

Even if they choose another route, the prospect of having opportunities can be an important buoy for wounded soldiers, Lehowicz and others say.

Potential opportunities were on display at a career fair held at Walter Reed in December. Thrown together in a matter of weeks, the event's organizers expected a dozen or so companies to participate. But more firms requested space at the event, and by the night of the fair, more than 30 companies, including BAE Systems PLC, Science Applications International Corp. and Oracle Corp., had set up booths to pass out brochures and collect names.

"The equipment that we work on and maintain for the military is the same as they would have used," said Eugene C. Renzi, president of defense systems at ManTech International Corp., a Fairfax government contractor that sent recruiters to the career fair. "So when they get out of the military, we can put them right to work and utilize the skills they already have."

Joe Davis, spokesman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, said outreach efforts among government contractors is partly driven by executives with military backgrounds. There is a de facto alumni network, he said, and a collective memory of the way disabled veterans were treated after previous conflicts, particularly Vietnam.

"Who runs the country now? It's the Vietnam era and they vowed never again, and so you got all the corporations, every non-profit, all the associations and lobby arms doing everything they can," for this generation of soldiers, Davis said.

Contractors like ManTech have another incentive to recruit former soldiers, regardless of disability: Many have security clearances that are in short supply in the workforce, but necessary in order to do an increasing number of government projects.

"If you have a security clearance, you are miles ahead of a person applying to a company without a security clearance," said Edward F. Lawton, head of the Washington area chapter of the American Military Retirees Association. "And even if you're missing a limb, that doesn't mean you're incapable of supporting the military through a company."

But it may mean that jobs are more readily available for soldiers with technical skills and for those willing to work in the Washington area, where many government contractors are based.

That proved to be the case for Brian Garvey, an Army Captain who met his future employer at the Walter Reed career fair.

The platoon leader and father of two young girls was deployed to Iraq last March and for months worked at the Baghdad airport, processing human resources files for soldiers stationed throughout that country.

On Sept. 18, Garvey's unit was assigned a different task—to show a contractor a damaged fence on a highway bridge between the airport and the heavily guarded Green Zone. After assessing the damage, Garvey had just given the signal for his soldiers to return to their vehicles when a suicide bomber drove a car onto the bridge and detonated an explosive—killing two of the crew and wounding 13.

Three days later Garvey was at Walter Reed, recovering from a series of surgeries to repair his hand and remove dozens of pieces of shrapnel from his skin.

"I would say a lot of the time was spent thinking 'What am I going to do? What is the best avenue for my family,'" Garvey recalled of his four-month stay at the hospital. "Up

to this point I had been somewhat selfish. It was what I wanted to do. My wife and kids had been making the sacrifices."

Garvey had already been thinking about looking for a private-sector job when he stopped by the career fair, hoping to pick up a few business cards and some ideas. Like most of the 150 soldiers crammed into the hall, Garvey was without a résumé or firm career goals.

He grabbed brochures from such big contractors as Northrop Grumman Corp. and Raytheon Co., but spent the longest time talking to a representative from Alliant Techsystems Inc. (ATK), a Minnesota company that makes weapon systems and munitions. He filled out a card with his basic information and three days later got an e-mail from ATK, asking for a phone interview.

A day-long interview at the company's Elkton, Md., site followed; just before Christmas, Garvey was offered a job. Soon he'll become a program manager at ATK, acting as a liaison between the company's engineers and its primary client—the U.S. military.

"Mentally it does me a lot of good, knowing that I'm not out there searching frantically for a job," said Garvey, who is now back at Fort Hood, waiting for his unit to rotate back from Iraq in March before he will be discharged. "It gives me a sense of security. I know what my future has to offer."

That sense of the future is what a lot of recently wounded soldiers are looking for, said Lehowicz, the VA vocational counselor. When they first return from the battlefield, many focus solely on getting better to return to their unit, she said, but over time they often start thinking about other options.

Moore, the Army Captain, says thoughts of his future now absorb much of his day at Walter Reed. Some days he thinks he would like to stay in the military, to resume life with his friends and become an example for other amputees. But some of the job offers have topped \$70,000 and he worries this opportunity may not come around again.

"Veterans are getting good jobs right now," said Moore, who will likely remain in the hospital through March. He recently had a second interview with FNH USA, where he is up for a position as deputy director of military operations.

