

children in the area, educating the community about the advocacy center and organizing area agencies who began working and meeting together on a regular basis as a result of her tireless efforts.

Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) across the Nation are child-focused, facility-based programs in which representatives from many disciplines meet to discuss and make decisions about investigation, treatment, and prosecution of child abuse cases. They also work to prevent further victimization of children. This approach brings together a comprehensive group of agencies such as law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, mental health and the medical community. It is an approach that truly puts the needs of the child victims first.

It takes a very unique individual to facilitate communications and meetings between these many agencies. Mitzi Stites initiated this plan in Robertson County in 1993 and since that time has seen great success. She has shown foresight and leadership not only in the day-to-day operations of the facility, but by pioneering a number of community efforts on behalf of children.

These include the Blue Ribbon Campaign in honor of April as Child Abuse Awareness Month, which Mitzi successfully launched in 1994 in Robertson County; the Teddy Bears for court program for child victims; the annual drive for backpacks filled with school supplies and toiletries for at risk, low-income, and children of victimization; and "snuggables" given to victims by the CAC, local enforcement, and the Department of Children's Services (DCS). She also annually organized "angels" to anonymously sponsor abused children and their families each Christmas. She has worked closely with Sharon Puckett of WSMV-TV in Nashville to provide hundreds of stuffed animals to needy children in our area. These stuffed animals were often donated quietly by Nashville's wealth of country music stars.

In addition, Mitzi Stites has been involved in numerous community and civic activities, serving as the Secretary for the Robertson County Coalition for several years, as well as many other organizations.

Prior to being named Executive Director for the Robertson County Children's Advocacy Center, Stites worked briefly at the Robertson County Times newspaper from 1992–1993. However she spent most of her career in mortgage banking, first with Southeast Mortgage Company in Miami from 1963–1989 and then with the JT Brokers Group, Inc., in Jupiter, Florida from 1989–1991.

Mitzi Stites often went above and beyond the call of duty, spending numerous hours fashioning the Robertson County Advocacy Center into a warm and homey atmosphere, rather than a sterile, office environment. The children who entered her doors often came in traumatized and fearful, but whether they were there for one visit or numerous visits, I assure you, they always left feeling loved.

Because my Springfield Congressional office was housed next door to the Advocacy Center, I was able to get to know Mitzi both professionally and personally. I admire her character and zeal on behalf of the children in our community, who once abused or neglected, often have no voice. Mitzi Stites has been that voice heard loud and clear on behalf of these children.

I wish the best for Ms. Stites on her retirement and in all of her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAMUEL MERRITT COLLEGE RECEIVING THE 1999 CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S QUALITY AWARD OAKLAND, CA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and celebrate Samuel Merritt College's receipt of the California Governor's Quality Award for 1999.

The Quality Award is California's premier award for performance excellence and quality achievement in business, education and health care professions. Samuel Merritt College was one of only six recipients to receive this prestigious award. The College is the first institution of higher education to receive this award.

Samuel Merritt College educates students for a life of highly skilled and compassionate service in health care. Founded in 1909 as a hospital school of nursing, Samuel Merritt College today offers both graduate and undergraduate degree programs in a variety of health science fields. The College's degrees include Bachelor of Science degrees in Nursing and Health and Human Sciences and Master degrees in Occupational Therapy, Physician Assistant, Physical Therapy, and Nursing.

Samuel Merritt College has a long tradition of excellence representing the finest in health sciences education.

On March 8, 2000, a reception was held by the College's Board of Regents in celebration of this honor.

The Samuel Merritt College is truly a valuable resource for the community and medical profession. I am proud of this accomplishment and join in the celebration of this well-deserved recognition.

APRIL 13, 2000 IS NATIONAL D.O. DAY

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor National D.O. Day. I rise to recognize members of the osteopathic medical profession for their substantial contributions to American healthcare. I congratulate the American Osteopathic Association on its 103 years of service to osteopathic physicians and their patients. It is my pleasure to acknowledge members of the osteopathic medical profession, their spouses, and osteopathic medical students who have chosen today to make visits to their representatives and senators. It's good to see these individuals taking time to educate our colleagues on the values and principles of osteopathic medicine.

Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate to represent the State of Missouri, which is the home of osteopathic medicine. In 1892, a charter was obtained for the American School of Osteopathy. The original school was located in a small one room building in Kirksville, Missouri and today is known as the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. A revised and expanded

charter was issued on October 3, 1894, in accordance with the laws regulating educational institutions in the State of Missouri. Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, an allopathic physician (or M.D.), was the founder of the Kirksville school and, indeed, the father of osteopathic medicine.

Osteopathic medicine is a unique form of American medical care developed in 1874 by Dr. Still who was dissatisfied with the effectiveness of 19th century medicine. Dr. Still was one of the first in his time to study the attributes of good health so that he could understand the process of disease. Dr. Still's philosophy focused on the unity of all body parts. He identified the musculoskeletal system as a key element of health and recognized the body's ability to heal itself. Dr. Still pioneered the concept of "wellness" over 100 years ago. He stressed preventative medicine, eating properly and keeping fit. Dr. Still's philosophy—that in coordination with appropriate medical treatment—the osteopathic physician acts as a teacher to help patients take more responsibility for their own well-being and change unhealthy patterns—is every bit as viable today as it was when he developed it.

D.O.s complete four years of basic medical education, followed by an intern year and specialty training. In fact, D.O.s are certified in 23 specialties and subspecialties. They pass state licensing examinations and practice in duly accredited and licensed osteopathic and allopathic healthcare facilities. D.O.s comprise a separate, yet equal, branch of American medical care.

It is the ways that D.O.s and M.D.s are different that brings an extra dimension to healthcare. Just as Dr. Still pioneered osteopathic medicine on the Missouri frontier in 1874, today's osteopathic physicians serve as modern day medical pioneers. They continue the tradition to bringing healthcare to areas of greatest need. Approximately 64 percent of all osteopathic physicians practice in primary care areas such as pediatrics, family practice, obstetrics/gynecology and internal medicine. Many D.O.s fill a critical need by practicing in rural and medically underserved areas.

To the over 1,600 D.O.s in my state, the approximately 2,000 students at Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville and Kansas City, and to all 45,000 D.O.s represented by the American Osteopathic Association—congratulations on your contributions to the good health of the American people. I look forward to working with you to further our mutual goal of continually improving our nation's healthcare.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUISUN-FAIRFIELD CHAPTER 81 OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Disabled American Veterans Chapter 81 of Suisun-Fairfield, California as this organization celebrates its 50th anniversary of service to our country.

The Suisun-Fairfield Chapter is part of a national DAV network that provides services to