

I commend the VA for their efforts to contact these veterans and create the Qarmat Ali Registry to aggressively track and treat veterans exposed to this toxic chemical as part of the Gulf War Registry.

However, it is also important for them to have immediate access to VA's high quality health care system. The use of VA health care will help to identify potential medical conditions, and provide counseling, immunizations, and medications to prevent illness. Appropriate preventative care can substantially improve health outcomes and the quality of life for our honored heroes.

But, some of the Qarmat Ali veterans who separated from service following their deployment in 2003 may no longer be eligible to enroll in VA health care under the 5-year open enrollment period. As a result, they must first file a claim and seek a service-connected disability rating before enrolling in the VA health care system and gaining access to the comprehensive medical care VA provides.

Unfortunately, the claims process can be both time-consuming and daunting. It is unacceptable that the Qarmat Ali veterans, already subjected to harmful toxins during service to our country, must now await the outcome of a lengthy and sometimes adversarial claims processing system before they can enroll in VA health care.

The VA was established expressly to care for veterans like these who willingly left their homes, families, and lives to protect and defend our nation and may find themselves sick or injured as a result of such selflessness.

H.R. 6127 would correct this unintended gap in services by extending the enrollment eligibility period for Qarmat Ali veterans by 5 years from the date of notification. This would allow them to immediately begin receiving services at VA medical facilities for any and all of their health care needs.

Breaking down barriers to needed care is the very least we, as a grateful nation, can do for the men and women who fight for our freedoms, in Qarmat Ali and around the world.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6127 and these brave American heroes.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
SERGEANT MAJOR ROLANDO
MOORE, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of SGM Rolando Moore, Jr., upon his retirement from the U.S. Army, which follows nearly 30 years of honorable and dedicated service to our country.

In 1981, Sergeant Major Moore enlisted into the U.S. Army, completing basic training at Fort Leonard in Wood, Missouri. He received advanced training at Fort Sam in Houston, Texas. Throughout his military career, Sergeant Major Moore Jr. sought higher learning in the military, where he excelled in numerous courses and training programs, and also at private institutions of higher learning. He earned a Bachelor's degree in business management from Columbia College, and is cur-

rently pursuing a Master's degree from the University of Phoenix.

Sergeant Moore's military education included in-depth training and education in the areas of patient advocacy and administration. He worked as a senior advisor, patient administration consultant and chief clinical officer at military medical facilities across the country and overseas, including: Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, DC; Eisenhower Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Georgia; and military facilities in Alabama, Colorado, Michigan, Hawaii and Korea. Sergeant Moore has been recognized with numerous military honors, including the Meritorious Service Medical Award with three oak leaf clusters; the Army Commendation Medal with three oak clusters; the National Defense Service Medal; the NCO Professional Development Ribbon; the Army Service Ribbon; and the Overseas Ribbon Award.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and gratitude of SGM Rolando Moore, Jr., for his exemplary service on behalf of our country. His military career is framed by dedication and unwavering commitment to the health and welfare of our veterans, and his work will have a positive impact on the lives of countless veterans and their families for years to come. I wish Sergeant Major Moore, his wife, Mary Moore, and his daughters, Jazmen Moore and Kalea Moore, much peace, health and happiness in all their future endeavors.

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE RELATING TO
EFFICIENCY AND REFORM PUR-
SUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, thoughtful stewardship of our national budget and accountability in government should be a top national priority. Toward that end, in the 111th Congress, the Committee on Energy and Commerce has been vigilant in conducting oversight hearings to identify waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in government, and this effort has informed the development of a number of legislative initiatives that would produce substantial deficit reduction. Pursuant to the instructions in H. Res. 1493, following is a discussion of major Committee initiatives in this area.

One of the main areas of the Committee's focus has been promoting efficiency and effectiveness in our nation's health care system. The Affordable Care Act, which the President signed into law earlier this year, contains reforms that will save the taxpayers \$130 billion over the next ten years and \$1.2 trillion over the following decade.

This legislation contains many important provisions to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in the health care system. These include new tools to identify fraudulent providers and prevent them from enrolling in Medicare and Medicaid; new and stronger penalties for providers that defraud Medicare and Medicaid; new data-sharing and data-reporting requirements to identify waste, fraud, and abuse; and

new funding to identify, prevent, and prosecute fraudulent Medicare and Medicaid providers.

The Committee has been reviewing additional cost-cutting initiatives involving health coverage. One concerns drug manufacturer rebates under the Medicare Part D program. The costs of drugs for Medicare-Medicaid dual eligible enrollees (which are paid almost entirely by the federal government) should be no higher under Medicare Part D than they are under Medicaid. The Committee-passed version of health reform included such a rebate provision. A version of this provision that passed the House (but was not enacted into law as part of the Affordable Care Act) would have saved taxpayers approximately \$115 billion over ten years.

Significant taxpayer savings for the federal government would also result by prohibiting "pay for delay" agreements between brand-name drug manufacturers and generic drug manufacturers under which the generic companies are paid to delay the marketing of generic products. Each year, the government spends billions of dollars on prescription drugs through programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, and the inflated drug costs that result from artificially delayed entry of generics onto the market mean higher costs for the government. The Committee and the House approved health reform legislation that included such a prohibition, but this language was not included in the version of the bill that became law.

Energy policy provides another potential for significant savings. Last year, the House passed comprehensive energy legislation that would have saved the taxpayers \$9 billion over ten years. This legislation has not yet been considered by the Senate.

Other areas the Committee is examining also provide avenues for savings. In the telecommunications area, efforts to improve spectrum management and identify opportunities for spectrum reallocation and auction could save taxpayers billions of dollars. Further, the universal service fund costs consumers approximately \$8 billion per year. Under the leadership of Subcommittee Chairman RICK BOUCHER, the Committee has been examining ways to make this fund more efficient and control costs.

The Committee will continue its broad-ranging efforts to consider these and other approaches to address waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in government and reduce the federal deficit.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID MONDT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize David Mondt, a World War II Army Air Corps and National Guard veteran from Boone County, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.

The Boone News Republican is currently running a series of articles that honors one Boone County veteran every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. David Mondt was recognized on Tuesday, June 29. Below is the article in its entirety: