that ". . . our health care system is not delivering value for its stakeholders . . . if current spending and utilization trends continue, the Medicare program is fiscally unsustainable."

Today I am introducing two bills to address this looming problem. The first would change the financial incentives in our health care system to reward low-spending Medicare regions through a 5% bonus payment. Currently, there is no financial incentive for high-spending regions to reign in spending. This would create that incentive and reward regions that have made a concerted effort to efficiently use health resources.

The second would lay the foundation for better, more accurate research for Congress to use in analyzing Medicare policy recommendations. The legislation will change MedPAC's statutory mandate to include an annual report to examine each Medicare region, evaluating access to care, quality of care, increases or decreases in volume of services, and the potential effects of other policy recommendations under consideration. This new report will provide critical data and result in more accurate and targeted policy recommendations that take into effect geographic variations and recognize that distinctly different delivery systems should be treated differently.

These strategic investments in Medicare will lay the groundwork for future improvements and refinements to the program as we promote efficiency and quality in all regions of the country.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2346, SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Defense Supplemental both as a member of the House and as a Commander (select) in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

My fellow soldiers need the resources this bill will provide, and they need them as soon as possible.

I know there is much consternation on the other side of the aisle regarding funds contained in this bill for the International Monetary Fund. I, too, share those concerns, but, I cannot in good conscience vote against the many provisions in this bill that will assist our soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen deployed around the world. These provisions include: $500 million for National Guard and Reserve Equipment, $4.5 billion for MRAPs, over $331 million for high priority intelligence and surveillance, and over $1 billion to help defeat the threat caused by Improvised Explosive Devices.

Finally, this legislation will compensate 185,000 service members who have been involuntarily extended since September 11th, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to support our soldiers who are bravely defending this nation. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO RAY BURKHOLDER

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to a man who has dedicated 60 years to making weather observations for Northwest Ohio. Today, Ray Burkholder of Pandora, Ohio will celebrate this great milestone achieved by earlier weather recorders Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service was started in 1807, when the Nation's first scientific agency, the Survey of the Coast, was established. In the 1890s, NOAA established the Cooperative Weather Observation Program. Starting in 1949, when Mr. Burkholder was brought into the NOAA in Northwest Ohio, he became an integral part of the Administration. Up to this day, Mr. Burkholder has taken nearly 21,900 observations. The data collected by Mr. Burkholder benefited federal, state, and local agencies including the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

In addition to the Cooperative Weather Observation Program, Mr. Burkholder has served on the local area school board, and was the president of the Pandora Medical Center and the Mennonite Disaster Relief Service of Western Ohio.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Ray Burkholder. Mr. Burkholder's selfless commitment and dedication to the National Weather Service and Northwest Ohio has served our communities well. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize the service of Ray Burkholder.

RECOGNIZING JEFFREY BROWN

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeffrey Brown, the President and CEO of Brown's Super Stores, Inc. The first Brown's Family Shoprite opened in Philadelphia in 1988 under the leadership of Jeffrey Brown. The Brown's Family Shoprite franchise is one of the last major family grocery businesses left in the county, and counts 2,500 residents as employees. Brown's Family Shoprite has earned a well-deserved reputation of strong community involvement, working alongside local organizations, businesses, and neighborhood groups for events and outreach in the eleven communities where stores are located.

Mr. Brown leads the franchise he founded by example, and he is a fourth-generation Philadelphia grocer. As CEO, he is actively engaged in working with local groups that fight hunger, prevent violence, and help give youth a better future through career preparation. Mr. Brown is an officer and member of the Board of Directors for the Philadelphia Youth Network. He has recently supported the "Goods for Guns" Program, an exchange that encourages community members to surrender firearms. He has been commended by the NAACP, and actively assists minority businesspeople in achieving their entrepreneurial goals. Mr. Brown has also been recognized by the City of Philadelphia and South Jersey for his work. Mr. Brown and his franchise have been strong supporters of the arts and other community events throughout the years.

Brown's Family Shoprite is a member of the Wakefern Food Corporation, the largest food cooperative in the United States. Mr. Brown's involvement in this cooperative allows him to share his knowledge and experience outside of the district. Mr. Brown is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Pennsylvania Food Merchants, New Jersey Food Council, and Philadelphia Urban League. He has aided grocers across the country in understanding marketing and business development in urban areas, as well as the serving of diverse communities.

Jeffrey Brown has been a community leader and business innovator. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mr. Brown for his extraordinary accomplishments, and am extremely honored to serve as his Congressman.

AWARDING A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for S. 614, which passed the House yesterday by voice vote. This resolution recognizes Women Air Force Service Pilots or WASP. These remarkable individuals were the first women in history to fly America's military aircraft. Between 1942 and 1944, these courageous women volunteered to fly noncombat missions so that every available male pilot could be deployed in combat.

These women set a fine example of bravery and helped lead the way for the women of today's armed forces. For too long their deeds have gone unnoticed. This legislation grants these extraordinary patriots the recognition they so deserve by awarding them a Congressional Gold Medal.

There are 300 women pioneers still living today and I am proud to serve as the representative for one of these women. Emily Kline, who resides in Blairstown, New Jersey, served our nation valiantly in World War II. It is because of individuals such as Emily Kline that the current generation of Americans is able to live and work in a nation as free as ours.

The companion bill to S. 614 is H.R. 2014 and I was proud to be one of the 335 cosponsors of this bill. The generation of men and women who served in World War II have come to be known as the "greatest generation." Women such as Emily Kline were part of that generation and for her service she deserves our gratitude.