The VA Medical Center joined with Harvard Medical School to become a training facility for surgical residents in the late 1960's and has remained an active teaching hospital for Harvard and Dartmouth Medical School residents. Through the years, students aspiring to become nurses, dentists, physical therapists, physician assistants, occupational therapists, optometrists, medical assistants, dieticians, and pharmacists, have found a diverse clinical experience there.

Recognizing the need to address the long-term residential health care need of aging veterans, the Hospital dedicated a Nursing Home Unit in the late 1970's. Expansion continued in 1977 with the groundbreaking for a new Ambulatory Care wing.

Outpatient care became an important priority in the years that followed. Those patients requiring specialty care were previously required to travel to other VA hospitals in the region to receive care. After determining veterans should not have to travel long distances for their care, the staff formed specialty clinics including Orthopaedics, Optometry, Audiology, Neurology, Pain, Ear, Nose, and Throat.

Locally accessible care continues today in the form of Center-sponsored health screenings in local communities throughout the state. The Manchester VA Hospital also serves as a research center for a large number of health care programs. Of note is the facility's Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder research center, which has received both national and international recognition for its work.

Although New Hampshire's veterans' population has decreased, their health care needs remain a high priority. These men and women sacrificed a great deal for each and every American and their needs continue to be met today. Community Based Outreach Clinics can be found throughout the state including the communities of Tilton and Newington and future facilities are planned for Lancaster, Conway, Wolfeboro, and Keene.

Through its changes, the VA's importance and missed the following votes:

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was unavoidably absent on a matter of critical importance and missed the following votes:

On the motion that the Committee of Whole House on the State of the Union Rise, introduced by the gentleman from California, Mr. WAXMAN, I would have voted "yea."

On the amendment to the rider on H.R. 4635, regarding the use of Veterans' Administration funds for tobacco litigation, introduced by the gentleman from California, Mr. WAXMAN. I would have voted "yea."

I could not be more proud of our team's basketball. They have made us proud.

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Through its changes, the VA's importance holds strong with a purpose "to serve those who have served us well," its commitment "to advocate for the total well-being of veterans," and its promise "to be there when veterans need us."

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HON. XAVIER BECERRA
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on June 15, 2000 and in the early hours of June 16, 2000, I was traveling to my District, and therefore unable to cast my votes on rollcall numbers 280 through 291. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 281, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, and 290; and "nay" on rollcall votes 280, 282, 288, 289, and 291.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Los Angeles Lakers on winning the National Basketball Association Championship. As a native of Los Angeles, I could not be more proud of our team's achievement. The Los Angeles Lakers have a history of phenomenal success and great basketball. Yesterday's win was their sixth championship in two decades. The Lakers are stars, and they have dominated the game of basketball. They have made us proud.

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I was not recorded for rollcall votes 280, 282, 288, 289, and 291.

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