

HONORING THE WALL THAT
HEALS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the legacy of the Vietnam War veterans from the state of Missouri through The Wall That Heals which will be displayed in the City of Blue Springs from September 30th to October 3rd.

The Wall That Heals is a mobile, half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located here in Washington, D.C. and has been seen by millions of people in more than 300 cities and towns throughout the U.S. The exhibit was first inaugurated on Veterans Day, 1996 by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and offers the opportunity for those who lost their lives in the Vietnam War to be honored by family and friends in their respective communities.

I would like to thank Mayor Carson Ross, the Blue Spring City Council, local business leaders, and all the volunteers who dedicated great effort to bringing this distinct honor to Missouri. The traveling exhibition will allow veterans, families and friends in our community to honor our local heroes who served and made the ultimate sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, the dedication and service these men and women gave in the name of freedom in Vietnam is humbling, and it is an honor to represent them in Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in saying thank you to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial fund for commissioning this monument and to encourage more cities and towns to sponsor this exhibit honoring our veterans.

CONGRATULATING THE DESERT
BOTANICAL GARDEN

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Desert Botanical Garden on being awarded accreditation by the American Association of Museums, which is the highest recognition of a museum's commitment to public service, professional standards, and excellence in education.

A small group of passionate, local citizens started the Desert Botanical Garden in the 1930s when they saw the need to conserve their unique desert environment. The Garden, which is now located on 145 acres in Phoenix, has emerged as an Arizona treasure. The Garden boasts more than 50,000 plants, 1,100 volunteers, and 640,529 attendees every year.

Since the Garden's beginning, it has been steadfast in its commitment to advance excellence in education, research, exhibition and conservation of desert plants of the world, with emphasis on the southwestern United States. For more than 70 years, it has been teaching and inspiring visitors from around the world to help them understand, appreciate and preserve the desert's natural beauty.

The Garden now joins an impressive group of 778 institutions currently accredited by the

American Association of Museums, which includes only those museums that have demonstrated a firm commitment to providing outstanding programming and experiences to the public while also meeting the highest standards of collections care. In fact, it is 1 of only 44 botanical gardens accredited by the association.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing and congratulating the Desert Botanical Garden for its impressive and unique contribution to Arizona.

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF
THE 125 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF
GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL,
LOS ANGELES

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of Good Samaritan Hospital located in Downtown Los Angeles in my congressional district.

Since 1885, when the hospital was founded as a 9-bed infirmary by Sister Mary Wood, the hospital has been fulfilling its mission to provide accessible, quality, cost-effective and compassionate health services to the community.

A year after its founding, the facility adopted its current-day name in tribute to a Good Samaritan—Mrs. Mark Severance—who donated \$4,000 for the purchase of land for the construction of its first hospital building.

Today, Good Samaritan Hospital located at 616 South Witmer Street in Downtown Los Angeles is much more than a community hospital. With 408 licensed beds, the hospital has earned a reputation as a world-class academic medical center that is affiliated with the USC Keck School of Medicine.

For 4 years in a row, Good Samaritan has been recognized as "One of America's 50 Best Hospitals" by HealthGrades, Inc., the nation's leading independent health care ratings company. U.S. News & World Report also recognized Good Samaritan as one of "America's Best Hospitals for Top Medical Care in 16 Specialties" in 1998.

In addition to providing outstanding diagnostic, surgical and therapeutic care in a state-of-the-art setting, Good Samaritan supports eight Centers of Excellence that focus on advancing the science of medicine while providing outstanding patient care. The hospital's acclaimed oncology program, for example, offers the widest range of options for gynecological, breast, brain and prostate cancers.

Under the leadership of Charles T. Munger, head of the hospital's Board of Trustees, and Andrew B. Leeka, the hospital's president and chief executive officer, Good Samaritan admits approximately 17,000 patients annually (excluding births, which would add approximately 3,600 more to the total) and handles more than 93,500 outpatient visits. More than 7,500 surgeries are performed annually in 18 surgical suites.

Good Samaritan is also a sizeable employer in the community. The hospital employs more than 1,500 employees, including approximately 650 physicians and 550 nurses on its medical staff. Together, the medical staff and

employees speak more than 54 languages and dialects, a direct reflection of the hospital's international reputation and diverse patient base.

The broad range of renowned medical services and programs at Good Samaritan include the Heart Institute, which offers a complete heart care program including invasive and non-invasive cardiology, electrophysiology and cardiothoracic surgery. The Neurosciences program features Gamma Knife Radiosurgery for brain tumors. The Orthopedic Institute combines many subspecialties together in one centralized location designed to take care of any orthopedic problem including serious injuries to the pelvis, hip and knees.

The hospital also offers specialized medical services that include a state-of-the-art Gastroenterology Program, Women's Health Services (obstetrics, gynecology, gynecologic-oncology, perinatology, neonatal intensive care, breast care and assisted reproductive services), Ophthalmologic care (including retinal surgery), Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) treatment, comprehensive Oncology Services (including High-Dose Rate and IMRT treatment), the busiest Kidney Stone Service in the western U.S., and a Transfusion-Free Medicine & Surgery Center.

Other special services include housing accommodations for patients and families at the Weingart Guest House located on the hospital campus and specialized ground and air transport programs for critically ill cardiac and maternity patients. Plans are also underway for the completion of the hospital's new Medical Plaza & Outpatient Pavilion in 2012.

Good Samaritan also provides significant community outreach. In the last Community Benefit Plan update, the quantifiable costs to Good Samaritan Hospital for its community benefits activities totaled more than \$21.4 million, including unreimbursed medical care, services to vulnerable populations, and funding for health research, education and training.

Madam Speaker, I have had the privilege of working closely with Good Samaritan Hospital over the years. I have seen firsthand the important role the hospital plays in improving the health of our communities and I am very proud to have a top-notch hospital such as Good Samaritan in my district.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Good Samaritan on its 125th anniversary of serving the health care needs of families in our community and I extend to this world class medical facility, and all of the individuals who make it the success that it is today, many more years of healing, growth and innovation.

HONORING MR. JOHN N. WALSH,
JR.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John N. Walsh, Jr., who passed away recently at the age of 89.

As a child, Mr. Walsh was a student at Buffalo's School 64 and Nichols school. He later graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., and continued on to Yale where he majored in history and played center field for the baseball team.