"I'm not sure if I stay in [the Army] for another five years, if the jobs will still be here."

MEDICAID DRUG REBATE PROGRAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am taking this opportunity to talk about the mess we have in the Medicaid Program, a mess that does not properly account for billions of taxpayer dollars. First, allow me to remind everyone about a report released last summer by the Government Accountability Office, GAO. That report on Medicaid Program integrity found that Medicaid's size and diversity made it vulnerable to fraud, waste and abuse. Further, the GAO found that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service, CMS, allocated only \$26,000 and only eight employees to work on Medicaid program integrity.

As I said at the time, it does not make sense for CMS to invest so little in Federal oversight when so many

Federal taxpayer dollars are at stake. If one considers that Medicaid has surpassed Medicare as the single largest Government health program in the United States, it makes no sense at all. The Congressional Budget Office projects the Federal share of total Medicaid payments for Fiscal Year 2005 at greater than \$183 billion. Medicaid's vulnerability to fraud, waste and abuse have also ranked it on the GAO's list of high-risk programs for the past 2 years.

The Medicaid Program continues to pay too much for prescription drugs. CMS estimated that Medicaid expenditures for prescription drugs in Calendar Year 2003 totaled more than \$31 billion, triple the \$9.4 billion spent in 1994. Each year drug companies pay approximately \$6 billion in rebates.

Today, the GAO released a damning report on Medicaid drug spending. Congress established the Medicaid drug rebate program in 1990 to help control spending on drugs. Note that the word choice and intent here was control, not out of control. It should come as no surprise that the GAO's report shows that the drug program has been and continues to be badly mismanaged.

The report—requested by Congressman WAXMAN and me—identified fundamental problems in the program. The mismanagement has been bipartisan and has spanned multiple administrations. According to the GAO, it is a program virtually without regulation. CMS has been sitting on draft regulations since 1995 a decade ago.

It is also a program virtually without oversight. The GAO found that the Office of Inspector General has issued only four audit reports on drug-company reported prices since the inception of the program. Of course, the OIG says in its defense that its efforts have been hampered by unclear CMS program guidance and a lack of documentation by drug companies.

According to the GAO, even when the OIG has managed to identify problems related to the drug companies' reported prices and methodologies for price reporting, CMS has not done much of anything to resolve them.

The drug rebate program is governed by a contractual agreement between the States and each drug company that wants to participate in Medicaid. One of the things that boggles the mind is that this contract allows drug companies to rely upon reasonable assumptions"

Each drug company may craft its own "assumptions" as long as they are consistent with the "intent" of the law. Consequently, because drug companies can pick their own methods, they in effect set their own prices and amount of rebates they pay.

According to the GAO, "CMS does not generally review the methods and underlying assumptions that [drug

companies] use to determine [the reported prices], even though these methods and assumptions can have a substantial effect on rebates.”

Furthermore, quoting the GAO again, “CMS sometimes identifies price reporting errors . . . but does not follow up with [drug companies] to verify that errors have been corrected”.

In sum, the GAO report confirms that neither CMS nor the OIG know the extent to which Medicaid overpays for prescription drugs because the program lacks effective management and oversight. A worse state of affairs is not likely. Drug companies have been profiting for the past years on Medicaid drug pricing. We are dealing with a system that unnecessarily costs taxpayers untold hundreds of millions A not billions of dollars annually. The Medicaid drug rebate program is quite simply a mess—a Medicaid mess.

I urge my colleagues to consider this GAO report and its recommendations.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM TO FRANK SOUZA

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to honor the memory of one of California’s great labor leaders and dedicated social justice activists, Frank Souza. Frank passed away on February 19, 2005. He was 79 years old.

Frank Souza was born in New Bedford, MA in 1925. In 1948, he and his wife Virginia drove across the country to California in search of better job opportunities. Upon his arrival, he took a job with Greyhound as a bus mechanic, and worked there for 13 years. In 1953, Frank became involved in the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO.

When I first met Frank many years ago, before I was in elected office, I was struck by his kindness and dedication to working people. That kindness and dedication grew with each passing year. Frank’s commitment to social justice earned him the trust and respect of fellow labor activists and allowed him to rise quickly through the ranks at the machinists union. It was not long before Frank was a nationally known leader of the machinists union in northern California. In his capacity as Directing Business Representative of District 190, the largest automotive district of the machinists union in America, Frank was a constant source of pride for both his fellow machinists and the community at large.

