

results continue to be unsatisfactory. According to the GAO (March 19, 1996), " * * * although RPM lets VA identify inequities in resource distribution, VA has, so far, chosen not to use the system, to help ensure that resources are distributed more equitably."

In an April 13 interview with Florida Today, Department of Veterans Affairs Under Secretary for Health Kenneth Kizer admitted what the veterans in Florida, Georgia, Arizona, Nevada, North Carolina, Virginia, Washington, South Carolina, New Mexico, Hawaii, Alaska, New Hampshire, Colorado, Maine, and Vermont already know. In commenting about the current state of the VA health care system, Kizer observed, "Are resources equitably allocated in the VA now? The answer is no."

The facts speak for themselves. For example, between 1980 and 1990, my home State of Florida experienced an explosion of growth in its veterans population—a net increase of almost 350,000 veterans, or 96 veterans per day. In contrast, between 1985 and 1990, the VA's budget allocation in the southern region—which includes Florida—showed no increase.

Some States carry an unfair financial burden. While some may disagree about the cause of the veterans influx into various States, many agree, and the facts support, that some States shoulder the burden more than others. During debate of the fiscal year 1996 VA—HUD-independent agencies appropriations, Representative LEWIS of California also agreed and stated, in our colloquy on the House floor, that the committee "has long been concerned about the VA's resource methodology," and he recognized that there was an "uneven access to VA care."

In March, Senators GRAHAM and MCCAIN attempted to address this problem by offering an amendment to the fiscal year 1996 omnibus appropriations bill (H.R. 3019) which called for more equitable distribution of money based on where veterans live when they receive care. Unfortunately, this provision was stripped from H.R. 3019 in conference.

Requiring the VA to develop a plan to reallocate resources makes good sense—which is why I support H.R. 3376. Nevertheless, it does not go far enough. Congress needs to do more than ask for additional resource reallocation plans and, instead, compel the VA to implement those in which they have already invested. That is why on April 25 I introduced legislation (H.R. 3346) which would require the VA to develop a plan to link the allocation of its resources to facility workloads. This measure would require the VA to operate within the new 22 veterans integrated service networks [VISNs] and based on the RPM system—in which the VA has already invested a great deal of time and money. Moreover, H.R. 3346 would require the Secretary to implement the plan within 60 days of submitting it to Congress.

While the provisions in H.R. 3376 relating to resource allocation differ slightly from H.R. 3346, they are certainly a movement in the right direction. But, I urge Congress to go wholeheartedly in that direction and give our Nation's veterans the health care they deserve. Addressing the chronic under-funding and fiscal inequities which exists in veterans' health care should be one of our utmost responsibilities.

TRIBUTE TO LT. GEN. HOWARD D. GRAVES

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 1996

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, the retirement of Lt. Gen. Howard D. Graves, 54th Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point is announced with deep appreciation for and pride in his distinguished career of more than 35 years.

Lieutenant General Graves has concluded his career by making important contributions in the arena of strategic defense of the Nation as well as in the all-important area of developing military leaders for the next century. His outstanding leadership, his wisdom, his clear vision for the future, and his strength of character, all contributed to General Graves exceptional impact on the American profession of arms. His creativity and enthusiasm supported an outstanding performance of duty throughout a career that reflects the highest traditions of the U.S. Army.

Commissioned a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers upon graduation from the Military Academy in 1961, he began a career that took him through numerous and challenging command, staff, and academic positions, culminating in his assignment as Superintendent of the Military Academy. Those assignments have included overseas tours of duty in the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, and Germany; plus several tours of duty in Washington, DC. They have been among the most demanding positions in the U.S. Army, and his performance has been uniformly exceptional, representing the finest of the commissioned officer corps.

Selected as a Rhodes Scholar while at the Military Academy, General Graves earned a master of arts degree in international relations from St. Johns College, Oxford University in 1994. During his first active Army assignment, he commanded Company A, 307th Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade, 82d Airborne Division in 1965 to 1966, for which he was cited for his professionalism and leadership during ground combat against an armed enemy in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. His successful command led to selection as operations officer and later Assistant Chief of Staff of the 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC, from 1966 to 1967.

