

VA-HUD APPROPRIATIONS

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I will offer a technical amendment tomorrow that calls on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to submit a report to Congress reporting on resource sharing agreements for services, programs and facilities the department undertakes with the Department of Defense (DoD).

Every American knows that the face of health care has changed dramatically over the past decades. This is no less true for military and veterans' health care. It is clear from all the studies undertaken by the departments of Defense and Veterans' Affairs that the integration of health care services—where possible—will enhance the quality of care for the men and women who are serving our country today and those who served our Nation in the past.

My district is home to the North Chicago VA Medical Center and the Great Lakes Naval Hospital. During the last Administration, officials made two attempts to close the North Chicago VA Medical Center. On June 19, 2001, the VA released its Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) study. The CARES study developed four options to improve veterans health care in the Chicago area, each of which recommended the preservation of services offered at North Chicago. The CARES study also recommended increasing the level of cooperation between North Chicago VA and the Great Lakes Naval Hospital, located less than a mile apart.

Integration of the two medical facilities is both practical and also urgent in North Chicago, Illinois, where the Great Lakes Naval Training Center Hospital and the North Chicago Veterans Medical Center both sit underutilized and in such close proximity. Combining these two facilities in a state of the art, federal health care center will maximize the use of tax payer dollars, enhance the training opportunities for young naval medical corps personnel and, most importantly, bring the health care we promised these men and women into the twenty-first century. By directing the VA to report to Congress on the issues facing resource sharing, Congress will be able to better understand and utilize resource sharing agreements when moving forward with the cost shaving approach.

I have met with Secretary Principi and Secretary Rumsfeld to discuss enhanced cooperation and health care resources sharing between the DoD and the VA. Both secretaries are committed to providing our men and women in uniform, veterans and retirees with world-class health care in an efficient manner. Both agree that cooperation between the two agencies, when possible, will enable the departments to meet the growing needs of active and retired soldiers.

As an officer in the Naval Reserve and fellow veteran, I understand the sacrifices made by the men and women who wore their country's uniform. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I would like to thank Chairman WALSH, ranking member MOLLOHAN, and the staff of the VA-HUD subcommittee for their help with this amendment. I hope to continue working with

them on this issue as this bill moves into a conference committee with the other body.

ROBERT A. BORSKI POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2003

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the accomplishments of my dear friend and former colleague, Robert A. Borski. Today, we acknowledge his legacy with H.R. 2328 by designating a post office in his former district, the Robert A. Borski Post Office Building.

I've known Bob Borski for 25 years. He is a man who has always had the courage of conviction to fight for the City of Philadelphia. He is a man who spent 20 years "paving the way" for many people whose voices were not previously heard—how fitting that he was a member of the prestigious Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He is a man that refused to be anything less than a tireless and forceful advocate for his community.

A role model to us all, Bob has spent his life as a public servant. Shortly after the completion of his educational pursuits, he became a member of the Pennsylvania State House. After three terms, he successfully won the bid for the Third Congressional District which encompassed Northeast Philadelphia, the River Wards, Society Hill and portions of Queen Village.

Bob Borski retired after 20 years of distinguished service to the Philadelphia area, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the United States of America. His mission has always been simple—to serve and represent the people of the great City of Philadelphia. I am proud and privileged to have had Bob as a colleague, a friend, and a mentor.

Although his tenure in the House has finished, Bob remains an active advocate for the City of Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania here in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of my distinguished colleagues to honor Robert A. Borski with the passage of H.R. 2328.

SUPPORT FUNDING OF UNFPA, H.R. 1950: STATE DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to speak on the matter of the U.N. family-planning program or the UNFPA. Last year, President Bush cancelled three years' worth of funding to the UNFPA after allegations that the UNFPA's program in China violated the Kemp-Kasten law. This law prohibits the United States from providing funding to any organization that supports or participates in involuntary sterilization. In May of last year, President Bush sent his own three person team to China to investigate but even after they returned finding no evidence in sup-

port of these rumors, the President still cancelled funding to this much needed organization, endangering the lives of women across the globe.

Over the past 33 years, the UNFPA has provided more than \$6 billion in assistance to more than 160 countries for voluntary family planning and maternal and child health care. It has provided life-saving reproductive health services in over 150 poor countries around the world, but has not provided or paid for abortion services anywhere in the world. The UNFPA has actually worked to reduce the need for abortion by promoting voluntary family planning.

The fact remains that today nearly 600,000 die each year from causes related to pregnancy; 99 percent of these women are from developing countries. Many of these deaths could have been prevented by providing the means or information to choose the size and spacing of their families. And while contraceptive use has increased, there are 350 million women in developing countries who do not have access to a range of safe and effective family planning methods.

With the UNFPA program, it will provide reproductive health care, including family planning services but not abortion, to the world's poorest women. The loss of each year's funding will have a severe impact in the developing countries the UNFPA serves: \$34 million would prevent 2 million unintended pregnancies; nearly 800,000 abortions; 4,700 maternal deaths; nearly 60,000 cases of serious maternal illness; and more than 77,000 infant and child deaths. These numbers are astounding and certainly something I would want to prevent.

The evidence is clear: funding to the UNFPA must be restored. The UNFPA has time and time again proven to be a necessary organization ensuring the safety and well being of women and their families. It will continue to provide safe methods of contraception to women, giving them a choice with their health and with their lives.

HONORING AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR FROM THE GREATEST GENERATION**HON. WALTER B. JONES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation aimed at honoring American Prisoners of War from the Greatest Generation.

Over two years ago, two of my constituents who were POWs during World War II in the Pacific Theatre approached me about awards they felt they should have received. The Japanese has imprisoned each of the men, one of whom was a survivor of the Bataan Death March. These men were beaten, tortured and starved—one weighed 70 pounds when he was liberated. After their release, each of them was awarded the Prisoner of War Medal because of their internment. However, despite the harsh and sometimes violent treatment received at the hands of their captors, neither received the Purple Heart.

Current law for POWs held prior to 1962 requires documentation from the camps or detailed statements from former POW commanding officers in order to be eligible for the