Although Frank retired in 1989 after 25 years with the machinists union, he remained an active union leader, holding impressive positions as a machinists union delegate to the National AFL-CIO, vice president of the California Labor Federation for the AFL-CIO, chair of the Western States

Trucking Committee for the National Auto Transporters, chair for the Sea Land West Coast negotiating committee, and treasurer for the California Alliance of Retired Americans.

It is not just Frank’s accomplishments in the field of labor that made him stand out. Frank was one of the most wonderful people that I have come in contact with in all of my years of public service. His warmth and intelligence were a true inspiration to me. When he talked to me about injustice in the workplace, or in the world, his eyes would tear up. I knew that I could never let him down.

Frank Souza was a deeply loved labor leader who championed the causes of America’s working families, not only in this country, but throughout the world. We can take comfort in knowing that future generations will benefit from his spirit, his vision, and his leadership. He taught us about the dignity and soul of working people, and in his memory we won’t forget.●

ELIZABETH A. “BETSY” DUKE

• Mr. ALLEN. Elizabeth A. “Betsy” Duke was recently chosen to be the chairwoman of the American Bankers Association.

The ABA serves as the largest banking trade association in the country, representing most community banks, as well as virtually all large banks of our Nation. She will oversee the day-to-day leadership of the ABA, and all of its 330 employees.

Ms. Duke’s one-year term marks the first time that a woman has held this highly visible position, as well as the first since 1951 that the post has been held by a Virginian.

I am confident that Betsy Duke’s extensive background in the banking industry, including serving as former director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and former president of the Virginia Bankers Association has prepared her well for this new and challenging leadership role.

After graduating from the University of North Carolina in 1974 with a degree in drama, Betsy moved back to her native Virginia Beach and found an acting job in a dinner theater. In order to support her dream of becoming an actress, Betsy went looking for a day job. After being turned down by a local dry cleaner, she finally found work as a part-time drive-up bank teller.

The theatrical show in which Betsy was participating in ended about a year later, but by then she had come to a couple of conclusions: that her dream of becoming a great actress would never materialize, and that she really enjoyed her job as a teller. Betsy was soon able to secure a new-accounts job at Bank of Virginia Beach, which changed her life in more ways than one. It was there that she met her mentor, Burt Harrison, who served as the

bank’s CEO, and a young operations officer and her future husband, Larry Harcum.

As Betsy began taking on more responsibility, she began taking banking courses and was named the bank’s accounting officer, but things became complicated when she began dating Larry. The bank had a strict policy regarding this activity, so after a few months, Betsy left the bank to go work at a local car dealership, but was asked to return a few months later by her mentor and bank CEO, Burt Harrison. The very next day, however, Larry quit. Burt quickly caught on, but allowed the two to stay under the condition that they keep their budding romance quiet. About a year later, the two married, but not after receiving the board’s approval for the two of them to be able to keep their jobs at the bank. One of the directors actually got confused and thought he was voting on whether or not the two should get married, and voted no.

Betsy’s friend, mentor, and boss Burt died suddenly of a heart attack in 1991, and Betsy, who by then had been named president, suddenly found herself thrust into the role of CEO. She and Larry ran the bank successfully for another 10 years until what was now referred to as the Bank of Tidewater was acquired by SouthTrust in 2001. Betsy served as executive vice president for community bank development at SouthTrust.

It was around this time that Betsy Duke became vice-chairman of ABA. Prior to this, she had served as a member of ABA’s board of directors. The following year, she was named chairwoman of the ABA.

Betsy Duke is currently executive vice president, Merger Project Team, Wachovia Bank in Virginia Beach. As I previously mentioned, she was executive vice president for Community Bank Development at SouthTrust, but upon the bank’s merger with Wachovia, she transferred to the merger integration team.

Beyond her current role as chairman of ABA, her involvement with the organization spans two decades. She began as an instructor for ABA’s National School of Bank Investments and has continued in this role to this day. In addition, she has been a member of the trade group’s Community Bankers Council, Communication Council, and Grassroots Task Force. Finally she has led the ABA’s Government Relations Task Force, and served on its board of directors.

In addition to her bachelor’s degree in fine arts from the University of North Carolina, she has a master’s degree in business administration from Old Dominion University.

Betsy Duke loves banking. She truly believes that the industry is one of the most important in this country. Betsy believes that no other association