

are being adequately reimbursed. We have only to look to the Medicaid program, which has a long standing history of inadequate payment rates, to see how dramatically payment rates can affect beneficiaries access to care. You can't expect to get the quality of a Cadillac if you only have enough money to cover the cost of a Yugo.

This legislation that we are introducing today will make sure that hospital outpatient departments are being adequately reimbursed under Medicare. First, it will ensure adequate payments for clinic and emergency room visits. Rural and inner city hospitals provide a high volume of these services and are especially vulnerable to low payments. This bill will address that problem. Second, the bill will extend the payment protections for certain hospitals, such as cancer hospitals and extends these protections to eye and ear hospitals as well to ensure adequate rates for these special facilities. Third, the bill would restore the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services with respect to outlier payments for outpatient departments and would ensure the outlier pool is adequate to provide insurance against losses in high-cost cases. Fourth, the bill gives the Secretary additional authority and direction with respect to increasing certain relative payment rates and preventing reductions from pass-through payments and budget neutrality adjustments.

These four points are only some of the key provisions in the bill. All told, this legislation will increase funding for hospital outpatient departments by \$380 to \$480 million over the next five years. This funding will certainly be beneficial to Medicare beneficiaries and others who receive care in these facilities.

Hospitals and their related facilities are important to our Michigan communities. They not only provide excellent health care, but serve as an important part of the local economy by providing quality jobs. Payments to many facilities have suffered in recent years as due to state and federal budget cuts. The direct result has been hospital closures and staff layoffs. The legislation we are introducing today will have a double benefit for Michigan—access to quality health care and access to quality jobs.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to pass this legislation and to improve reimbursement rates for hospital outpatient departments under Medicare.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2002*

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, on July 23, 24, and 25, I was unavoidably absent due to family medical reasons and missed roll call votes numbered 327 through 351. For the record, had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll call 327—Passage of National Aviation Capacity Expansion Act—NAY

Roll call 328—On Agreeing to the Conference Report—2002 Supplemental Appropriations Act for Further Recovery From and Response To Terrorist Attacks on the United States—YEA

Roll call 329—On Passage—Disapproving the Extension of the Waiver Authority Con-

tained in Section 402(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 with Respect to Vietnam—NAY

Roll call 330—HR 5120 On Agreeing to Goss Amendment—YEA

Roll call 331—HR 5120 On Agreeing to the Flake Amendment—NAY

Roll call 332—HR 5120 On Agreeing to the Flake Amendment—NAY

Roll call 333—HR 5120 On Agreeing to the Rangel Amendment—NAY

Roll call 334—HR 3609 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended the Pipeline Infrastructure Protection to Enhance Security and Safety Act—YEA

Roll call 335—HR 4547 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended—Cost of War Against Terrorism Authorization Act of 2002—YEA

Roll call 336—HR 5120 On Agreeing to the Moran Amendment—YEA

Roll call 337—HR 5120 On Agreeing to the Hefley Amendment—YEA

Roll call 338—HR 5120 On Agreeing to the Hefley Amendment—YEA

Roll call 339—HR 5120 On Agreeing to the Sanders Amendment—YEA

Roll call 340—H RES 498 On Agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 4965; Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act—YEA

Roll call 341—HR 5120 On Passage Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2003—NAY

Roll call 342—HR 4965 On Motion to Re-commit with Instructions Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act—NAY

Roll call 343—HR 4965 On Passage Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act—YEA

Roll call 344—H CON RES 188 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, As Amended—Expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of the People's Republic of China should cease its persecution of Falun Gong practitioners—YEA

Roll call 345—H RES 495 On motion to postpone consideration In the matter of James A. Traficant, Jr.—NAY

Roll call 346—H RES 495 On Agreeing to the Resolution In the matter of James A. Traficant, Jr.—YEA

Roll call 347—HR 4628 On Agreeing to the Roemer Amendment as Amended—NAY

Roll call 348—HR 3763 On Agreeing to the Conference Report Corporate and Auditing Accountability and Responsibility Act—YEA

Roll Call 349—HR 4546—FY03 Defense Authorization On motion that the House instruct conferees—YEA

Roll call 350—HR 4546 FY03 Defense Authorization On motion to close portions of the conference—YEA

Roll call 351—HR 4946 to amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide health care incentives related to long-term care On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended—YEA

#### RECOGNIZING THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE

### HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2002*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the men and women of the United

States Capitol Police. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, America as a nation has grown to appreciate the work that the Capitol Police has done to protect its citizens. The FY 2003 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill before us, allows officers to receive most of the back pay that they earned while working overtime since September 11. As you know, House employees, which include U.S. Capitol Police, are prohibited from earning more than Members of Congress. Because Capitol Police pay is calculated quarterly, officers who worked an enormous amount of overtime in one quarter, if annualized, can exceed the existing annual limit on pay. This bill's provisions change this method of calculating pay to permit officers to receive their overtime pay.

This bill appropriates a total of \$219 million for the Capitol Police, \$61 million more than the current level. This total includes \$176 million for salaries and \$43 million for general expenses. This level of funding will support 1,454 officers and 326 civilian positions. The bill also includes an additional \$37.5 million for Capitol Police buildings. This bill provides a 5% merit pay raise for Capitol Police, which would be in addition to the 4.1% cost of living adjustment provided to congressional staff.

This bill provides for a tuition payment program for police recruits and officers, as well as a measure to provide extra pay for officers with special duties, such as members of the bomb squad or those who provide protection to Members or visiting dignitaries.

As a former federal law enforcement officer of twenty-six and a half years, I understand first-hand the importance of the duties performed by the Capitol Police. Our officers have been spending numerous days and nights, working long hours, to ensure that Members of Congress, their staffs, and the general public are safe and protected. We certainly owe these officers a debt of gratitude. More than ever, I admire and respect our United States Capitol Police and am glad to see that their hard work has not gone unnoticed.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### TRIBUTE TO LARRY D. SMITH RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF

### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2002*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication to the community and to the overall well-being and safety of the County of Riverside, CA, is exceptional. The County of Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give time and talent to making their communities a better place to live and work. Larry Smith is one of these individuals. On August 1, 2002, Larry will be retiring after thirty-six years of dedicated service to the community as a law enforcement officer. His outstanding work as a police officer and sheriff, in addition to his personal involvement in the community, will be celebrated on August 1st dedicated as "Larry D. Smith Day".