

through the higher command and his recommendation never made it through. I feel that SFC Pele was not awarded the full recognition that he deserved, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

In fact, SFC Pele's combat record reminds me of some 52 recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross Award that were presented to the Japanese-American soldiers who fought in Europe during World War II. There was only one Medal of Honor awarded to the brave Japanese-American soldiers who sacrificed so much during World War II, despite the tremendous amount of bigotry and racism brought against these Japanese-American Citizens.

As I recall, in 1996, Senator Daniel Akaka authored a provision in the Defense Authorization Act mandating a review of the service records of the 52 recipients who received the Distinguished Service Cross. As a result, 19 additional Medals of Honor were awarded to our Japanese-American veterans including Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii.

I believe that SFC Pele's record is very similar to that of our Japanese-American veterans and I feel that it is only appropriate to request the Department of Defense to review his actions during the Vietnam War and it is my intention to consult closely with Senator Daniel Akaka on this matter. We will explore all options on how best to reexamine SFC Pele's war record, and see if he should be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

At the same time, I am also recommending that our new Army Reserve Center be named in honor of SFC Pele. SFC Pele lived his life to the fullest and represented all seven values of the United States Army including loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. For his commitment to God and country, for his example to you and me, I am hopeful that the U.S. Army will recognize his distinguished service and name the new Army Reserve Center in his honor, Congressman Faleomavaega concluded.

[Press Release, June 30, 2006]

**NEW U.S. ARMY RESERVE CENTER IN AMERICAN SAMOA WILL BE NAMED IN HONOR OF SAMOAN SOLDIERS**

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that the new U.S. Army Reserve Center in American Samoa will be named in honor of Sergeant First Class Konelio Pele and Staff Sergeant Frank F. Tiai.

The U.S. Army Reserve Center will be named in honor of the late SFC Konelio Pele who served in three major wars and was awarded the Silver Star, the third highest medal for valor during the Vietnam War. SFC Pele is also a recipient of the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, and three Combat Infantryman Badges.

The Maintenance Storage Facility of the Army Reserve Center will be named in honor of the late SSG Frank Tiai, a member of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, who was killed in July 2005 while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. SSG Tiai was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart medals.

Congressman Faleomavaega and the American Samoa Veterans of Foreign Wars both recommended to the U.S. Army that the newly built Army Reserve Center be named after Sergeant First Class Konelio Pele.

I am pleased the U.S. Army accepted our recommendation to name the Army Reserve Center after SFC Konelio Pele in recognition of his distinguished service, said Congressman Faleomavaega. To my knowledge, SFC Pele's Silver Star is the highest award received by any Samoan for courageous valor in the field of battle.

I am also pleased the U.S. Army decided to name the Maintenance Storage Facility after SSG Frank Tiai who as I recall, was the first local reservist from American Samoa to die in the war in Iraq.

Both war heroes have served our country with utmost dedication and honor. They are a great example of the determination and selfless service of our many Samoan sons and daughters who have served or are currently serving in the military today.

The dedication ceremonies are scheduled for Saturday, July 15, 2006 at the new Tafuna facility. Congressman Faleomavaega and Governor Togiola are both invited to the ceremonies. At this moment, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the U.S. Army for its commitment to American Samoa. Most of all, I want to thank all Samoans in the military and their families for their sacrifices and service to our country, concluded Faleomavaega.

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAMTRAMCK FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 3, 2014*

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first responders of the Hamtramck Fire Department (HFD) as the community celebrates the department's centennial anniversary. This historic milestone in HFD's history is a testament to the thirty-one brave men of the department and their predecessors, who have made the safety of their community their livelihood.

First responders are a critical part of communities across our nation—dedicated individuals who are putting themselves in harm's way to ensure the safety of our communities. For the HFD, the roots of this deep commitment to its community extend all the way back to 1857, before Hamtramck was even incorporated as a village. It was then that the Hamtramck Spouters first organized and formed the Spouters Company Number Eleven. Forged with a mission of protecting the citizens of Hamtramck and their property, it formally became the Hamtramck Fire Department in 1914, and has diligently dedicated itself to fulfilling its mission.

Like all first responders, the HFD provides support and protection to the residents of its community in their moments of greatest need. This support and protection includes: responding to fire emergencies, preventing fires, mitigating hazardous situations, investigating fire emergencies for potential arson and providing emergency medical services—in 2011, the HFD responded to over 3,000 emergencies.

As the HFD has grown, it has continued to obtain and incorporate new technology, equipment and training, to strengthen its ability to protect the community. All of these resources, along with those of neighboring fire departments in Detroit and Highland Park, were put to the test on August 6, 1984, when the HFD responded to a five-alarm industrial fire. The HFD and the other responding departments were instrumental in containing this fire and preventing its spread to neighboring residences and properties. It serves as a poignant example of the important role of first respond-

ers in protecting the safety of our communities.

