

as advances in pain management, cultural sensitivities toward final stages of life, organ donation, advance directives, and end-of-life care options and financing.

For more than a century, D.O.s have made a difference in the lives and health of my fellow citizens in southeast Ohio and all Americans. Overall, more than 100 million patient visits are made each year to D.O.s. As fully licensed physicians, D.O.s are committed to serving the needs of rural and underserved communities. That is why D.O.s make up 15 percent of the total physician population in towns of 10,000 or less.

Osteopathic physicians are certified in nearly 60 specialties and 33 subspecialties. They complete similar requirements set for M.D.s, and must complete and pass: four years of medical education at one of 19 osteopathic medical schools; a one-year internship; a multi-year residency; and a state medical board exam. Throughout this education, D.O.s are trained to understand how the musculoskeletal system influences the condition of all other body systems. Many patients want this extra education as a part of their health care. Individuals may call (866) 346-3236 to find a D.O. in their community.

In recognition of NOM Week, I congratulate the over 3,300 D.O.s in Ohio, the 416 students at Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine (located in my district), and the 47,000 D.O.s represented by the American Osteopathic Association for their contributions to the good health of the American people.

ON THE PASSING OF FORMER VIRGINIA CONGRESSMAN TOM DOWNING

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, we honor today the memory of Thomas Downing, a former member of Congress from the Tidewater area of Virginia who died October 23 at the age of 82. I join with fellow members of the Virginia congressional delegation in honoring Tommy Downing, who represented the Tidewater Peninsula for 18 years from 1959 to 1977.

While Congressman Downing's record of long public service and work in the House of Representatives preceded most of today's Members, including myself, the impact and achievements of his career will long be remembered. I would like to say a few words today to acknowledge the career of this dedicated public servant.

A graduate of Virginia Military Institute, Congressman Downing, who was an Army captain, led an Army reconnaissance team in World War II. On August 11, 1944, his unit in northern France was ambushed by the German troops. After the initial exchange of gunfire, two of his troops were injured. Congressman Downing immediately rescued them, and received the Silver Star, which said, "Captain Downing, without hesitation and with utter disregard for his personal safety, ran to the aid of his men among a hail of bullets."

Mr. Downing was first elected in 1958, and is especially remembered for his dedication to his district, especially Newport News Shipbuilding. He recognized early on the great

economic impact the Newport News shipyard had on his district and on the state of Virginia. During his tenure, the shipyard added the area known as the Northyard, making it easier and more cost-effective to build some of the largest ships in the world.

Congressman Downing is also remembered nationally for his work following the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. During the 94th Congress he served as the chairman of the select Committee on Assassinations.

Finally, Congressman Downing made significant achievements in strengthening and modernizing the U.S. Merchant Marine Service. As chair of the House Merchant Marine Subcommittee he helped craft major legislation to overhaul and modernize the merchant marines. The Merchant Marine Act of 1970 was a significant promotion of our national security interests.

In short, Congressman Downing served the Commonwealth of Virginia and the country with distinction. Again, on behalf of the entire House, we would extend our condolences on his family and friends. Our nation, the state of Virginia and the Tidewater Peninsula will truly miss him.

FORMER REPRESENTATIVE
THOMAS N. DOWNING

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to former Congressman Thomas N. Downing.

Tom represented Virginia's First Congressional District from 1959 to 1977. He represented part of what is now the First and Third Congressional Districts, and part, at one time, of the Second.

Tom began his public service career in the military. In 1940, he graduated from Virginia Military Institute. From 1942 to 1946, he served as the troop commander of the Mechanized Cavalry with Third United States Army and commanded the first troops in the Third Army to invade Germany. For his exemplary service involving the rescue of two of his men during a reconnaissance operation in Northern France, Tom was awarded the Silver Star. The citation accompanying the Silver Star read in part "Captain Downing, without hesitation, and with utter disregard for his personal safety, ran to the aid of his men among a hail of bullets."

After his service in the military, Tom would return to school to earn his law degree from the University of Virginia. He practiced law in Hampton for 11 years and also served as a substitute judge of the municipal court for the City of Warwick prior to his election to the Eighty-sixth Congress in 1958. He would serve eight succeeding Congresses with little opposition. While in Congress he was a member of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and the Space Science and Technology Committee.

During his career in Congress, he represented the Commonwealth and the First Congressional District with distinction. He worked to ensure the future of Newport News Shipyard and was instrumental in the yard's

acquisition of the North Yard for its expansion. As a senior lawmaker on the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, Tom had significant expertise in maritime issues and played a major role in crafting legislation.

On that Committee, he was a strong advocate of building a strong and modern U.S. Merchant Marine Service for this country's national security. Tom served as Chair of the Merchant Marine Subcommittee. As Chair, he presided over and helped to craft major legislation to overhaul and modernize the merchant marines. The Merchant Marine Act of 1970 was one of his signature pieces of legislation and was designed to renovate the American Merchant Navy by 1980.

In addition to his work on merchant marine issues on that Committee, he also played a prominent role in crafting legislation that sought to preserve the resources of our oceans and waterways. He played a leading role in the implementation of the Ocean Dumping Convention and in extending U.S. fishing rights to the 200 mile limit bill. He also played a role in crafting the Deep Water Port Act as well as legislation on deep sea bed mining. At the time of his retirement from the House, one of his colleagues called him the "premier expert on the problems of the Nation's maritime commerce and its commercial fisheries industry."

As the Chairman of the NASA Oversight Subcommittee of the then Space Science and Technology Committee, his interests in scientific research made him a national leader of the space effort. On that Subcommittee, he also represented the interests of NASA Langley Research Center located in Hampton, Virginia.

Tom Downing also made a gift to future generations of Virginians and North Carolinians through his efforts to create the Assateague Island National Seashore Park and the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

In the Ninety-Fourth Congress, his colleagues called upon him to chair the prominent Select Committee on Assassinations that launched new investigations into the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. He had been a leading critic of the Warren Commission and was the author of the 1976 legislation to re-open investigation into both cases. Even knowing of his retirement, his colleagues could think of no other Member who could have served in that post with his ability and integrity during the nation's time of turmoil.

As the dean of the Virginia Delegation at the time, Tom Downing helped to set the tone and tradition of our delegation today. He consistently sought and achieved joint action by Members of the delegation, irrespective of party affiliation, to deal with matters affecting the entire State. Today, we still honor that tradition and work together as a delegation to speak with one voice for Virginia's interests.

Even after his lengthy service in Congress, Tom Downing continued his commitment to public service. He served on the Board of Visitors of the Virginia Military Institute from 1985 to 1993 and served as President of the Board of Directors of The Mariners' Museum.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Downing served in this body as a true statesman and Virginia gentleman. He was a good friend to everyone on the Virginia Peninsula and he will be sorely missed.