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 of the recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross Award that were presented to the Japanese 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 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 record during the Vietnam War. And it is my intention to consult closely with Senator Daniel Akaka on this matter. We will explore all options to have best to re-examine SFC Pele’s 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 U.S. 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 SFC PELE, AHERO TO OUR COMMUNITY

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

The U.S. Army Reserve Center will be named in honor of the late SFC Konelo 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, the Purple Heart, and three Combat Infantryman Badges.

The Maintenance Storage Facility of the Army Reserve Center will be named in honor of the late SFC Tiai, a member of the 100th Battalion, 422nd 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 Konelo Pele.

I am pleased the U.S. Army accepted our recommendation to name the Army Reserve Center after SFC Konelo Pele in recognition of his distinguished service, said Congressman Faleomavaega. To my knowledge, SFC Pele’s record 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.

Both war heroes have served our country with utmost dedication and honor. They are a great example of the determination and valor shown by Samoan residences 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. That the 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 fires, and fighting fires 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 expand and incorporate new technology, equipment, and training. It strengthens 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 worked together to contain this fire and preventing its spread to neighboring residences and properties. It serves as a poignant example of the important role of first responds-
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 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 hopeless-ness 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 unimagi-nable Mr. Allen 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 ad-dition to facing the daily battles recovered addicts 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 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 FUNDING 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. For American Samoa, the Medicaid program 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 also provides $1 billion for the Territories to participate in the Health Insurance Exchange program. Each of the Territories will be afforded the option to partake in the 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 $14.75 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 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 addition of millions provided from ASG to 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.


FALOMAVAEGA 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 forth by 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. As introduced, 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 re-form for America's most vulnerable populations," 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 50 states. For example, 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 pro-grams. American Samoa, in FY 2011-FY 2012, paid $23 million per year from the federal government, taking the steps to bring them back into the folds of society."

"Kilili" Camacho Sablan (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, offered an amendment to block the Republican proposal. 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 consid-ered by the full House in the coming weeks.

"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 to protect the Territory's Medicaid funding," Faleomavaega concluded.