For the firefighters of the HFD, their commitment and dedication to their community are principles which motivate their actions, both in their first responders' duties and in the other endeavors they lead to strengthen Hamtramck. These efforts include: raising funds to support breast cancer research, leading community clean-up days and providing the support necessary for Hamtramck to hold Independence Day festivities for its residents.

Mr. Speaker, our first responders deserve our admiration, our respect and our unending gratitude for the incredible responsibility they shoulder on a daily basis. They provide the security and protection that help bind our communities together, both in their official duties and their volunteer endeavors, which are often focused on supporting the members of our communities that are most in-need. It is my honor to congratulate and thank Fire Chief Paul Wilk, the firefighters of the Hamtramck Fire Department and their families who support them, for the incredible impact they have made and continue to make on their community. The centennial of the HFD is a significant milestone in its history and I wish all of its firefighters and their families continued success and safety in their endeavor to protect the residents of Hamtramck.

**TED AND FRANI BICKART**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 3, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ted and Frani Bickart for receiving the 2014 City of Golden Mayor's Award of Excellence.

The City of Golden honors Ted and Frani Bickart for their service to the Golden community, specifically their support of Golden's culture, civics and students. Ted served as President of the Colorado School of Mines from 1998 to 2000. During that time and after, Ted and Frani devoted themselves to deepening the town-and-gown bond and to enriching Golden's quality of life. Today Ted serves as chair of the Golden Urban Renewal Authority and devotes time to high school and university education issues. Frani has been chair of the Jefferson Symphony Orchestra Board and the Symphony International Young Artists Competition, as well as a longtime volunteer for the Foothills Art Center, Golden History Museums, and Golden Fortnightly Club.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ted and Frani Bickart for this well-deserved recognition by the City of Golden.

**TRIBUTE TO JAMES ALLEN, A HERO TO OUR COMMUNITY**

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 3, 2014*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in tribute to a very important and influential citizen of this Good Nation, Mr. James Allen. Mr. Allen has recently stepped down as Executive

Director and CEO of the Addict Rehabilitation Center (ARC) which began in 1957, at first as a small day program which met in the Manhattan Christian Reform Church. Mr. Allen is an inspiring man who has brought much needed assistance, love, and care to the addicts of our community, taking the steps to bring them back into the folds of society.

Even without his accomplishments in terms of giving back to the world, Mr. Allen's personal story of struggle and growth is enough in itself to merit this tribute. Mr. Allen was himself a heroin addict, and had pushed away his family, friends, and all of his emotions in order to maintain his negative relationship with his drug of choice. After ten years of hopelessness and lack of connection with the world around him, Mr. Allen made the toughest decision addicts are faced with: to get help for his problem. He had the support of his wife, Mary, who pushed him to join a treatment facility in Kentucky. It was there that Allen overcame his previous anger and contempt for religion, and he began to pray to God to help him through his struggle. With an amount of work unimaginable to those who have never dealt with addiction, Allen overcame his dependence on heroin. His journey is an inspiring one, and I am honored to call Mr. Allen my friend.

Yet Mr. Allen's fight did not end here. In addition to facing the daily battles recovered addicts must face throughout their lives, Mr. Allen took the next step to help others dealing with similar struggles. His life crossed paths with that of another dear friend and civil rights leader, the late Reverend Dr. Eugene S. Callender of the Manhattan Christian Reform Church, and he immediately volunteered to assist the Reverend with a church-sponsored narcotics rehabilitation program. Since that day, Mr. Allen has not paused in his goal of helping other addicts change their lives around. As founder of the Addict Rehabilitation Center, he transformed the small church-funded program into a successful, far-reaching organization. Under Allen's loving and committed leadership, ARC has served thousands of people dealing with substance abuse, and the hope he brought to these people's lives will forever remain in their hearts.

#### HISTORICAL RECORD ON PASSAGE OF AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND RELATED HEALTHCARE FUNDING IN AMERICAN SAMOA

##### HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 3, 2014*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information on the passage of the Affordable Care Act and related healthcare funding in American Samoa.

[Press Release, Mar. 25, 2010]

HOUSE PASSES FINAL VERSION OF HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION, INCLUDES INCREASE IN MEDICAID AND HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE FOR AMERICAN SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that by a vote of 220-207 the U.S. House of Representatives passed the final version of H.R. 4872, the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. The bill now goes to President Obama for signature.

"As a result of this historic legislation, for the next 9 years American Samoa will receive an increase of \$180 million in its total Medicaid spending cap for a total of \$285.5 million," Faleomavaega said. "American Samoa will continue to receive the 5% increase in its Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) that was signed into law by the President this past Tuesday. This means that the American Samoa Government (ASG) will pay 45% of the Medicaid costs while the federal government pays 55%."

