

Germany on the infamous Kassel Mission, September 27, 1944. Parachuting to safety, he eluded capture for 6 days and was finally held as a Prisoner of War in Stalag Luft I, in Barth, Germany until the camp was liberated on May 11, 1945. Among Mr. Weinstein's commendations are the Purple Heart, the Air Medal, POW Medal, Presidential Citation, American Campaign and European Campaign Medals, WWII Victory Medal and the French Croix de Guerre.

Married to Norma Randall while still an Aviation Cadet, Mr. Weinstein returned to civilian life after the war and moved to Glencoe in 1952. As president of Schram Advertising Company he built the agency into a successful and respected force in direct mail and business to business advertising.

In addition to these public and professional accomplishments, privately Mr. Weinstein is proud to have celebrated more than 50 years of marriage to his wife Norma before her death several years ago, and prouder still to be the father of two adult daughters, Terri Weinstein, a noted Chicago interior designer, and Laura Temkin, President of Temkin & Temkin Advertising—as well as the doting grandfather to Ross and Max Temkin. Known throughout the community as a wonderful gardener and horticulture authority, Mr. Weinstein has been and continues to be a major contributor and active supporter of Women's American ORT, was a founding Member of Congregation Solel, and an avid supporter of the State of Israel. In addition, Mr. Weinstein is a lifetime Member of the 8th Air Force Historical Society and The Ex-POW Association, and an active member of the Kassel Mission Historical Assn., 2nd Air Div. Assn., Jewish War Veterans, Caterpillar Association. In retirement, Mr. Weinstein has become an outstanding golfer, accomplished world traveler and a builder of model historical aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Mr. Weinstein on his outstanding service to his nation and to his community. I am very proud to represent people of his caliber and devotion to America.

INTRODUCTION OF VETERANS' MILLENNIUM HEALTH CARE ACT

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce a bill adopted unanimously at markup this morning by the Subcommittee on Health of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

This important legislation tackles some of the major challenges facing the VA health care system. In doing so, it offers a blueprint to help position VA for the future, and I think it is appropriately titled the Veterans' Millennium Health Care Act.

Foremost among VA's challenges are the long-term care needs of aging veterans. For many among the World War II population, long term care has become as important as acute care. However the long-term care challenge has gone unanswered for too long. This legislation would squarely address this issue and would adopt some of the key recommendations of a blue-ribbon advisory committee, while going further to provide VA important

new tools to improve veterans' access to long term care.

Similarly, the bill tackles the challenge posed by a recent General Accounting Office audit which found that VA may spend billions of dollars in the next five years to operate unneeded buildings. In testimony before my Subcommittee, GAO stated that one of every four VA medical care dollars is spent in maintaining buildings rather than caring for patients. This is not just an abstract concern. It is no secret that VA is discussing closing hospitals. And in some locations, that may be appropriate. The point is that VA has closure authority and has already used it. In fact, we could expect closures of needed facilities under the disastrous budget submitted by the President this year.

This bill instead calls for a process to be sure that decisions on closing hospitals can only be made based on comprehensive studies and planning. That planning process must include the participation of veterans organizations and employee groups. In short, the bill sets numerous safeguards in place, and would specifically provide that VA cannot simply stop operating a hospital and walk away from its responsibilities to veterans. It must "re-invest" savings in a new, improved treatment facility or improved services in the area.

Overall, the bill has four central themes: (1) to provide new direction to address veterans' long-term care needs; (2) to expand veterans' access to care; (3) to close gaps in current eligibility law; and (4) to establish needed reforms to improve the VA health care system.

The bill's key provisions would:

(1) require VA to maintain its long-term care programs and to increase both home and community-based long-term care;

(2) mandate that VA provide needed long-term care for 50% service-connected veterans and veterans needing care for a service-related condition;

(3) require co-payments for long-term care for all other veterans, based on ability to pay and with such payments helping to support expanded services;

(4) establish limits and conditions for considering closure of VA medical centers or parts of medical centers (such as ceasing to provide acute hospital care at a VA medical center), and would require that VA re-invest savings from a closure to establish new outpatient facilities and other improved services in any affected area;

(5) authorize VA care of TRICARE-eligible military retirees who are not otherwise eligible for priority VA care, subject to DOD reimbursing VA, as well as provide specific authority for VA care of veterans who were injured in combat and earned the Purple Heart;

(6) authorize VA to pay reasonable emergency care costs for service-connected, low-income and other high priority veterans who have no health insurance or other medical coverage, and who rely on VA care;

(7) authorize VA to (a) increase the copayment on prescriptions drugs; and (b) establish reasonable copayments on other costly items provided for care of a nonservice-connected condition (subject to exemptions on copayments in existing law), and provide that these new revenues would help fund VA medical care;

(8) require that, if the Federal government prevails in a suit against tobacco companies to recover costs incurred by the Government

attributable to tobacco-related illnesses, VA shall retain the amount of such recovery attributable to VA's costs of providing such care for use in providing medical care and conducting research on such illnesses;

(9) reform the criteria for awarding grants for construction and remodeling of State veterans' homes;

(10) extend VA's authority to make grants to assist homeless veterans; and

(11) authorize the VA to carry out a three-year pilot program in up to four of VA's networks to provide primary care services (subject to reimbursement) to dependents of veterans.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill which major veterans groups have praised and endorsed. The work on it has been a real bipartisan effort. I urge Members to support it.

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE P. ROY FOR HIS SERVICE TO LABOR

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 4, men and women of a variety of union trades gathered in Marquette, Michigan to honor Wayne P. Roy, who retired from federal employment in 1998. Mr. Roy had served 11 years as the Apprenticeship and Training Representative, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, U.S. Department of Labor. His service area included the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, which makes up a large portion of my congressional district, and northern Wisconsin.

Prior to that, Wayne Roy worked for the Michigan State AFL-CIO's Labor Employment and Development Program as the Upper Peninsula coordinator for several years.

Those are the dry facts of Wayne Roy's employment, Mr. Speaker. They only hint at a lifetime of commitment to issues that affect the hardworking people of northern Michigan.

In fact, this dedication to union issues was a family tradition that began before his birth. Wayne's father George was a miner in the Upper Peninsula and an officer in his local union. Wayne's mother Delima was a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union and the Steelworkers Women's Auxiliary. It was only natural, therefore, that as a child Wayne would learn the importance of unions at his parents' side as he joined them at labor rallies and on picket lines.

After graduating from Gwinn High School, Wayne served a 4-year stint in the Navy until 1958, and then began a series of jobs that would give him membership in several unions. Through one job in Milwaukee, he joined the Chemical Workers, and then through a second he joined Teamsters Local 344, serving as part-time shop steward and committee member.

Returning to the Upper Peninsula, Wayne took a job with a mining company and became a member of Steelworkers Local 4950. In 1968 he joined Sheet Metal Workers Local 94, serving as the union's president for 9 years.

Wayne Roy's commitment to the labor movement led him to take positions with a variety of area civic and political groups, where he could broaden his effort on behalf of working men and women and find new ways to serve his community.