr. WALSH, for 5 minutes each day, on June 16 and 17.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. OWENS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KLINK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SANDERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

#### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. OWENS) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. PAYNE.

Mr. PASCARELL.

Mr. KIND.

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. CARDIN.

Mr. GUTIERREZ.

Mr. TRAFICANT.

Mr. KUCINICH.

Mr. WEXLER.

Mr. MENENDEZ.

Mr. GEJDENSON.

Mr. SCHUMER.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

Mr. LANTOS.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

Mr. WYNN.

Mr. TIERNEY.

Mr. BAESLER.

Mr. ACKERMAN.