

It is not often that a nation is blessed with a great military leader whose powerful ideas make lasting and important contributions to the future. Sometimes it is only through the passage of time and history that their greatness is recognized fully. After some decades, Rear Admiral William A. Moffett eventually became known as the father of naval aviation. Admiral Hyman G. Rickover was recognized as the father of the nuclear Navy. I believe that Vice Admiral Arthur K. Cebrowski will become known as the father of a network centric military, and students of warfare and peace-making will study his ideas and marvel at his contributions for decades to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO DICK TSCHIDER

### HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2005*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize the remarkable career of one of the all-time leaders in North Dakota healthcare.

Dick Tschider, CEO of the St Alexius Medical Center in Bismarck, North Dakota, for the past 29 years, is retiring from this position. He has devoted his entire career to this outstanding facility, joining it right out of college, 45 years ago.

We all know about the revolution in health care that has occurred during the last four and a half decades. Under Dick Tschider's leadership, St. Alexius has grown dramatically during this period, and is now recognized throughout the region as one of the premier multi-specialty hospitals in the area.

In fact, when ranked in terms of quality of care and patient safety, it is one of the top 100 hospitals in the entire country. Several aspects of St. Alexius care—notably cardiac care—are exceptional, as determined by the competitive analysis of external reviewers.

It has been my personal and professional privilege to know Dick and work closely with him during the last 20 years as I served as North Dakota's Insurance Commissioner and Congressman. Dick was an exceptional football player and he would throw himself into healthcare reimbursement issues with the zeal and intensity he formerly used against gridiron opponents.

During the years of our working relationship, sometimes we agreed, sometimes we didn't, but we maintained a constructive and productive association throughout all of these years. This relationship led to a very significant achievement for North Dakota in the Medicare Modernization Act passed 2 years ago. Dick and other leading members of the medical community convincingly documented the threat discounted Medicare reimbursements held for healthcare—especially in North Dakota. Senator CONRAD, Senator DORGAN and I fought to get an equitable reimbursement adjustment in the Medicare Modernization Act and then worked feverishly to pass the bill which made it by the slimmest margins.

Dick Tschider is an energetic and compassionate man of considerable abilities. Western North Dakota has been fortunate to have someone of his talent and commitment advancing healthcare in our region. I have been fortunate to have him as a friend.

The career of Dick Tschider is an example of leadership and achievement in service to others. I wish him the best in retirement.

#### AMERICA'S UNSUNG HEROES—THE CRIME VICTIM ADVOCATES

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2005*

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, each and every Member of Congress has crime victim advocates in his or her District. It's likely you hear from them now and again, particularly when critical funding for crime victim services is at stake—like the Administration's proposal to drain the Crime Victim Fund to balance the budget—or you may hear from them when they plead that victims' rights are enforced in accordance with the law. It's also likely that you have an inkling of what these folks do for a living. But I'm pretty sure that you don't know just how much victim advocates are the “unsung heroes” of America today.

Back when I was a prosecutor in the great state of Texas, we didn't have “victim advocates.” There was nobody to provide the victim with support and guidance. The criminal and juvenile justice systems were like a maze to them and, let me tell you, the laboratory mice did a lot better in finding the cheese! Crime victims were lost. Crime victims were forgotten. Crime victims were merely “evidence” used to successfully prosecute criminal cases. Crime victims were “re-victimized” on a daily basis by a system that should be designed to protect them.

At the end of my days as a prosecutor and the beginning of my days as a judge, I started to see these folks called “victim advocates” in court. Back then, their job was to notify victims of the status of their cases and offenders, and explain to them what is often an overwhelming criminal justice process. But if you listened to victims back then, they would tell you that their advocates were so much more. They were a “Rock of Gibraltar” in a rocking sea of confusion. They were there to hold their hands and provide comfort. They were, as one prosecutor from Texas last month noted, “the centerpiece of the courtroom” when it came to helping crime victims and witnesses.

I was privileged earlier this month to deliver a keynote speech at the National Conference of State VOCA Assistance and Crime Victim Compensation Administrators in New Mexico. These are folks that, every single minute of every single day, are on “the front line for victims of crime.” There were over 300 “victim advocates” in the house, and I think it is well worth the time of the U.S. Congress to recognize them.

You should know about the remarkable victim advocates who spent the last year planning this conference, and spent some really quality time learning from each other about how to better help crime victims. For 4 days, state-level victim advocates who oversee funding for vital victim services, and manage state victim compensation programs that help victims recover from the financial losses resulting from crime, came together to teach each other, and learn from each other, and figure out ways to improve assistance to crime victims in ALL our Districts.

Let me begin by saluting John Gillis, the Director of the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime. John knows too well the impact of crime on victims. When he was an LAPD detective almost 30 years ago, his beautiful daughter Louarna was murdered by gang members in a vicious “kill a cop's kid” murder that would move them up the gang hierarchy.

John and his wife Patsy reacted to Louarna's death as so many crime victims and survivors do. They became activists to change how our criminal justice system treats victims, and change how our society views victims. John has spent the last three decades fighting for crime victims' rights, and does so now at the helm of the Office for Victims of Crime, considered the “mother ship” of victim assistance in America. John has become a friend and someone whom I admire and deeply respect. He is our nation's leading “victim advocate” and crime victims everywhere in America are fortunate to have him at the Office for Victims of Crime.

Next, I would like to recognize the Directors of the two national associations that help states manage funding for victim services and victim compensation.

Steve Derene is the Director of the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators. Back in 1984, he helped craft the Victims of Crime Act, which uses fines and fees assessed against convicted Federal offenders to support crime victim services. He has been a true advocate for victims in Wisconsin and, in the past five years, for victims across our nation. He is known as “Stevie Wonder” because he, more than most, has embraced technology as a means to facilitate more effective justice processes and victim assistance; and because it seems he is on call 24/7 to help victims and those who serve them.

Dan Eddy is the Director of the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards. Dan is a quiet, unassuming victim advocate, but the impact of his work is far-reaching. Under his direction, victims of crime in all of our Districts have received millions of dollars—again, not from taxpayers but from convicted offenders—to help them cope with the financial impact of crime. Dan Eddy is truly an “unsung hero” whose efforts are felt in states, communities, neighborhoods and homes across America each and every day.

The Presidents of both Associations—Joe Hood from Georgia and Larry Tackman from New Mexico—also deserve mention. These are two men with a true vision for the field of crime victim services. When they are not managing their state VOCA and compensation programs, they are working hard to promote strength and unity in victim services across our land. With their respective Boards of Directors, they put on a fine conference, and deserve our thanks.

I am guessing ya'll have attended events where everything ran very smoothly. I can assure you this doesn't happen by “accident.” So let me tip my hat to Ms. Gillian Nevers, who had an illustrious career as a Wisconsin victim advocate, and who earlier this month facilitated one of the best victim assistance training conferences ever.

And now I'd like to introduce you to some wonderful victim advocates from New Mexico, and know that my colleagues from New Mexico join me in thanking them. These are the folks who not only put on the conference I attended, but also help victims of their state