

care system to which families turn for help, through training and direct advocacy with care providers and with local and state agencies and legislative bodies.

The following are just a few examples of the work the Los Angeles Alzheimer's Association is doing to shape the delivery of health care to people with dementia.

With initial support from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration and the California Department of Health, the Association has created national models of culturally relevant community services for Latino families in South Central Los Angeles and for African-American families in Inglewood.

Working again with the California Department of Health, the staff of the Association has led development of clinical practice guidelines for Alzheimer care that are being used by physicians throughout the state.

In partnership with Kaiser Permanente in Southern California, the Association is developing a model for managed care for persons with dementia—through clinical practice guidelines for diagnosis and management, physician and staff training, and case management.

Peter has built the Los Angeles program to become the largest of more than 200 chapters in the national network of the Alzheimer's Association. But his commitment to the organization goes beyond his own chapter. He has been a key collaborator with his colleagues in other chapters in helping to shape the direction of the entire Alzheimer movement in this country. And just last week, the President of the Alzheimer's Association appointed Peter to serve on the management committee of the national organization.

On Friday, the people of Los Angeles will celebrate the tenth anniversary of Peter Braun's service to the Alzheimer's Association. It is a personal pleasure for me to join in recognizing his leadership, his commitment, and his dedication to his organization, to his community, to the Alzheimer movement, but most particularly, to the families who turn to the Association for help.

BARB ALBERTSON: A POSITIVE
INFLUENCE ON BAY COUNTY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the toughest and most pleasing position in public service is that of local officials. It is the toughest because no matter where you go, you are always encountering constituents who rightly bring to you problems and concerns. It is the most pleasing because you get to see the effects of your efforts in the satisfied faces of the people you represent. For the past 38 years, the people of Bay County, Michigan, my home county, have had the good fortune to be served by an outstanding woman, Barbara J. Albertson, who retired on January 1st. This week she is being honored for her commitment to Bay County, and those honors are very well deserved, indeed.

Barb was hired in 1960 by former County Clerk Steven Toth. After four years, she was

promoted to Chief Deputy Clerk, after the death of Barney Balcer. Since the Clerk's position is an elected one, Barb sought the people's approval in 1984 after Clerk Toth announced he would not run for another term. Barb took up the challenge and scored a decisive victory after going door to door, and from event to event. The lesson she learned in that campaign—it's important to make yourself as visible as possible—was a policy she kept alive as the Bay County Clerk herself.

During her fourteen years as Clerk, Barb Albertson modernized the recordkeeping system of the Clerk's Office, using a portion of a federal grant and a temporary staff of four to put all court documents and vital records dating back to the 1800's on microfilm. Since her initial efforts, all of these records, including births, deaths, and divorces are filmed each year, with the records being accessible by computer for the ease of everyone in the community. She also improved the election process by switching from voting machines to a computerized election system, which saves taxpayers at least \$60,000 per election.

Barb readily acknowledges the excellent work done by her staff of four full-time Deputy Clerks plus a Chief Deputy Clerk. Linda Tober, the Chief Deputy Clerk, recognizes the reason that this staff has been so successful when she says, "I feel like I've been trained by the best."

As Barbara Albertson begins her well-deserved retirement, and has the chance to spend more time with her husband, William Silvernale, and plans to fish, golf, and travel, it is only right that we all take a moment to say: Thank you, Barb. Thank you for caring about our community, our neighbors, our heritage and our future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in recognition of Barbara J. Abertson's outstanding career of public service. May all of our communities have the good fortune to be served by more caring and thoughtful individuals like her.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STAND
DOWN AUTHORIZATION ACT OF
1999

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Stand Down Authorization Act of 1999. This important legislation will build up and expand the VA's role in providing outreach assistance to homeless veterans.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), more than 275,000 veterans are without homes every night and twice as many may be homeless during the course of the year. Based on this statistic, one out of every three individuals who is sleeping in a doorway, alley or box in our cities and rural communities has put on a uniform and served our country. Unfortunately, these numbers are only expected to increase as the military downsizes.

In times of war, exhausted combat units requiring time to rest and recover were removed from the battlefield to a place of safety. This

procedure was known as "Stand Down." Today, Stand Downs which help veterans are held across our nation. Stand Downs are grassroots, community-based intervention programs designed to help the estimated 275,000 veterans without homes in our country. Today's battlefield is too often life on the streets for our nation's veterans.

The Stand Down Authorization Act of 1999 will direct the VA to create a pilot program that would establish Stand Down programs in every state. Currently, only 100 Stand Down events take place in a handful of states annually. In addition, my legislation would also authorize the VA to distribute excess supplies and equipment to Stand Downs across the nation.

I have participated in several Stand Down events back in my home state of Minnesota. The Stand Down Authorization Act of 1999 will build upon the success of the Minnesota Stand Down and serve as a national role model for all states to adopt. Furthermore, the Administration allocated \$1.5 million in the Presidents Fiscal Year 2000 budget request to Congress. This will allow the VA to formally support Stand Down events for veterans without homes in Minnesota and across the nation. This budget request is only a one year proposal, however, my legislation will establish Stand Downs in each state each year starting in the year 2000.

The first such special Stand Down, held in 1988, was the creation of several Vietnam veterans. The goal of the event was to provide one to three days of hope designed to serve and empower homeless veterans. Since then, Stand Downs have provided a means for thousands of homeless or near-homeless veterans to obtain a broad range of necessities and services including food, clothing, medical care, legal assistance, mental health assessment, job counseling and housing referrals. Most importantly, Stand Downs provide a gathering that offers companionship, camaraderie and mutual support.

Thousands of volunteers and organizations over the past decade have done an outstanding job donating their time, expertise and energy to address the unique needs of homeless or near homeless veterans and their families. Currently, the VA coordinates with local veteran service organizations, the National Guard and Reserve Units, homeless shelter programs, health care providers and other members of the community in organizing the Stand Down events annually. However, much more action is needed to address the persistent and growing number of homeless veterans who have fought honorably to preserve our freedom and now face personal crisis in their lives. The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Disabled American Vets (DAV) and the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) have endorsed this legislation. In addition, the Stand Down Authorization Act has the strong support from over 50 Members of Congress.

Veterans in past service unconditionally stood up for America. Now we must speak up and stand up for veterans today. I urge all members to join with me in providing outreach assistance to veterans without homes by co-sponsoring the Stand Down Authorization Act of 1999.