"This legislation continues to provide \$1 billion for the Territories to participate in the Health Insurance Exchange program. Each of the Territories will be afforded the option to participate or transfer their allocation to their Medicaid program. In this case, if American Samoa chooses not to participate in the Exchange by 2014, the Territory will receive an additional \$18.75 million for its Medicaid program."

"Between 2004 and 2008, ASG has received an estimated \$106 million in direct and indirect federal grant funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As you may know, ASG receives an additional \$23 million per year from the federal government for the operations of its local government. ASG continues to be the only State or Territory that receives federal funding for the operation of its local government and more than \$7 million per year of these operating funds, provided by the Department of Interior, are allocated for LBJ and healthcare in the Territory."

"With the hundreds of millions provided to ASG from the federal government for healthcare in American Samoa, I have every confidence that the Fono, together with the local administration, will work to establish a solid program in place for our residents who deserve affordable quality healthcare under the law."

"Again, I want to thank President Obama and those involved for making health care affordable for all Americans and for working with the Congressional Delegates to make certain that the Territories were included in this historic legislation," Faleomavaega concluded.

[Press Release, Apr. 30, 2012]

#### FALEOMAVAEGA STANDS WITH DEMOCRATIC COLLEAGUES TO FIGHT FOR TERRITORY'S MEDICAID FUNDING

Congressman Faleomavaega today announced that he will continue to work with his Democratic colleagues in Congress to ensure that critical funding for American Samoa's Medicaid program is not affected by Republican proposals to significantly reduce federal healthcare funding for the five U.S. Territories.

The Republican proposed cuts to American Samoa's Medicaid program originated in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce which oversees healthcare issues. The legislation, put forward by Republican Chairman Fred Upton, seeks to repeal a provision of Affordable Care Act (ACA) that provided \$6.3 billion in additional funding for Medicaid in the territories from FY 2011 to FY 2019, and increased the territories' Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) from 50% to 55%. The proposal follows the Republican's own directive in the FY 2013 budget approved by the House last month that required the Energy and Commerce Committee to submit legislation to reduce the deficit by \$96.76 billion over the next decade.

In a letter to Chairman Fred Upton, dated April 20, 2012, Congressman Faleomavaega, along with his colleagues from the U.S. Territories, Pedro Pierluisi (Puerto Rico), Donna Christensen (U.S. Virgin Islands), Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), and Gregorio

"Kilili" Camacho Sablan (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), voiced their strong opposition to the proposed cuts. Another letter to Chairman Upton, dated April 25, 2012, from all Democratic members of the House Natural Resources Committee, led by Ranking Member Edward Markey and including Congressman Faleomavaega, denounced the Republican proposed legislation. Furthermore, Representative Donna Christensen of the U.S. Virgin Islands, a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, offered an amendment to block the Republican proposal in the Committee. But the amendment was defeated on a party-line vote of 30 to 21. The bill passed in Committee on April 25, 2012 and is expected to be considered by the full House in the coming weeks.

"While I understand the need for fiscal reform and the important work we must do in Congress to reduce the deficit, I do not believe that any budget alternative should be taken out on America's most vulnerable populations," Congressman Faleomavaega stated.

"The residents of the five U.S. Territories, numbering more than 4 million, have historically received unequal treatment under the Medicaid program in comparison to the States. For example, some of the country's poorest states receive upwards of 80 percent in their federal matching requirement (FMAP) for Medicaid and do not have a mandated funding cap on their Medicaid program. The Affordable Care Act, passed in 2010 without a single Republican vote, sought to address some of these disparities. While it did not fully close the inequality gap, it did provide a major step forward for the Territories. Out of the \$6.3 billion in additional funding to the Territories, the ACA increased American Samoa's Medicaid funding to a total of \$285.5 million over the nine year period from FY 2011-FY 2019, compared to \$105 million without the legislation."

"The Affordable Care Act was a major step forward for American Samoa and the U.S. Territories, but this Republican bill only seeks to reverse our progress towards equality under the Medicaid program. If this bill were to be enacted, American Samoa's FY 2012 funding cap of approximately \$28 million will revert back to a pre-ACA ceiling of approximately \$10.6 million next year," said Congressman Faleomavaega.

"At this time, I, along with my fellow Territorial delegates will continue to work hard to ensure that this bill does not become law. It is highly unlikely that the Senate will pass or the President will sign into law such a bill that would repeal such important funding for our Territories."

"As stated in our joint Territorial letter to Chairman Upton, this proposal has sent 'a terrible message of exclusion to our constituents' by proposing to cut every single dollar of our new funding under the Affordable Care Act. The President's Administration has offered several alternatives to deficit reduction, and like my Democratic colleagues from the Territories as well as our Territorial governors, I do not believe that taking important funding away from our needy healthcare systems in the Territories is a good solution to the deficit."

"I thank my colleagues for their tireless advocacy on behalf of more than 4 million residents in the U.S. Territories, and I ensure the people of American Samoa that we will continue to fight hard to protect the Territory's Medicaid funding," Faleomavaega concluded.