

Urbana-Champaign, was the 2007 recipient of the Hadley School for the Blind's President's Service Award for exceptional work in raising awareness of the needs and abilities of blind and visually impaired people. She bridged cultural boundaries by teaching visually impaired Chinese students English language classes online.

I am proud to introduce this resolution that supports an institution that has, for almost 90 years, provided a valuable education for thousands of visually impaired individuals.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IMPROVING ACCESS TO WORKER'S COMPENSATION FOR INJURED FEDERAL WORKERS ACT

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Improving Access to Worker's Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act." This legislation would ensure that our Federal workers are reimbursed for crucial healthcare and services that they receive.

In many rural areas, Physician Assistants (PAs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are the only full-time healthcare providers. Unfortunately, medical services and supplies provided by PAs and NPs are not covered under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act. As such, claims signed by PAs and NPs are denied by the Department of Labor. In many cases injured workers have to travel long distances to receive care that is reimbursable, or use emergency rooms for non-emergency care.

PAs and NPs are legally regulated in all fifty States, the District of Columbia, and Guam. All fifty States also authorize physicians to delegate prescriptive privileges to the PAs they supervise, and authorize NPs to prescribe medications under their own signature.

The exclusion of PAs and NPs from the category of covered providers under the Federal Employee's Compensation Act limits patients' access to medical care, services, and supplies, as well as disrupts continuity of care, and creates unnecessary costs for the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs.

My bill, the "Improving Access to Worker's Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act" amends the Federal Employee's Compensation Act to recognize PAs, NPs and several other Advanced Practice Registered Nurses as covered providers. In doing so, Federal law is aligned with the overwhelming majority of State workers' compensation programs, and ensures that injured workers, especially those who live in rural areas, receive the care and treatment they need.

This bill was introduced by former Representative Charles Norwood (R-GA) in the 108th and 109th Congresses and enjoyed broad bipartisan support. It has also been introduced in the Senate by Senators EDWARD KENNEDY (D-MA), SUSAN COLLINS (R-ME) and JOHNNY ISAKSON (R-GA).

I would like to thank the American Academy of Physician Assistants and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners for their help on this legislation and for their support of the bill. I am also happy that my colleague on the Education and Labor Committee, Congressman MARK SOUDER from Indiana has joined me in supporting this legislation. I look forward to working with him and others to garner addi-

tional bipartisan support so we can quickly move this bill through the House.

I am proud to be involved in this effort to ensure our Federal workers, especially those living in rural America, have access to critical healthcare providers and services. Thank you Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMY RESERVE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Representatives BUYER, SHIMKUS, TAYLOR, and over 243 original cosponsors, to introduce a resolution to congratulate the United States Army Reserve on its 100th Anniversary, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008.

The resolution also commemorates the contributions of Army Reserve veterans who have helped to ensure that the United States' vital national security interests are protected and defended in times of war and peace.

I am very gratified by the outpouring of bipartisan support that this resolution has received. It is indicative of the high regard and esteem in which the Army Reserve is held among Members of Congress and the American public.

As a former soldier in the Army Reserve, I know the historic and decisive role it played along with the U.S. Army in promoting integration and the cause of individual dignity.

As a current member of the Subcommittee on Defense as well as the Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, I have been extremely impressed by the level of commitment that Army Reserve soldiers bring to their work and to their high degree of professionalism. They truly are "twice the citizen," as Winston Churchill once remarked.

Today, the U.S. Army Reserve is composed of more than 30,000 officers and 150,000 enlisted soldiers. They have an active presence in 1,100 communities across the nation, contributing military values, important job skills, and economic support. They are husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, and sons or daughters. They are our neighbors, our friends and acquaintances, and our colleagues at work. These soldiers can be called up at any time to serve our nation and they must be trained and prepared to respond at a moment's notice.

Here in the U.S. House of Representatives, 24 Members including myself have been privileged to serve as Army Reserve soldiers. In fact, 2 of the lead sponsors of this resolution, Representatives STEVE BUYER of Indiana and JOHN SHIMKUS of Illinois, still serve in the Army Reserve.

As this resolution notes, the role of today's Army Reserve soldier has expanded and changed dramatically since President Theodore Roosevelt first requested that Congress establish a reservoir of trained officers in a reserve status. On April 23, 1908, the Congress responded to the president's request by establishing a permanent reserve corps of trained medical officers. The modest corps represented the humble start of what is today a multi-faceted operational and strategic force.

The duties have since expanded such that they have become an integral component of

any active U.S. Army mission. They have answered the call of duty in World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, Panama, the Gulf War, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo. In addition, nearly 25,000 Army Reserve soldiers are currently deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan, and 18 other countries.

Through October 31, 2007, 102 Army Reserve soldiers had borne the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. We dedicate this resolution to their memory and to the memory of all the Reserve soldiers who fought and died to defend our nation's freedoms throughout our history.

We dedicate this resolution to our living heroes as well—to those men and women who continue their service to our nation in the U.S. Army Reserve today.

Madam Speaker, I again thank my colleagues who are original cosponsors for their extraordinary support for this resolution. I urge our remaining colleagues to join with us in support of this resolution, which is intended to ensure that the first 100 years of the Army Reserve are appropriately commended and that the second 100 years of the Army Reserve are fittingly commenced.

CONGRATULATING DR. GEORGE CROZIER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Dr. George Crozier on the occasion of his retirement from the Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

For the past 30 years, Dr. Crozier has served as the executive director of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Alabama's marine research facility. Serving Alabama's 21 four-year colleges and universities, the Sea Lab has provided Alabama students with the opportunity to study marine creatures and habitats. George has been with the Lab since its inception in the 1970s, helping to build the Sea Lab to national prominence.

In addition to being the director of the Sea Lab, Dr. Crozier is also an associate professor of marine science at the University of South Alabama and an associate professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He serves as a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board and administers the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program.

In recognition of his outstanding work in the field of marine science, George Crozier has received numerous awards, including the Walter B. Jones Award for "Coastal Steward of the Year" from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He was the recipient of the Alabama Academy of Science's Wright A. Gardner Award in 2000. In 2007, George was awarded Mobile United's "Green" Award, or Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1993, he was named "Conservation Educator of the Year" by the Alabama Wildlife Federation, and the Alabama Science Teachers Association named him the 1991 Friend of Science.

Dr. Crozier is an acknowledged expert in the coastal management issues, and as a longtime steward of natural resources, he promoted the creation of Alabama's Forever Wild and currently serves as a board member. He helped to found the Alabama Coastal Area