General Graves was chosen to return to Oxford University in 1968, where he began work on a master of literature degree in modern history.

Subsequently, he was assigned as operations officer of the 8th Engineer Battalion (Airmobile), and later assistant division engineer, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in the Republic of Vietnam. While in that combat environment, General Graves was cited for his exemplary professionalism and initiative, and his professional competence and outstanding achievement. Subsequently, General Graves was selected to attend the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS, and was next assigned to the faculty of the U.S. Military Academy from 1970 to 1973, working as associate professor, executive officer, and assistant professor of the Department of Social Sciences.

Demonstrating his extraordinary ability, General Graves was assigned to Washington,

DC., as Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense from June 1974 to November 1975. During that period he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and selected to command the 54th Engineer Battalion, V Corps, U.S. Army Europe from 1976 to 1978, earning praise for making that battalion the best in the 130th Engineer Brigade. Following battalion command, he attended the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA, and continued serving as special assistant to the deputy commandant of the War College.

From February 1980 until June 1982, General Graves commanded the 20th Engineer Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, NC. Then, from July 1982 to July 1983, he served as assistant division commander (Support), 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS. In July 1983 he became Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, U.S. Army Forces Command, Fort McPherson, GA until July 1984.

Promoted to brigadier general, he was assigned to Washington, DC, in July 1984 in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, where he served as Deputy Director, Strategy, Plans and Policy Directorate, with additional duty as Assistant Army Operations Deputy, Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Cited for his significant contributions on critical and sensitive issues of national security policy, national military strategy, and Army plans and policies, he demonstrated totally selfless service and his complete dedication.

General Graves exceptional ability led to his selection as Vice Director of the Joint Staff, Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, where he served from August 1986 to October 1987. He was promoted to major general and assigned as Commandant, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA, in 1987. While there, he contributed to the Army and the Nation by initiating important improvements in the curriculum and by developing and mentoring the Army's senior leaders.

In July 1989, General Graves was promoted to lieutenant general and named Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In that position he was principal advisor to the chairman and served the Nation in the highest level diplomatic negotiations before, during, and after Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, working closely with the Secretary of State. He was recognized by all who worked with him for his loyalty, leadership, personal integrity, and professional competence.

As a result of a career of exceptional service to the Army and the Nation, he was selected to be Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, an assignment that has demanded gifted leadership, intellect, and character. With his guidance, the Military Academy staff continued to develop and improve its performance, while General Graves has been instrumental in influencing critical support from and promoting positive relationships with West Point's diverse constituencies, including Congressional and Department of Defense leadership, outside organizations, graduates and friends of the Academy, and parents of cadets. His success in achieving economies and efficiencies, particularly in moving forward the multimillion dollar revitalization projects so critical to the future of the facilities master plan, has helped to ensure the continuation of the Academy's role as the world's premier leader development institution. His energetic, personable, and cooperative approach has created a spirit of trust, reflecting

his belief in honor and consideration of others as bedrock leader values.

Lt. Gen. Howard D. Graves is dedicated to excellence and service to America in the profession of arms. Throughout his long and distinguished career, he has truly personified the excellence, spirit, and dedication of the soldier-scholar. His faithful service, integrity, firm commitment, and outstanding contributions to our Army and the Nation are a legacy of great value.

Lieutenant General Graves' many friends and fellow soldiers join together in wishing him peace, happiness, and continued success in all his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 1996

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday June 5, 1996, due to a series of canceled and delayed flights, I regrettably missed a series of rollcall votes which occurred as I was returning from the Third District of Colorado.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 214, I was inadvertently detained and was not recorded.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
GAYLORD, MI

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 1996

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to announce the 50th anniversary of organization of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Gaylord, MI. Lutheran services have been held in Gaylord and the vicinity since July 16, 1933. Pastors from neighboring towns such as Boyne City and Cheboygen led the congregation until 1946 when Rev. Elmer Scheck settled in Gaylord and became a permanent pastor for the church.

On March 3, 1946, the congregation adopted a formal constitution affiliating their membership with the Confessional Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Along with the formal constitution came the need for a permanent building. The white log church, as it came to be known, was erected in 1947-1948 for \$10,000 plus donated labor. The congregation eventually outgrew the white log church and a new building was constructed in 1973-1974. In 1994 an addition was built to house the Sunday school classrooms and the congregation remains in the renovated building today.

