

The leaders of ICC, including the President Stephen D. Jones, Construction Official for Millburn Township/Short Hills, New Jersey; Past President of the Board of Directors, Ronald Piester, Director, Division of Code Enforcement and Administration from the New York Secretary of State's Office; Vice-President Guy Tomberlin, Code Specialist for Fairfax County, Virginia; and Alex Olszowy III, Building Inspection Supervisor, Lexington/Fayette Urban County Government, Kentucky will join ICC's Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims in Washington the week of May 19th, to discuss the critical need to support the adoption and enforcement of current building codes, to make sure Americans are safe at home, at work, at school and at play.

The model building codes, produced by ICC, allow every community in the United States to share the advantage of adopting building codes that are adaptable to local conditions, but at the same time incorporate the very latest research, materials, and building practices. This is achieved in a private-public partnership, saving local jurisdictions from bearing the large expense of code revision, updating and coordination. These model codes are produced through the cooperation of thousands of local officials, working with the building industry, to produce codes that represent a consensus on what the minimum safety requirements are for various building types.

Congratulations to the hard working members, and leadership, of the International Code Council.

IN SUPPORT OF VA SECRETARY
ERIC SHINSEKI

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I rise today in strong support of Secretary Shinseki and his leadership of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. No veterans should ever go without the healthcare they deserve, but it is important to not just focus on anecdotal problems but to look at what the Secretary and the VA have accomplished.

The VA operates 1,700 sites of care, and conducts approximately 85 million appointments each year, which comes to 236,000 health care appointments each day.

The latest American Customer Satisfaction Index, an independent customer service survey, ranks VA customer satisfaction among Veteran patients among the best in the nation and equal to or better than ratings for private sector hospitals.

Since its peak in March of 2013, the VA has reduced the benefits claims backlog by nearly 50 percent, on track to eliminate the backlog in 2015. VA has also implemented an automated electronic claims processing system to better serve Veterans into the future. In 2013, VA paid out \$66 billion in compensation claims to 4.5 million eligible Veterans.

Under the leadership of Secretary Shinseki, VA has also greatly expanded access to earned benefits for Veterans of all eras.

In addition, VA granted presumption of service connection for three new Agent-Orange-re-

lated conditions: Parkinson's disease, hairy cell and other chronic b-cell leukemias, and ischemic heart disease; and for Gulf War Veterans, VA granted presumption of service connection for nine diseases associated with Gulf War Illness.

For all combat Veterans with verifiable PTSD—World War II, Korea, Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Operation Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan, among others—VA loosened the evidentiary standard to receive benefits.

Since 2009, VA has reduced the estimated number of homeless Veterans by 24 percent. They have conducted over six million clinical visits with over 600,000 Veterans who were homeless, at risk of homelessness (including formerly homeless). In 2013 alone, VA served more than 240,000 Veterans who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless—21 percent more than the year before.

The VA has made progress for veterans of the future by providing Post-9/11 GI Bill educational benefits to more than one million students and decreasing the disability claims backlog by nearly 50 percent.

I welcome Secretary Shinseki's announcement that the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) will complete a nationwide access review at all health care facilities. As stated, the purpose of this review is to ensure a full understanding of VA's policy and continued integrity in managing patient access to care. As part of the review during the next several weeks, a national face-to-face audit will be conducted at all clinics for every VA Medical Center.

I am confident in the health care our veterans in Florida are receiving. With eight VA Medical Centers in Florida, Georgia and Puerto Rico and over 55 clinics serving over 1.6 million veterans, the care veterans are getting is the best in the world.

Over 2,312 physicians and 5,310 nurses are serving the 546,874 veterans who made nearly 8 million visits to the facilities in our region. Of the total 25,133 VA employees, one-third are veterans.

In 2013, 37,221 women received health care services at VA hospitals and clinics in Florida, South Georgia and the Caribbean—more than any other VA healthcare network nationwide. This means that more than 75 percent of women Veterans enrolled for VA healthcare in VISN 8 were seen by providers in 2013.

I am especially pleased at the new Jacksonville Replacement Outpatient Clinic that was recently opened. The two-story, 133,500 square foot clinic provides state of the art technology and increased specialty services including diagnostics, improved laboratory facilities, expansion of women's services, minor ambulatory surgical procedures, expanded mental health telehealth services and additional audiology.

When opened, the Orlando VA Medical Center will include 134 inpatient beds, an outpatient clinic, parking garages, chapel and central energy plant. Currently, the 120-bed community living center and 60-bed domiciliary are open and accepting veterans.

The VA provides quality timely healthcare to our veterans. We have a duty to make sure that all those who have defended this country when called upon receive the care they have earned through their service. I support the Secretary in his nationwide access review and

look forward to hearing his report when it is finished.

IN HONOR OF WALTER "RANDY"
RANDALL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a great man and dedicated public servant, Lt. Col. Walter "Randy" Randall, USAF (Retired). Sadly, Lt. Col. Randall passed away on Saturday, May 3, 2014. A memorial service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 10, 2014 at the Base Theater at Robins Air Force Base. Interment with full military honors will be held on Monday, May 12, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in Jacksonville National Cemetery in Jacksonville, Florida.

"Randy" was born on November 13, 1946 to the late Katie Randall and Walter Randall, Sr. in Chicago, Illinois. He grew up in Jacksonville, Florida and earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Bethune Cookman College and a Master of Science degree from Florida A&M University. After teaching Biology in the Jacksonville Public School System for a few years, he enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1975.

He earned his commission through Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas in May 1975; completed several assignments at McConnell Air Force Base in Kansas before serving a three-year tour in Germany; was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel (Lt. Col.) and served in the Aeronautical Systems Division at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio before coming to Robins Air Force Base in Georgia in August 1994. He served as the C-5 Transition and Supportability Manager for the C-5 System Program Office since April 1999.

In addition to his faithful service to our country, Randy has served his community with much loyalty and dedication. As the Chairman and longtime member of the Warner Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce, he strongly advocated for a regional approach to improving the Middle Georgia community as a whole. He was a firm leader but his friendly approach to all he met gained him tremendous respect in the region.

Randy served as Vice President of Operations for Cirrus Technology and was Senior Vice President of Progressive Consulting Technologies, Inc. (PCTI). He was also a member of the Warner Robins Rotary Club, Tuskegee Airmen's Association, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 9998. He was an active member of Robins Air Force Base Chapel, a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and the Museum of Aviation Foundation's National Board of Advisors, and a longtime official of the Georgia Recreational Football League. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, golfing, and ballroom dancing.

Maya Angelou once said, "A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies." We are all so blessed that Mr. Randall passed this way and during his life's journey did so much for so many for so long. He leaves behind a great legacy in service to all those whose lives he touched.