

signify the commitment and concern of Americans everywhere. Our nation's strength does not lie in her military might but rather in the collective compassion of its people.

Since the September 11th terrorist attacks, the Salvation Army has assisted stranded travelers while planes were grounded and provided food for people both downtown and at KCI when heightened security left people without a means to get home. The patriotism and persistence of the Salvation Army is a lasting memorial to the thousands of victims who perished in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

Through the days, weeks, and months ahead, all Americans must come together and do what they can to assist the nation's war effort. Whether it is giving blood, sending donations, praying for the thousands of grieving families, or simply saying thanks to the brave men and women who put their lives on the line each and every day so that we may be free, it is important that the American people are vigilant in their efforts to overcome this evil. Though our nation has witnessed unspeakable horror, America's virtues, determination, and faith continues to shine brightly on the world.

I am confident that the United States will seek out those that harbor hatred, terror, and depravity in their hearts; and we will clear them. This is a war that we must, can, and will win. May God bless the families and children grieving across this great nation and may God bless America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GERIATRIC CARE ACT OF 2001

HON. GENE GREEN
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Geriatric Care Act of 2001, an important piece of legislation which will help our nation prepare for the health care pressures associated with the aging of the baby boom generation.

Americans are living longer than ever, with the average life expectancy rising to 80 years old for women and 74 years old for men. While this is generally a positive development, there are costs associated with the aging of America. As seniors live longer, they face greater risks of disease and disabilities, such as Alzheimer's, diabetes, cancer, stroke, and heart disease.

Geriatricians are physicians who are uniquely trained to help care for the aging and elderly. By promoting a comprehensive approach to health care, including wellness and preventive care, geriatricians can help seniors live longer and healthier lives.

It is critical that our nation have a sufficient number of geriatricians to help manage the aging of the baby-boom generation. Unfortunately, there are currently only 9,000 certified geriatricians, and that number is expected to decline dramatically in the coming years. Of the approximately 98,000 medical residency and fellowship positions supported by Medicare in 1998, only 324 were in geriatric medi-

cine and geriatric psychiatry. We must do more to promote geriatric residency programs.

Unfortunately, there are two barriers preventing physicians from entering geriatrics: insufficient Medicare reimbursements for the provision of geriatric care and inadequate training dollars and positions for geriatricians.

A recent MedPac survey found that Medicare's low reimbursement rates serve as a major obstacle to recruiting new geriatricians. Due to their higher level of chronic disease and multiple prescriptions, seniors require additional care to ensure proper diagnosis and treatment. Medicare's reimbursement rates do not factor the complex needs of elderly patients. Because geriatricians treat seniors exclusively, they are especially affected by Medicare's low reimbursement rates.

Additionally, the Balanced Budget Act placed limits on the numbers of residents a hospital can have, based on 1996 numbers. This cap serves as a disincentive for some hospitals, and has caused them to eliminate or reduce their geriatric Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs.

The legislation I am introducing today would remedy both of these problems, so that America is prepared for the aging baby boom generation. The Geriatric Care Act would modernize the Medicare fee schedule to more accurately reflect the cost of providing care for seniors. It also would allow for additional geriatric residency slots, so that we can develop an adequate supply of geriatricians for the next generation.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DENNIS LEWIS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to share a few words regarding the upcoming retirement of Colonel Dennis Richard Lewis, Program Branch Chief for the Army's Congressional Legislative Liaison. In the very near future, Colonel Lewis will retire after 27 years in the Army. He has distinguished himself, the Army and our nation with dedicated service.

Colonel Lewis began his career in the military in 1974, after graduating from the United States Military Academy. At West Point he excelled in academics, sports and became Airborne qualified as a cadet. Colonel Lewis later attended Purdue University, receiving a masters degree in Industrial Relations. His professional military development includes the Army Field Artillery Advanced Course, the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. In addition to his academic achievements, Colonel Lewis became Air Assault qualified and became an Airborne Jump Master with the 82nd Airborne Division.

During the Cold War, Colonel Lewis served in numerous field artillery assignments including Nuclear Weapons Officer, Battery Executive Officer, Battery Commander and Assistant

Operations Office in Germany, Turkey and Southwest Asia. With this experience, Colonel Lewis returned to the United States Military Academy as a Tactical Officer.

Colonel Lewis' next assignments included some of the Army's most challenging. As a field artillery Operations officer, Colonel Lewis deployed to Saudi Arabia during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Upon return, Colonel Lewis was selected to command a field artillery battalion in the 82nd Airborne Division. After completing his Battalion Command, Colonel Lewis was assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Assignments at this post included coordinating military response and support to the crash of TWA Flight 800, the downing of two U.S. civilian aircraft over Cuba, the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta and the Cuban and Haitian migrants operations in the Caribbean.

Colonel Lewis became a field artillery Brigade Commander in the 18th Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, NC and then served as Program Branch Chief for the Army's Congressional Legislative Liaison. In this position, Colonel Lewis effectively articulated the Army's goals, policies and programs to key members of Congress while serving as an advisor to the Secretary of the Army and the Army Chief of Staff.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Lewis has had an impressive career in the military. As he prepares for this next stage in his life, I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Colonel Lewis all the best. We thank he for his 27 years of service to the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on September 25 I missed rollcall vote No. 359. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the vote.

RECOGNIZE THE MIDLAND EMPIRE RED CROSS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Midland Empire Red Cross for their work and sacrifice in honor of all the people who both survived and who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001, their families and their friends.

These terrorist attacks mark a solemn moment in America's history. American men and women, civilians and soldiers, firefighters and police, mothers and fathers, were slain for a cause so terrible, so heinous, and so despicable that we find it unimaginable and indescribable. United, Americans seek to find meaning and hope in a seemingly hopeless and meaningless act. In the days since these