

Whereas, Clarence R. Smith, Jr. must be commended for his years of dedicated service to his friends and his community; and

Whereas, Clarence R. Smith, Jr. is a devoted husband, father, and grandfather;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Clarence R. Smith, Jr. as he celebrates his 75th Birthday.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. HOGAN

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michael J. Hogan whose selfless service and contributions to the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Holy Eucharist Parish in Tabernacle, New Jersey are worthy of recognition.

Mr. Hogan, one of ten children, was born in 1938 in New York. He began serving those in need during his high school and college years through the St. Vincent de Paul Society of his parish.

Mike and his wife, Elizabeth, have three children and one grandchild. He has always been a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He has a great passion for and dedication to children which is demonstrated through his generous volunteer hours as guest lecturer of astronomy in grammar schools through the Star Lab program, and his volunteer work as a teacher of religious education classes.

Involved in the construction of the St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry, Mike volunteers as its Coordinator, working with the USDA Food Bank to ensure that there is an adequate food supply at all times. When there is a need in the community, Mr. Hogan ensures that food and other services are given with dignity and respect. He provides a critical blend of self-help encouragement with monetary assistance.

As Regional Coordinator of the NJ Shares Program, Mike acts as liaison between utility companies and statewide energy assistance funds. As Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Salt and Light Company, Inc., Mike helps to provide affordable housing to low-income individuals and families in Burlington County.

As one of the most valued, dependable and respected volunteers of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Burlington County, Mike is heading up the Master Gardener Donation Garden in which vegetables will be grown for donation to local food banks.

As you see, Mike Hogan is a volunteer without equal in our area, and it is with gratitude and respect that I honor him today.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2658) making ap-

propriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004 and for other purposes:

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to promote the continued work of the Congress and the Department of Defense to make sure our reserve troops are medically ready to deploy when called upon.

In meeting the global challenges of the post-cold-war era, our military reserve forces have become more important than ever. In fact the role of the Reserve and National Guard in the total force has transformed over the past decade from manpower replacements to essential operators in the daily missions of our armed forces. This is now more apparent than ever as over 200,000 Reservists are serving on active duty related to our military action in Iraq, in peacekeeping and counter-terrorism operations around the globe, and domestic security operations here at home. The increased use of the reserve component seems likely only to increase given our current military force structure and current and future obligations around the world.

Given this trend, the ability for reserve units to timely deploy when called upon is critical. To be effective, our reserve troops need to be medically ready and able to perform their mission. Members not able to deploy when called up limit the ability of units to perform, cause delay, and demand costly changes in operation plans.

The medical and dental readiness of the reserve components has continually been an issue of concern for the Department of Defense. According to the U.S. Army Medical Command, a "significant number" of Army Reservists could not be deployed during mobilization for Persian Gulf War in 1990-91 due to medical reasons. Further, a study by the Uniformed Services University found that an estimated 25 percent of Army Reservists mobilized in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001, were not deployable due to dental problems.

Recently, the government accounting office completed a report on the ability of the Army Reserve to meet medical and dental readiness requirements, as directed by the National Defense Authorization Act for FY02.

The GAO found that periodic physical and dental exams for early-deploying reservists are valuable for the Army and that the Army should seek to consistently meet the statutory requirements for monitoring the medical and dental status of Army Reservists.

However, the GAO report only reaffirmed what the Army already knew, and starting in March 2001, the Army made a fundamental shift to ensure the readiness of its reserve forces. By coordinating and contracting with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the private sector, the Army is able to address readiness needs through an innovative, efficient, and cost-effective program called the Federal Strategic Health Alliance, or FEDS-HEAL.

The FEDS-HEAL program won the Hammer Award created by former Vice President Gore to recognize outstanding Federal organizations that significantly improve how the Government operates. The FEDS-HEAL program fixes the logistical problems that hampered the Army's ability to get Reservists into the limited number of Army medical treatment facilities for required exams and screenings.

FEDS-HEAL works with VA medical facilities, HHS Federal occupational health facilities, and over 2,000 approved private medical and dental providers throughout the Nation to get Reservists the attention they require nearby and in a timely manner. In addition, the FEDS-HEAL program office reviews and maintains records on individual Reservists, a factor that the GAO noted as key to success in efficiently fulfilling medical readiness requirements.

The problems in fulfilling readiness requirements are not unique to the Army Reserve, and the remedy pursued by the Army is applicable to other services. Noting the tested success of the FEDS-HEAL program within the Army Reserve, I encourage the other reserve components to thoroughly examine their ability to meet reserve readiness requirements and look to the FEDS-HEAL program as a model. In coordinating the entire reserve component into a reserve medical and dental readiness program, we may be able to reduce costs further through increased volume while boosting benefits to the DOD in terms of efficiency and to the VA and private providers through increased reimbursements.

The other major factor in attaining compliance with readiness requirements is adequate funding. I, and other Members of Congress, want to ensure that readiness is a top priority among the reserve components, and we will continue to work with the military to assess readiness needs.

Again, I commend the Army Reserve for implementing the FEDS-HEAL program and encourage expanded use of the program for other reserve forces to meet readiness requirements.

HONORING JIM REDMAN

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Redman, a man who has taught many people the meaning of courage, perseverance, and integrity.

Mr. Redman is an icon in Plant City, FL, which is located in my congressional district. He captained the high school football team there before attending my alma mater, the University of Florida, and studying business administration and law. After graduation he returned home and married his wife, Ruby Jean, a former Florida Strawberry Festival queen.

He founded and ran a successful law practice in Plant City before getting elected to the Florida House of Representatives. During his 12 years in the legislature, Jim fought public corruption and was named Legislator of the Year in 1975. He was a proud Democrat, and when local Republicans tried to get him to switch parties, he boasted that the Republicans were "too liberal" for him.

He also became very involved in the community and ultimately left the legislature to spend more time with his family. A section of State Road 39 in Plant City was named the James L. Redman Parkway in honor of his work in the legislature and his contributions to the community.

In 1978, at age 46, Jim found out he had cancer. Though doctors said he had likely less