

efforts to recognize those who play a vital role in the delivery of health care services in America.

Prior to World War II, hospitals were staffed by physicians, nurses, some specialists, and a few support personnel such as cooks and janitors. Health unit coordinator positions simply did not exist. Wartime casualties required that nurses and physicians receive support to answer phones and run errands. Before the arrival of such support personnel, many desk duties were interrupted or simply ignored until the arrival of floor clerks. This position evolved into what is today known as a health unit coordinator. Over the past half century, health unit coordinators have been known by more than 75 different titles.

We all must take responsibility for our health, but ultimately, our well-being depends on the cooperation and coordination that exists between the many individuals devoted to maintaining health. Doctors, nurses, dietitians, teachers, parents, and health unit coordinators all play important roles.

The National Association of Health Unit Coordinators has also been doing its part to improve the health of Americans. This professional organization advocates progressive changes in health care practice by providing a forum that encourages mutual exchange of ideas while advancing knowledge and technology in the health care field.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the profession is a proud milestone for health unit coordinators across the country. I urge my colleagues to join with me and the National Association of Health Unit Coordinators in recognizing August 23, 1995, as Health Unit Coordinator Day.

THE RURAL HEALTH
CONSOLIDATED GRANT ACT

HON. PAT WILLIAMS

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House will vote on an appropriations bill that drastically cuts the modest inroads that we have made toward alleviating the barriers our rural communities face in obtaining quality health care. The health services available in rural areas have suffered over the course of the last few decades from the centralizing effects of the marketplace and the desire of practitioners to specialize. Rural States rely on the small amount of Federal funds available to them to counteract these pulls and provide their residents with care.

Mr. Speaker, 55 million Americans—nearly one quarter of our Nation's population—live in rural areas, yet many of these folks find it difficult to obtain even the most basic health care services. Forty percent of rural Americans live in areas with fewer than one primary-care physician for every 3,500 residents. Rural hospitals are in financial jeopardy and rural communities are finding it difficult to recruit doctors and other practitioners. Rural areas are plagued by a shortage of physicians, hospitals, and clinics. As a result, many folks must travel long distances and often through harsh weather conditions to get care. This is a hardship on many rural Americans, especially the elderly and the poor.

Mr. Speaker, as I see it, we have two options: either first, hope that the Senate restores the funding that the House has cut from these small rural health programs; or second, plan for the future and offer an alternative approach that recognizes both the necessity of maintaining the small stream of funding that goes to rural health and the reality that the current set of disparate programs are too small and limited in scope to effectively and comprehensively address the problems facing rural America today.

Today I am introducing legislation that finds that middle ground. My bill is the result of countless discussions with rural residents, doctors, nurses, hospitals, and policymakers. It reflects the lessons they've learned and the experiences they've had with breaking through the chronic isolation that plagues rural America to provide care to its residents.

My bill provides a new direction for rural health. It creates a single program aimed at enabling rural communities to develop their own sustainable health care delivery systems. Furthermore, it reaffirms that providing health care to underserved rural Americans is and will remain a priority.

Mr. Speaker, no community is viable without health care. Folks need to be healthy in order to go to work, pay taxes, attend school, and raise a family. That is why the decision to live in a rural area must not be a decision to accept inferior health care. Access to care in rural America is critical for both our local rural economies as well as the health of each individual rural American.

HONORING LINDA GALLIGAN-ROY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a strong and devoted woman, Ms. Linda Galligan-Roy. Ms. Roy serves as a role model for each of us seeking to improve ourself and our community.

As a young widow battling a drug addiction, Ms. Roy has stood firm in the face of challenge. She has set difficult goals and has accomplished them through hard work and untiring dedication. Dubbed the "Concrete Queen," Ms. Roy excels in the male-dominated field of construction work. While building houses, Ms. Roy breaks down the barriers women face in society. Her passion makes her strong and her determination makes her capable.

Ms. Roy has overcome tremendous personal challenges in addition to her professional success. At age 15, her mother's death forced her to leave school and enter the working world to help her father care for her younger siblings. Today she continues to demonstrate zestful spirit and strength: recovering from her dependency on drugs, she aspires to be a writer and plans to enroll in college.

Ms. Roy not only hopes and strives to better herself but also to share what she has learned with others. She has written about many of her life experiences, from her love of construction work to the devastating effect that drugs had on her life. In a piece entitled "A Knock on the Window," she describes the horror of

substance addiction with vivid reality. As she expressed in a letter to me, her goal is to stop at least one person from developing a drug addiction. I admire and salute both her selflessness and its potential.

It is people like Ms. Roy who are leading the way for other women and men who seek new opportunities. Her perseverance is inspirational; she leads by example. Mr. Speaker, I know the sacrifices and commitment necessary to accomplish all that this woman has, and I ask you to join with me in honoring Ms. Linda Galligan-Roy.

THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF 2D LT.
EDWARD C. DAHLGREN IN
WORLD WAR II

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to speak today about an exceptional Mainer who served this country with great honor and courage during one of history's most terrifying wars, World War II.

To complete his mission in the face of insurmountable odds, 2d Lt. Edward C. Dahlgren exhibited uncommon courage and skill. He was awarded this country's highest form of gratitude, the Congressional Medal of Honor. I would like to honor him again as the 50th anniversary of World War II draws near.

Second Lieutenant Dahlgren was the commander of the 3d Platoon that was charged with rescuing another American unit that was surrounded by the Germans in Oberhoffen, France. Lieutenant Dahlgren risked almost certain death to draw fire away from his fellow soldiers. He alone charged a fortified German position under heavy fire and fought his way into their building. Eight German soldiers surrendered. With his courage and skill, he alone attacked again—five more Germans surrendered. He attacked again—10 Germans surrendered, and again with another soldier—16 Germans surrendered. These heroic charges made by Lieutenant Dahlgren at fortified German strongholds resulted in the surrender of 49 Germans and the safety of the American platoons. Lieutenant Dahlgren truly earned this country's highest honor.

Maine has a long and proud tradition of sending brave soldiers to fight for freedom at home and abroad. These men have exhibited enormous skill and unbreakable courage in the face of death. From Joshua Chamberlain in the Civil War through Gary Gordon in Somalia and countless numbers in between, Maine patriots have fought so that others might live free.

I am proud of Lieutenant Dahlgren for all that he has given to the world. He fought not only for America, but to rid the world from one of the most dangerous threats it had ever known, the Axis powers. The efforts of Lieutenant Dahlgren and his troops helped liberate Europe from the deadly grip of Nazism. This country and the world will never forget his sacrifice.