In 1979, Trinity Lutheran Church began a preschool. Although most of the students are

not from the congregation the school promotes a positive Christian emphasis and atmosphere for its students and their families.

Over the past fifty years many pastors have served the Trinity Lutheran Church of Gaylord. In 1994, the congregation built a new addition and named it after the Rev. Richard T. Noffze who was an interim pastor throughout the years at Trinity Lutheran. The current pastor is Rev. James F. Haenftling.

From each member of this congregation, past and present, to each pastor, from Reverend Noffze to Reverend Haenftling, the one thought that has prevailed as the Trinity Lutheran Church grew is found in Romans 12:5: "So in Christ, we who are many, form one Body."

The many citizens of the Gaylord community have provided 50 years of spiritual guidance and community fellowship to form one body, the Trinity Lutheran Church. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Trinity Lutheran Church on this, their golden anniversary.

REPRESENTATIVE SHERWOOD
BOEHLERT RELIEF FOR DAIRY
FARMERS

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 1996

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 181, which calls on Agriculture Secretary Glickman to authorize the release of 200 million dollars' worth of grain reserves. This should bring some much-needed relief to farmers from across the country whose livelihoods are threatened by the worst drought in more than 100 years, coupled with the lowest livestock prices in 20 years.

One generally thinks only of the Midwest and South, when there is a severe drought and low cattle prices, but in my neck of the woods—the Northeast—we are among the first to feel the effects of these disasters.

It is my dairy farmers who must import most of their feed grain from the Midwest and South. When supplies are tight, as they are now, my farmers must pay incredibly high prices, if they can purchase feed at all.

Also, most people don't realize that a majority of hamburg comes from dairy cows, not beef cattle—and this process represents more than 20 percent of the dairy farmer's income. So when the livestock prices are so low, and feed prices are so high—dairy farmers face a double hit.

As chairman of the Northeast Agriculture Caucus, and a Member who proudly represents more than 2,700 dairy farmers, I would like to thank Mr. Barrett and the Agriculture Committee for introducing this bill, and I urge its adoption for the good of our Nation's farmers.

TRIBUTE TO THE SCHOOL FOR
STRINGS

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 1996

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of New York's first and largest Suzuki-based music school, The School for Strings, on its 25th anniversary. The school, which is located in my district, is celebrating this momentous occasion with a soldout Carnegie Hall concert on June 14. I would like to commend the School for Strings for its commitment to the musical education of New York's children. With the School for Strings, the musical opportunities previously offered solely to child prodigies are offered to many other youngsters, including those who cannot afford lessons. The music education provided by the School for Strings is not limited only to students—of equal importance, the school provides a program for training teachers. The comprehensive offering of musical programs that the School for Strings provides to New York citizens has been consistently excellent, and I would like to recognize the tremendous contribution the School for Strings has made to music and its vital role in education.

THE POSTAL SERVICE AND THE
CITY OF EAST ORANGE—PART-
NERS IN PROGRESS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 1996

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues, an extraordinary partnership between the city of East Orange and the post office that serves its residents.

The people of East Orange are just proud of their heritage as one of the cleanest cities in America. Unfortunately, as in so many other communities, buildings and structures in East Orange have become the targets of senseless disfigurement by thoughtless vandals leaving an unwelcome trail of graffiti.

Mayor Cardell Cooper and Postmaster Henry Smiley have joined forces to help bring the sparkle back to East Orange. Their joint effort, part of a larger citywide project to eliminate graffiti, will result in the repainting of all 260 mail collection boxes in that city. The Postal Service will be providing free paint and brushes. Participants in the City's General Assistance Employability Program will do the painting.

While this project will have mail and relay boxes looking as good as new, the Postal Service' East Orange Service Team is planning beyond that. Local residents and businesses will have the opportunity to "Adopt a Box," receiving a special certificate and the supplies necessary to keep the mailboxes they adopt free of graffiti.

Fifty gallons of blue and green paint may not sound like much, when spread over a city that is home to 75,000 people, but it can make a big difference. A single coat of paint can make a shopper feel welcome, a visitor feel at