the World War II Memorial, high school diplomas, and many other events, we are demonstrating our deep reverence to the heroes of our nation and keeping their memories alive.

DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 19, 2001

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, the long-term care debate continues to grow as a key health care issue and it will continue to grow more in the coming decade as Americans live longer. Fortunately, more attention is starting to be focused on long-term care; the bad news is that there is a tremendous gap in ideas and solutions to make sure every family has access to affordable, quality long-term care when it is needed. In Pennsylvania already 1.9 million seniors and 220,000 individuals with disabilities rely on Medicare to meet long-term costs, and 84,743 Pennsylvanians are in nursing homes.

In the next decade, the first of the “baby boomers” will reach 65 sending the need for long-term care much higher very quickly. While long-term care is usually thought of in terms of the elderly, two of every five Americans will need long-term care at some point in their lives, often because of an injury or disability as well as advanced age. It is therefore, essential that the health care system provide families with affordable, available options for long-term care—options that provide the kind of quality everyone wants to see for a family member or friend.

A major trend in long-term care is away from nursing homes, to keep people in their homes or with family as long as possible, to look at alternative living arrangements and to stress community support and involvement. As we sort through this issue, it is imperative that the health care system provide families with affordable, available options for long-term care—options that provide the kind of quality everyone wants to see for a family member or friend.

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