

streamlining offices while maintaining the quality of prison maintenance at the El Reno facility, Warden Flowers has saved taxpayers \$850,000 in operating expenses.

Under his direction, the El Reno Facility has worked with several state and federal law enforcement agencies to improve the quality of law enforcement. For example, Warden Flowers worked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to construct a badly-needed pistol range on Bureau of Prisons property, therefore allowing both FBI agents and state correctional officers to use the new facility to improve their training.

Perhaps Warden Flowers' most important accomplishment is his work to help prisoners rehabilitate themselves, to cut down on the rate of repeat offenders. He has worked with several youth crime prevention initiatives, public, private and religious in nature. Warden Flowers realizes the best way to prevent crime is to give kids a positive influence and spiritual guidance at an early age.

Dedicated correctional officers like Warden Arnett Flowers play an integral role in maintaining law and order in our society. All Americans should appreciate the efforts of the hard-working correctional officers across our country who help keep violent offenders behind bars and who work tirelessly to keep our families safe.

HONORING DR. CLIFFORD SMITH

### HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 1998*

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, many people in this chamber are aware of my commitment to improving access to health care for rural residents. A doctor who practices in my district, Dr. Clifford Smith, was recently honored by the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) as the NRHA Rural Practitioner of the Year. He will officially receive this award tomorrow, May 15, 1998.

Dr. Smith was raised in my district, and I am pleased that he decided to remain in a rural area to practice medicine. I am wish to congratulate Dr. Smith for this fine achievement. I am honored to submit an article from the April 15, 1998 edition of the Monona Billboard which describes Dr. Smith's commitment to his patients.

I am grateful for the many years of service that Dr. Smith has provided to my constituents.

DR. SMITH NAMED NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER

McGregor physician Dr. Clifford Smith has been selected as the 1998 National Rural Health Care Association Rural Practitioner of the Year. He will receive the award during the NRHA's 21st annual National Conference May 15, at Orlando, Fla.

Dr. Smith has practiced medicine in north-east Iowa and southwest Wisconsin since coming to McGregor in 1962. He first practiced at the McGregor Hospital. In 1963, he moved his office to 626 Main Street in McGregor and in 1979 the clinic was built. Dr. Smith became affiliated with Gundersen 1987. Dr. Smith also comes to the Monona Gundersen clinic.

Smith was raised in Waterloo and decided as a youngster that he wanted to become a

doctor. His plans were temporarily sidelined by World War II when he joined the Army with hopes of becoming a fighter pilot. He was a member of the famous Tuskegee Airmen, the first squadron of black American pilots to be allowed to fight for their country.

Returning to Iowa he attended the University of Iowa and went to Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tenn. He worked in New Jersey for four years before starting his practice in McGregor.

In the nomination sent to the National Rural Health Care Association by Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital and the Smith Gundersen McGregor Clinic staff, several stories are related to Dr. Smith's compassion and bedside manner.

Until his affiliation with Gundersen, Dr. Smith was known to accept bartering in exchange for care when the patient could not afford to pay.

He always carries his black bag and continues to make house calls to patients unable to come to the clinic.

Jean Bacon, RNC of Monona, has worked with Dr. Smith since his first day in McGregor. Today as Memorial Hospital's Emergency Department Clinical Coordinator, she still works with him. She says "Dr. Smith has been my family physician since he moved to this area. My family dearly loves him as do all of his patients. When my children were young they spoke of him as being really cool." She adds, "He is respected for his knowledge, but even more so for his compassion, caring and leadership as a role model."

Ellen Nierling, RNC, education director at Memorial Hospital, recalled a particularly busy night at the hospital working with Dr. Smith that left them both wondering at their career choices, but the following day Dr. Smith said, "It feels great when you know you make a difference in a patient's life."

Marilu Benz MD, Chief of Surgery and Chief of Staff at Memorial Hospital, states, "Dr. Smith is always willing to lend encouragement to hospital staff, and has a talent for bringing out the best in all of us. Our lives are truly enriched by his fine examples of devotion, compassion and dedication."

Dr. Smith is looking forward to the trip to Orlando. He says he has never been any place like it and, it should be fun.

His patients are proud of his national recognition, but they are even happier that even at 72, he is still there when they need him.

### BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

### HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 1998*

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of H.R. 2829, the "Bulletproof Vest partnership Grant Act of 1998." I would like to thank my friend from Indiana Congressman Visclosky, and my friend from New Jersey Congressman LoBiondo, for bringing this long overdue and much needed bill to the floor of the House. Times have changed and we must pass H.R. 2829 in order to protect the men and women who risk their lives everyday for our safety. The bulletproof vests of 15 or 20 years ago are no longer adequate protection. The passage of this bill would authorize

up to twenty-five million dollars a year for a new matching grant program to help state and local law enforcement departments purchase new bulletproof vests and body armor. The new body armor today is thinner, lighter and offers more protection. The vests can even be fitted with additional plates for even extra protection.

The bill would also give preference in awarding grants to jurisdictions where officers do not currently have vests. The grants will be sent directly to the agencies that apply for them, resulting in the officers getting their new vests and body armor that much quicker. From 1987 to 1996, 637 officers were feloniously killed by a firearm. Of that figure, 393 officers, roughly 62 percent, were not wearing a bulletproof vest or body armor when they were shot.

Every police officer and correctional officer in this country should have the protection of a bulletproof vest or body armor. This bill will go a long way in making that vision a reality. What better way to recognize national Police Week than by passing this legislation. Support H.R. 2829.

### PERSECUTION OF ASSYRIAN CHRISTIANS

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 1998*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to recognize the religious persecution and ethnic bigotry confronting the Assyrian Christian community in Eastern Turkey, Syria, Northern Iraq and Iran. As we consider the Freedom from Religious Persecution Act, I believe that the record should document our Nation's concern and commitment to stopping the violence and oppression facing the Assyrian people.

The Assyrian people have faced persecution throughout their history. As a religious and linguistic minority throughout the Near East, Assyrian Christians have long been the victims of violence and repression. Forced assimilation and gross brutality against this persevering people have occurred too often. From the murder of thousands of Assyrians by the Iraqi military in August of 1933, known as the Simele Massacre, to the recent attacks on Assyrian villages in Northern Iraq by Kurdish terrorist factions, the Assyrian people have and still continue to be the victims of violent persecution for their beliefs and values.

More than 30 Assyrians have been killed in Southeastern Turkey during the past three years. Assyrian Christians are caught in the escalating warfare that has long engulfed this crossroads at the head of two ancient rivers, the Tigris and Euphrates. The conditions facing Assyrian Christians continue to deteriorate. It is also clear that our nation must do more to protect the Assyrian people, their unique culture and their religious freedoms.

Reports of religious intolerance toward members of the Syriac Orthodox Church and the Church of the East have been documented by United Nations (UN) human rights observers. The education of young Assyrians about their history and the traditions of their ancestors has been prevented by national and local authorities across the region. This persecution threatens the ability of Assyrians to