

The bill will provide that funding for the new office would come from the medical care account of the Veterans Health Administration rather than from ORD funding.

Finally, the legislation mandates that the Comptroller General of the United States conduct a study of the effectiveness of the new office and submit a report to Congress by January 1, 2005.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation to improve protection for our Nation's veterans who participate in VA medical research

COMMENDING SHERIFF HAROLD N.
HAL BARKER

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to commend and thank Sheriff Harold N. "Hal" Barker for his public service as the Sheriff of El Dorado County, California. His retirement in January of this year marked the end of a law enforcement career that lasted four and a half decades and spanned from Southern to Northern California.

Law enforcement is one of the most basic and honorable services provided by government. Those who put their own lives on the line to uphold peace and order and protect their fellow citizens deserve the thanks and respect of all. It is in this spirit that I thank Hal Barker for his leadership and hard work in helping make California safe and prosperous.

Hal's professional service has consisted of both excellent training and extensive experience. His formal education includes an Associate of Arts degree in Police Science from Ventura College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Police Administration from California State University at Los Angeles, and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Southern California. Additionally, he graduated from the P.O.S.T. Command College and graduated first in his class from the FBI National Academy, earning the Hoover Medal.

Hal first hit the street as a reserve officer in the Santa Paula Police Department in 1958, ultimately rising to the rank of captain and assistant chief. From 1974 to 1984, he was the San Mateo County Assistant Sheriff. During that time, he acted as the San Francisco International Airport Police Chief for 18 months. Then, in 1984, he began a 12-year tenure as Chief of the Folsom Police Department. In this capacity, he led the department through a period of unprecedented growth.

In 1997, Hal was appointed Sheriff in El Dorado County, and was elected to the position for a full term the following year. As Sheriff, he managed 400 employees and a \$30 billion budget in a growing county.

I join with the communities he has protected to thank Hal Barker for his long and distinguished service. I am proud to call him a friend, and I wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

WHERE THE AMERICANS COME,
THEY MAKE ORDER

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues the March 31, 2003, editorial from the Norfolk Daily News entitled "Unharmful."

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) remains critical to Slovenia and other countries who until recently suffered under the yoke of tyranny. Such countries have made difficult, immediate sacrifices to gain the long-term protection which NATO membership provides and should be recognized for their efforts.

UNHARMED

SLOVENIA'S VOTE INDICATES NATO NOT HARMED
BY WAR ON IRAQ

Critics of Bush administration policy have feared, that the war in Iraq and U.S. "unilateralism" might damage critical alliances like NATO.

From tiny Slovenia—population 1.9 million—comes heartening evidence that this may not be so. Slovenia is the most successful of the Balkan nations to come out of the breakup of Yugoslavia, and from the beginning, its leaders decided the future lay with the West.

In recent referendums, Slovenes voted to join both NATO and the European Union. The E.U. vote was never in doubt, but Slovenia's leaders, who fully understand that NATO membership has real obligations, feared the effect of the war on that vote. In the end, two-thirds of the voters approved.

An economist, Milan Cadez, gave the New York Times a reassuring reason why as he left a polling place: "Only America is capable of doing anything for peace. The E.U. is not capable of doing anything. They watched the crimes in Bosnia and when the Americans come, they make order." And, it should be noted, are still there to help maintain order.

The Slovenes might have their doubts about the war in Iraq, but they have few reservations about the benefits of the U.S.-led military alliance.

A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH IN
HONOR OF CHAUNCY FLOYD
SMITH OF MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this occasion to honor the life and birth of our tenth grandchild, Chauncy Smith. Born on March 20, 2001, to Brad and Diane Smith, Chauncy is a source of great joy to both me and my wife Bonnie, in part because he was named after my brother who was killed 44 years earlier when his jet fighter went down. We celebrate with Chauncy's other grandparents, Neville and Jennifer Monteith from Kitchener, ON.

It is for this young life, and many others just like it, for which we make decisions in Congress each day. In 2001, the year of Chauncy's birth, we passed one of the largest tax cut packages in history bringing historic

levels of tax relief to working families in America. I'd like to think that we did that to help assume a strong economic future.

In that same year the events of September 11' forever changed the diplomatic landscape in ways still unknown to us. Today, we face great challenges as we seek a world without terror in an effort to avoid the fear we knew during the Cold War.

As we consider the first pieces of legislation of this Congress, let us also consider the children and grandchildren who will bear the burden of our debt and the fears of our miscalculations. We must consider each bill with all the wisdom possible so that future generations do not bear our burdens and fear our fears, but, instead, live their dreams.

As Abraham Lincoln said on December 3, 1861, "The struggle of today, is not altogether for today—it is for a vast future also. With a reliance on Providence, all the more firm and earnest, let us proceed in the great task which events have devolved upon us."

In this time of constant change may we remember and take hope in the great potential of our children and grandchildren and remember that our struggle today is for their vast future also.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MASTER
SERGEANT DAVID L. BENSON

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Chief Master Sergeant David L. Benson. Originally from Chittenango, NY, Chief Benson enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1962 and subsequently has spent over 38 years with New York Air National Guard. Chief Benson has been decorated with numerous medals, awards and service distinctions. It is my honor to recognize such a distinguished citizen and soldier.

Chief Benson's career began as an Aircraft Mechanic at Amarillo Air Force Base, Texas. Soon after he was assigned to the 4626th Support Squadron, Sage, Air Defense Command at Topsham Air Force Station in Brunswick, Maine. After completion of his four year tour of duty, Chief Benson was granted his release from active duty and became a member of the 174th Fighter Wing of the New York National Guard. Here he performed duties as an Aircraft Crew Chief on the F-86H Sabrejet Fighter Aircraft and the A-37B Dragonfly. He was also an Egress Shop Chief and Accessories Element Supervisors. Concluding his career, Chief Benson served as a Non-commissioned Officer In-charge of the Component Repair Flight.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Benson has served our nation proud in many military arenas. He has been deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of the Persian Gulf War and once again to the Middle East during Operation Northern Watch as part of contingency operations enforcing the no-fly zone over Northern Iraq. He also participated in Operation Noble Eagle after the September 11th attacks.

During these times and throughout his career, Chief Benson has displayed honorable character and service to the 174th and our country. His military decorations include the