

veterans with safe shelter has a shortfall of nearly 10,000 beds.

While VA and community providers try to do right by homeless veterans, the GAO report found that the capacity is not there to meet demand.

The situation will get worse because recent combat veterans are already homeless. Just last year, VA served nearly 600 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan in its Health Care for Homeless Veterans program.

On September 30th, the authorization for two key programs for homeless veterans—the VA Grant and Per Diem program and the Homeless Providers Technical Assistance Grant program—is set to expire.

If we fail to reauthorize these programs, we will be leaving homeless veterans behind. Homelessness is a problem that we can solve.

I urge my colleagues to enact H.R. 5960, the Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2006, which reauthorizes key programs for homeless veterans and fortifies VA's efforts to prevent and end homelessness among veterans.

HONORING BEVERLY YOUNG FOR  
HER COMMITMENT TO OUR  
WOUNDED HEROES

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 14, 2006*

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a good friend whom most of us have the pleasure to know, Mrs. Bill Young, or as she prefers to be known to our wounded troops, simply "Beverly." Beverly has been recognized by the United States Marine Corps for her extraordinary commitment to our wounded troops with The Dickey Chapelle Award.

This annual award recognizes civilians who have given extraordinary contribution to the Corps. It is named in honor of the memory of the late Dickey Chapelle, an American correspondent who was killed while covering the actions of Marine infantrymen engaged in combat against enemy forces during the Vietnam war.

Mr. Speaker, this is a well-deserved honor. Beverly and her husband, my friend and colleague, Chairman C.W. "BILL" YOUNG, of Florida, have quietly shown a level of sincere, personal compassion and devotion to our fighting men and women that is not often seen in Washington. They do it without fanfare or seeking recognition in a way that reminds me of the greatness of the American spirit.

The men and women who fight for this country have an uncanny ability to overcome extraordinary odds, both on the battlefield and in life. However, when they are lying in a hospital bed in excruciating pain from terrible, debilitating injuries, there simply is no more difficult personal challenge in this world than trying to recover, physically and mentally.

To Beverly Young, each and every one of them is her child. If she could, I have no doubt she would go into battle with them. Instead, she must content herself with fighting for them in the hospital wards and the bureaucratic halls of Washington as a volunteer.

In truth, "content" is probably the wrong word. Beverly has never been patient when

seeing to it that the troops are receiving what they need and has no qualms about making her feelings known when she sees a problem where they are concerned. She takes action in a way that immediately gets attention and results. As a former drill sergeant myself, it strikes me that she would have made a good one. Affectionately known as "The Hurricane" in the halls of Bethesda and Walter Reed hospitals, she says and does whatever it takes to see that the troops have their needs taken care of. This includes everything from chewing out staff to writing to the President. In neither case does she mince words.

One soldier who was slipping into a catatonic state from so much pain medication credits her with saving his life, literally. She did this by walking out on the experts who were discussing putting him in a psychiatric ward, running into his room and yelling in his ear that he must fight to get better or she and the Commandant would "kick his ass." The soldier promptly "snapped to," and is now back home working in Idaho.

When she got wind that the rules about soldiers receiving donations were being tightened at some bureaucratic level in the Pentagon, she shot off a letter to President Bush expressing her outrage and demanding immediate attention to correct the grievance to her beloved troops. She has impacted the lives of the troops in countless ways, from prompting major policy changes through her vocal advocacy to the generous gift of her personal time one-on-one with the wounded.

Beverly is not an occasional visitor; she is there constantly for these young men and women and their families, becoming as familiar to them as anyone else they encounter during their stay. She is fiercely protective of them. She is not formal or aloof; she insists that the troops call her Beverly. She vastly prefers spending time in the company of these wounded heroes to attending stiff official Washington functions. She will hold their hand for hours when they have no one else to be with them. She feeds them, brings them contraband, slips cash to their families from her own pocket, and hits up everyone she knows, including her own doctor, for all types of donations, whether in-kind or monetary. She LISTS to each and every one of them to find out what they need and if they don't have it, she goes and gets it, whatever it is, from whoever she has to get it from, and brings it to them. She and BILL regularly take them out to dinner.

And perhaps most importantly of all, she sits with them and tells them how much they are loved.

This, Mr. Speaker, is no small contribution to this country. I know of no one who has given more time and energy to making sure these young men and women know that someone cares about each and every one of them and that they can make it through this horrific experience of being wounded in battle. With her intense, unique, passionate style and commitment, Beverly has earned the respect of everyone she meets, military and civilian, politician and bureaucrat. I have no doubt in my mind that Beverly Young has made a tremendous impact in the lives of our service men and women. This country is a better place for her example.

So, Mr. Speaker, today I come to the People's House to recognize and congratulate Mrs. Beverly Young for her selfless service to

our brave young men and women who courageously defend this country. Congratulations, Beverly, and thank you.

A TRIBUTE TO MONSIGNOR  
FRANCIS G. TASY

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 14, 2006*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Monsignor Francis G. Tasy. Monsignor Tasy brought great peace and happiness into the lives of the entire community of Kerman. A great loss to all those touched by his benevolence, he passed away on August 2, 2006.

Monsignor Francis G. Tasy was born on October 15, 1925 to Hungarian immigrants who moved to America in the first years of the 20th century. As a young boy at Our Lady of Hungary Parish in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, Msgr. Tasy aspired to lead a devout life. He attended St. Charles College in Roland Park, Maryland and went on to complete his studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Catonsville. Monsignor Tasy was ordained on May 1, 1952.

Following his time at St. Patrick's Parish in Watsonville, California; Msgr. Tasy began his work in the Valley with two years at the Naval Weapons Testing Center at China Lake, followed by one year at St. Francis in Bakersfield. In 1957, he was assigned to St. Patrick's Parish in Kerman where he spent the next 26 years. During this time Msgr. Tasy worked tirelessly to transform a small farm church into a thriving Catholic community of active and faithful individuals. Many greatly valued his love for the church and respected his devotion to its success. The Costa Family has wonderful memories with Msgr. Tasy in Kerman and his extraordinary efforts to reinvigorate that parish community. For his outstanding leadership and endless support for those in need, he will be forever remembered.

In 1983 Monsignor Tasy brought his goodwill to Reedley, California after accepting a transfer to the St. Anthony's Parish there. As he did in Kerman years earlier, Monsignor Tasy revitalized the faithful community in Reedley. Faced with a deteriorating church and fading Catholic community, he relied on his sound administration, conventional teaching and complete devotion to restore the church and the local grammar school, St. La Salle.

Monsignor Tasy was an excellent model of success, devotion, and commitment to the well-being of entire communities. He was exemplary in every way with a work ethic worthy of respect and admiration. For all that he accomplished, all that he worked tirelessly for, and all that he hoped for, we will always remember him with gratitude and appreciation.

IN RECOGNITION OF FLORIDA  
LIGHTHOUSE DAY 2006

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 14, 2006*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Florida Lighthouse Day 2006, which