

provides for reimbursement of physicians so that we can ensure into generations to come that we have a system in place that respects individuals who are caring for patients and, more importantly, respects patients' opportunity to receive access to the highest quality health care that is available.

And the system that we currently have will not provide for that. It will not deliver that kind of health care system not only today but into the future. And so I challenge and ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, we have so much opportunity to do good in this institution, this is one of those instances that ought not be a Republican challenge or a Democrat challenge. It is an American challenge, and we need to come together to make certain that we address this in a way that allows patients all across this Nation to continue to have access or to regain access to the highest quality health care that is available.

I thank once again the leadership for allowing me to organize this hour. I thank my colleagues who participated and brought so much wisdom and light to this issue. I appreciate the leadership for allowing me this time, and I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### VACATING 5-MINUTE SPECIAL ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the 5-minute Special Order speech of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is vacated.

There was no objection.

#### IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, our American body politic is turning to a renewed examination of Iran, its government, and our relations with that country. It has become an important member of the OPEC oil-producing cartel. Iran is also a state sponsor of terrorism and a leading voice for one part of Shia Islam.

Recently, Iran elected a new president, a leader who replaced a moderate but ineffectual office holder who had presented Iran in a softer light, hiding a continuing policy of supporting terrorism and a nuclear program largely hidden from the view of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty that Iran signed and the U.N. inspectors who enforced it.

Iran's new president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has presented an entirely new face for the government of Iran. We have heard various quotes by the Iranian president in news media sources, but nowhere have all of President Ahmadinejad's statements on key topics been presented in one place for a review by the American public and our allies. Recently, I asked the Congress-

sional Research Service to compile a list entitled "Ahmadinejad In His Own Words" and I present it to the House today. History can be a very good guide in informing us on the direction of countries, of movements of dictators. When we are well informed, we may see the warning signs of dangers ahead so that the American people, our government, and our allies can respond with the most effective and least costly policies to avoid a coming danger. Our past teaches us that we failed to see the coming danger from Germany and Japan, and that mistake led us into a very costly Second World War. Conversely, President Truman saw the threat of the Soviet Union, and his response, including the Marshall Plan, the Voice of America, and NATO, helped the United States avoid a third and costly world war.

Our lessons teach us that tyrants or would-be tyrants often tell us what they are going to do long before they do it. And if we listen, if we truly listen, then the warnings that we are given can move us to action to avert a humanitarian crisis or even a future war involving the United States or our allies. President Ahmadinejad has been prolific on the subject of Israel, of Jews, and of the Holocaust.

And who is this new president of Iran? Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was born in Garmsar, southeast of Tehran in 1956. He is the fourth son of an Iranian iron worker who had seven children. He and his family migrated to Tehran when he was one year old. He got his diploma and was admitted to the University of Science and Technology in the field of civil engineering, where he ranked 130th among nationwide university entrance exams in 1975. He was accepted as an MS student at that same university and in 1986 got his doctorate in the field of engineering and traffic transportation and planning.

Following the 1979 Iranian revolution, he became a member of the ultra-conservative faction of the Office for Strengthening Unity. Between universities and theological seminaries, the OSU was established by Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti, one of Khomeini's key collaborators, to organize Islamist students against the rapidly growing Mojahedin-e Khalq. When the idea of storming the American embassy in Tehran was raised by Ahmadinejad's OSU, he also suggested storming the Soviet embassy as well.

With the start of Iraq's war against Iran in 1980, Ahmadinejad rushed to the western fronts to fight against the enemy, and he volunteered to join the special forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Force in 1986. He served in the Revolution Guards Corps in intelligence and security operation.

Ahmadinejad was a senior officer in the Special Brigade of Revolutionary Guards stationed at the Ramazan Garrison near Kermanshah in western Iran. It was there at his headquarters of the Revolutionary Guards' extraterritorial operations that he

helped mount attacks on Iran's borders. His work in the Revolutionary Guards was related to the suppression of dissidents in Iran and abroad, and he personally participated in covert operations in Iraq around the city of Kirkuk.

With the formation of the elite Qods, Jerusalem, Force of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, Ahmadinejad became one of its senior commanders. He directed assassinations in the Middle East and Europe, including the assassination of Iranian Kurdish leader Abdorrahman Qassemlou, who was shot dead by senior officers of the Revolutionary Guards at a Vienna apartment in July of 1989. Ahmadinejad was a key planner of that murder. He also is reported to have been involved in planning an attempt to assassinate author Salman Rushdie.

Ahmadinejad served as a governor of Maku and Khoy cities in the northwestern West Azarbaijan province for 4 years in the 1980s, and he was an adviser to the governor general of the western province of Kurdistan for 2 years. While serving as a cultural adviser to then Ministry of Culture and Higher Education in 1983, he was appointed as governor general of the newly established province of Ardebil. He was elected as the exemplary governor general for three consecutive years, but in 1997 the newly installed Khatami moderate administration removed Ahmadinejad from his post as a governor general.

Ahmadinejad returned to university to teach in 1997, and there he also became involved in the cultural and political work of Ansar-i Hizbullah, the Followers of the Party of God, a violent Islamic vigilante group.

In April of 2003, Ahmadinejad was appointed the mayor of Tehran by the capital's municipal council, dominated by hard-line Islamic Iran Developers Coalition. As mayor, he reversed many of the policies of previous moderate and reformist mayors, placing serious and religious emphasis on the activities of cultural centers, turning them into prayer halls. He also closed fast-food restaurants and required all male employees to have beards and wear long sleeves. He instituted the separation of elevators for men and women in municipal offices and also suggested the burial of bodies of the martyrs of the Iran-Iraq war in the major city squares of his capital, Tehran.

Ahmadinejad was also a member of the hard-line Islamic Revolution Devotees' Society. While they endorsed another candidate in the 2005 election, it was Ahmadinejad that emerged out of that flawed process, for it was during the elections in 2005 in Iran that thousands of moderate candidates were knocked off the ballot by Iran's ruling council of clerics. As one of the candidates still allowed to be on the ballot, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won the presidency on June 24, 2005.

Now, since being elected the president of Iran, Ahmadinejad has left no