

terrible conditions," she said. "He also wrote about how family letters were so important to him." Nancy thinks now there should be more opportunities to write to soldiers.

"I would love to write to those soldiers who are serving now," she said. "To let them know we're thinking of them, we're proud of them, and we support them."

Sharon Boehm said her younger son Keith entered the Marines right after high school graduation in 1980. His older brother, Kevin, was in the Navy at the time.

"I guess he just got in and decided he liked it," Sharon Boehm said. "He had been in ten years when the Gulf War came around and he stayed in afterwards."

On Friday, the two mothers met for the first time and showed each other photos of their sons. Then, Nancy Miller gave Keith Boehm's letter to his mother for safe-keeping.

"I think it was a very thoughtful letter for a soldier in the middle of a very difficult situation to write to a student," she said. "I know I'm proud of my son, and I know she (Sharon Boehm) is proud of her son."

INTRODUCING THE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK MEDICARE EQUITY ACT OF 2003

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I join with Representative LEACH and 18 other colleagues to introduce the Clinical Social Work Medicare Equity Act of 2003. Senator MIKULSKI is introducing the companion bill in the Senate. This legislation changes a provision in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 that omits Certified Social Workers, CSWs, from a list of clinical professionals allowed to directly bill through Medicare, Part B for mental health services provided to Medicare beneficiaries in skilled nursing facilities, SNFs. As a result of this omission, CSWs are the only Medicare-authorized mental health providers without this direct billing capability within the SNF setting.

Approximately 20 percent of seniors suffer from mental illness and the prevalence is higher in nursing home residents. These mental disorders interfere with the person's ability to carry out activities of daily living. They include major depression, anxiety, and severe cognitive impairment resulting from Alzheimer's disease. Furthermore, older people have the highest rate of suicide of any age group. Thus, access to mental health services for seniors in nursing homes is very important.

Unfortunately, the inability for CSWs to bill Medicare Part B in SNFs has the effect of excluding these highly skilled professionals from providing mental health services to this population. This is particularly problematic in rural and other medically underserved areas where other Medicare-authorized mental health providers such as psychiatrists and psychologists are often unavailable. The National Association of Social Workers, NASW, strongly supports this access enhancing legislation.

Clinical social workers are highly trained mental health professionals who have participated in the Medicare program since 1987. They constitute the single largest group of mental health providers in the nation. Until BBA'97, clinical social workers were able to bill Medicare directly for providing mental

health services to SNF residents, just like clinical psychologists and psychiatrists. Their current exclusion from this provider list is not defensible.

The ultimate victims of the current regulations are the vulnerable seniors who need mental health care. Mental health treatment works. Alzheimer's patients and their families can benefit enormously from psycho-education and counseling around how to cope and manage behavior problems. Research trials have repeatedly demonstrated that psychotherapy, either alone or in combination with medication, can be effective in treating depression and debilitating anxiety. Clinical social workers provide these important services and do so at a fraction of the cost of clinical psychologists and psychiatrists.

In summary, our legislation changes a billing mechanism that again makes it viable for CSWs to provide mental health services in skilled nursing facilities. As a result, our legislation helps to ensure ease of access to needed mental health services to the many Medicare beneficiaries who reside in skilled nursing facilities. The Clinical Social Work Medicare Equity Act is a small technical change to existing law, but it would have the effect of improving the lives of Medicare beneficiaries in nursing homes who are suffering from mental illness. We urge our colleagues to work with us to enact this important legislation this year.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS R. GOLDEN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas R. Golden who died at home in Freestone, CA, on November 3, at the age of 81. Mr. Golden and his partner Jim Kidder had lived in Freestone since 1970, turning the old Freestone Hotel into a center for culture and politics in Western Sonoma County.

Tom Golden was well-known as a patron of the arts, and in this capacity was the friend and collaborator of artists Christo and Jean-Claude whose Running Fence snaked through Sonoma and Marin Counties in 1976, a 24-mile curtain that ran from Cotati to the Pacific Ocean. Tom met the artists during one of the county hearings on the controversial project and immediately became an advocate and supporter. He continued his association for the next 28 years, traveling around the world to help on other Christo projects. During this time, Tom collected works by the couple that became the largest private collection in the world and have now been donated to the Sonoma County Museum.

Tom was born in Indiana and moved to California in the 1930s. He spent time as a Trappist monk, in the Merchant Marine, and as a buyer for a grocery store chain before becoming a real estate broker. He and Jim renovated San Francisco properties before moving to Sonoma County where Tom pressured officials to adopt strict historic preservation laws and served on the Sonoma County Historic Landmark Commission.

He is survived by Kidder, his partner of over 50 years, as well as by his sister Joan

Sonsini, his brother Jim Golden, and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Thomas Golden was known for the warmth and liveliness he brought to his friendships, his commitment to the culture of his community, and his world-wide collaborations with Christo and Jean-Claude. Many considered him the unofficial mayor of Freestone. It is fitting to honor him today for a life that meant so much to the art world in general and to Sonoma County in particular.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my great sadness at the loss of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, its astronauts, and the symbol of global harmony that the *Columbia* and America's globalized space program represents.

On February 1, 2003, the people of the United States, India, the State of Israel and, in fact, all of the people of our world community lost seven heroic patriots.

A patriot is defined as a person who loves, supports and defends his or her country. And these 7 were patriots, but in a different sense; they were global patriots.

Space is, as the old adage goes, the last great frontier. It is a place claimed by no one and everyone. It is a place where people are not labeled by their race, gender or ethnic origin. Rather, it is a place where all are one—simply human beings working together to advance science, peace and unity of mankind.

Their seven global patriots were representing their own country patriotically while also representing the love, support and defense of all of the people and nations of our world. Space is where two former adversaries, the United States and Russia, now work together to build an international space station to advance our shared goals of peace and understanding; where astronauts from all of over the world, of all languages, cultures, and backgrounds, travel to for the purpose of working, sharing, learning and teaching themselves, each other and all of us back on the planet Earth.

They are the global patriots who are dedicated to each other and everyone, flying under their respective national flags yet united by the cloth of freedom and peace. That is why the loss of the *Columbia* is a loss not only to those who lost a relative, a friend, or a national, but also to everyone.

While our space program must be put on hiatus temporarily so that NASA can work with all relevant parties to solve the problems that created this sad situation, we cannot—and should not—stop this exploration of our world and of our better selves. We must as a nation and as a global community continue the path laid down by people like Commander Rick D. Husband, Pilot William C. McCool, Payload Commander Michael P. Anderson, Mission Specialists David M. Brown, Dr. Kalpana Chawla, and Laurel Blair Salton Clark, and Payload Specialist Colonel Ilan Ramon.