

will have on members of the Armed Services in the Hampton Roads Area of Virginia.

Since its opening on March 15, 1999, the Charette Health Care Center at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth has proved to be an invaluable asset and a visible quality of life improvement for active duty service members and other beneficiaries in and around Tidewater, VA.

The Navy's newest, largest and most modern hospital includes over one million square feet of floor space, housing over 300 clinical/exam rooms and over 140 special treatment rooms. The technology incorporated in this new facility is state-of-the-art, and includes two MRIs, two CT scanners, two angiography suites, two linear accelerators, two mammography rooms, three dedicated ultrasound rooms, radiographic head and chest units, and twenty-two dental exam rooms. Two hyperbaric chambers, used in the treatment of wounds and compression illnesses are scheduled to be installed in January of 2000. The additional services being made available to our uniformed men and women are of the highest quality and the latest state-of-the-art technology.

Other advanced technology that will enhance the quality of care and improve the efficiency of service includes a digital imaging picture archive system which replaces conventional x-rays; a computerized tube system to transfer prescriptions, samples, and test results; and a high speed data transfer system which powers the hospital's integrated computer network system and training data base.

The most significant and dramatic technology improvements can be found in the hospital's OB/GYN and Labor and Delivery departments. To meet the evolving needs of a military force comprised of a growing number of women, as well as continue to meet the requirements of female family members, the Charette Health Care Center offers a comprehensive in-hospital birthing center. Ten birthing rooms allow patients to progress from the onset of labor to delivery and recovery in the same room. If complications arise during labor, four critical care labor rooms are easily accessible, as well as a state-of-the-art neonatal intensive care unit that is second to none anywhere either in the military or civilian medical community. Moving the labor and delivery service from the historic 1830 hospital building to the new Charette Health Care Center has allowed the Navy to increase capacity and easily accommodate a significant number of additional patients who previously received care elsewhere due to facility restrictions.

Naval Medical Center Portsmouth is one of the Navy's premier locations for graduate medical education. The opening of the Charette Health Care Center will help make an outstanding Graduate Medical Education even better, by providing fellows, residents and interns a hands-on milieu where state-of-the-art technology can be paired with a world class teaching experience. More specifically, there are 11 Medical and Surgical Residencies and 1 Fellowship which account for 137 Residents and Fellows. Also, there are 5 Categorical Internships and 1 Transitional Internship which account for 72 Interns. Additionally, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth is a medical education partner on both a regional and na-

tional level as evidenced by the numerous training Memoranda of Understanding that are established and maintained with a myriad of other health care facilities.

The most impressive feature of Naval Medical Center Portsmouth is the caring environment provided by an outstanding team of military and civilian medical professionals. This fantastic staff accounts for the seamless transition into the Charette Health Care Center, in just five months, when the industry standard to relocate a hospital of this magnitude is typically longer than twelve months. The staff at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth continue to find innovative ways to make quality patient care accessible and have developed numerous patient-friendly amenities in the Charette Health Care Center. The opening of the Charette Health Care Center provides this dedicated team of medical professionals with the tools required to set a new and superior standard for healthcare delivery to the over 400,000 military beneficiaries in the Hampton Roads Area.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE HARRIS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a bittersweet note. One of the most valuable people on my staff will leave soon to pursue further professional goals and ideals. During my time as a Member of Congress, I have had the great pleasure of working with an extremely dedicated Chief of Staff, Bruce Harris. Bruce has been extremely loyal to me personally, and I am most grateful for that. More importantly, he has been loyal and devoted to the people of the First Congressional District of Arkansas.

Bruce will soon leave the office of the 1st Congressional District to go back to his home state of Arkansas and will be leaving huge shoes to fill. But he also leaves behind an outstanding record of achievement for the people of the 1st Congressional District of Arkansas, who have come to know, respect, and love him for his administrative talents, legislative skill, and his warm and caring personality.

Bruce is a native Arkansan. He has served the people of Arkansas first, as an aide to then-Representative Blanche Lincoln and then as chief of staff since 1997 when I came to office. He is remembered fairly and fondly by the many people with whom he has worked.

Bruce Harris is the kind of person who commands not only the respect and admiration of the staff, but also earns their fondness and loyalty as well. In short, he is a leader.

His personal style and professionalism will be missed, yet I know he will serve well in his new endeavor. It has been my extreme pleasure to have watched him develop and grow in running my operation, and although we will miss him, it is with great pride and admiration that I watch him take on this new and deserved challenge.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Carolyn and I, along with the entire 1st District staff, wish Bruce the very best in the future, and though we are

said to lose such talent, we know we have in him the very best kind of friend, for life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTECTION FOR TEMPORARIES IN THE WORKPLACE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce "Protection for Temporaries in the Workplace," legislation designed to address the lack of equity and economic security so prevalent among today's temporary workforce.

Our strong economy has yielded more jobs for Americans than at any other time in recent history. Indeed, joblessness is now far below what many economists thought could be sustained in a modern economy. Yet, the changes in the labor market over the past generation has raised concerns with job security, workplace protection and employee benefits. Once secure, a growing sector of today's workforce no longer has the luxury of working for the same employer until retirement.

Today, many full-time permanent jobs are being replaced by temporary positions as "flexibility" becomes a driving force sustaining our economic expansion. According to the National Association of Temporary Staffing Services, over 10 percent of today's workforce is temporary. These temporary jobs rarely offer adequate health or pension benefits. Additionally, many employees are misclassified as "temporary" when they are in fact, full-time employees. Many employment law protections are antiquated and often leave temporary workers no recourse against abusive employer practices. This is not only bad for the employees, but also bad for employers who do the "right thing" by taking responsibility for their workers by putting them at a competitive disadvantage with companies who skirt the law.

The temporary work industry is flourishing in large part because employers are turning to these work arrangements to cut costs and raise revenues because they can exclude employees from benefit plans and deny them protection under labor laws. This is creating a new working underclass and lowering our national living standard.

Although temporary work provides flexibility and independence for some Americans, others resort to "temping" only because they have not been able to secure permanent, full-time jobs. According to a report by Dr. Helene Jorgensen of the 2030 Center, temporary employees lack many of the benefits and protections that are standard with permanent employment. According to the report, only 5 percent of temporary workers age 25-34 have health insurance through their employer, whereas 50.5 percent of the general population is covered. In addition, these temporary employees earn on average 16.5 percent less than they would have earned working in a regular job.

More alarming are the instances in which companies regularly hire "temporary" employees for extended periods and continually exclude them from any benefit plans that they