

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTMAS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, Christmas during wartime is an unsettling conflict in vision and emotion for Americans. A peace-loving nation, the United States has always been resolved in the face of tyranny to crush the purveyors of terror and to vanquish the enemies of freedom; and with firm reliance upon the protection of Divine Providence. Celebrating the birth of the Prince of Peace is a testimony to authentic liberty, and invigorates the spirit of a nation whose motto boldly stands "in God we trust."

America will prevail, because it always has, because it must, and because it is right.

President Franklin Roosevelt asked, "how can we pause, even for a day, even for Christmas Day, in our urgent labor of arming a decent humanity against the enemies which beset it?" Today, Americans confront the same question. The answer is, of course, the same, and so the outcome will be.

The nation's first Christmas occurred amidst the Revolutionary War. With the Continental Army poised to turn the momentum of the war, General George Washington conceived a daring tactic which would unfold on the Eve of Christmas 1776. Under cover of darkness and well after the Hessian mercenaries had consumed their Holiday feast (and drink), Washington led his troops across the Delaware River to defeat the heavy, surprised, and more numerous Hessian mercenaries who held Trenton, NJ.

A few months prior to the famous attack, Washington wrote, "the time is now near at hand which must probably determine whether Americans are to be freemen or slaves; whether they are to have any property they can call their own; whether their houses and farms are to be pillaged and destroyed, and themselves consigned to a state of wretchedness from which no human efforts will deliver them. The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage of this army. Our cruel and unrelenting enemy leaves us only the choice of brave resistance, or the most abject submission. We have, therefore, to resolve to conquer or die."

In 1862, entering the second year of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln inspired his countrymen through the Christmas season. Before Congress, he delivered a stirring speech: "the dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present," Lincoln said. "The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise to the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country."

Roosevelt's address following the Japanese attack upon Pearl Harbor urged Americans to take inspiration from the sacred Holiday. "Our strongest weapon in this war is that conviction of the dignity and brotherhood of man which Christmas Day signifies—more than any other day or any other symbol. Against enemies who preach the principles of hate and practice them, we set our faith in human love and in

God's care for us and all men everywhere," he said. "It is in that spirit, and with particular thoughtfulness of those our sons and brothers, who serve in our armed forces on land and sea, near and far—those who serve for us and endure for us—that we light our Christmas candles now across the continent from one coast to the other on this Christmas Eve."

From the Christmas Eve crossing of the Delaware, to the Christmases observed in Civil War camps, the trenches of World War I, and the forests of Belgium during WWII, Americans have always been willing to fight to secure their nation and restore peace.

American men and women presently deployed in Afghanistan, the Middle East, Bosnia, Korea, throughout the world and here at home, are emblematic of the sacrifice and dedication of the proud American soldiers who preceded them. The cause of freedom, liberty and valor serves to summon the courage of those who stand in harm's way, but even more does the spirit of Christmas confirm the hope and blessing that is God's gift to America. The way to victory was shown to the world by a child whose birthday is revered around the world. America's trust in God will lead us to victory again.

**WILLIAM WINKENWERDER, AS-
SISTANT SECRETARY OF DE-
FENSE FOR HEALTH CARE**

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, America's armed service members, their families and military retirees can rest easier today knowing that Dr. William Winkenwerder has been sworn in as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Care. A western North Carolina native, Dr. Winkenwerder brings fittingly broad experience and an impressive record of achievement to this important position. All Americans can be proud that Dr. Winkenwerder has agreed to serve his nation yet once again. The Asheville Citizen-Times' Tim Reid recently penned a profile of Dr. Winkenwerder, which I am glad to share with my colleagues.

WINKENWERDER TOP HEALTHCARE OFFICIAL
FOR DEFENSE DEPARTMENT
(By Tim Reid)

ASHEVILLE.—Growing up in Asheville in a family well known for its successful hotels, William Winkenwerder seemed destined to enter the hospitality industry like his brother, John. But he liked science and helping people and figured medicine was a good way to combine those interests. Some time during his years of medical school, residency and private practice, Dr. Winkenwerder also discovered he was drawn to the public policy side of medicine, designing and administering systems to deliver quality health care as efficiently as possible.

"Even though I very much enjoyed taking care of patients, I developed an interest in how the system of health care worked, or didn't work in some cases," he said.

After years of high-level jobs related to providing health services, Winkenwerder is using all his experience and expertise to help

protect the health of America's armed services, their families and military retirees. He was sworn in recently as assistant secretary of defense for health care—the Defense Department's top health-care official. It is a big job, and the numbers are staggering. Winkenwerder manages the nation's \$25 billion defense health program, whose 110,000 staffers see to the health needs of more than 8 million people around the world.

"It's an incredible responsibility. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve in this kind of position," he said. "We have wonderful people in the military. They are extremely dedicated, hard working and bright."

Winkenwerder assumed the job at a critical time as the military prepares for a sustained effort against terrorism.

"We have to look at the whole range of biological agents that could pose a threat and develop a strategy for all of them," he said. "That could include not just anthrax but also smallpox, the plague and all the things we believe could be used."

Winkenwerder faces the same challenges posed to any health care executive—assuring quality care while keeping costs at an acceptable level. He is not responsible for the nation's VA hospitals but does oversee the Tricare program that functions like an insurance program, paying for care through the public or private sector.

THE EARLY YEARS

Winkenwerder said he has a soft spot in his heart for Asheville and visits family members here three or four times a year. They include his father, William Winkenwerder Sr. of Asheville, and his mother Martha Baker Loew, also of Asheville. His brother John Winkenwerder is managing partner of the Asheville area Hampton Inns.

"It was a great experience growing up there and working for my father," he said. "He gave me a real appreciation for work and for serving people."

But it was Winkenwerder's family physician, Dr. Roger James, who sparked his early interest in medicine.

"He was a wonderful man who died recently," Winkenwerder recalled. "He was my doctor and a leader in my church. I was just impressed with what he did for people."

He said another role model was orthopedic surgeon Dr. Wayne Montgomery. "He was mayor of Asheville at the time, and I liked that idea of combining medicine and public service."

Winkenwerder also worked summers as an orderly at St. Joseph's Hospital, where he got to know many physicians such as Dr. David Capiello, another orthopedic surgeon. After graduation from Asheville High School, Winkenwerder went to Davidson College on a football scholarship, enrolling in its pre-med program. After Davidson came eight years of medical school and residency in internal medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, during which Winkenwerder's career interests began to change.

"I decided I really did want to delve into this whole area of health care policy and health care economics and public health," he said. "I decided business school was a good way to do that."

Winkenwerder attended the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and at the same time completed a fellowship in public health and research at the university's hospital. During the summer of 1986 he worked at the Department of Health and Human Resources and got a taste for government that has never really left him. The following year