

and passion who has dedicated his work to remembering the Holocaust and educating future generations on the many lessons learned from this tragedy.

In March, 2002, Fred was appointed chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council by President George W. Bush. The museum is a living memorial to the Holocaust and serves as a point of inspiration for countless numbers worldwide to promote human dignity, confront hatred, and prevent genocide. Since 1993, the museum has welcomed nearly 30 million visitors.

As chairman, Fred is leading the museum's plans for a promising future, including building the institution's endowment campaign and increasing educational opportunities for students. He has worked tirelessly at the helm of the museum to broaden the focus beyond just telling the story of the Holocaust to thoroughly examining the tragedy's lessons and legacy. One of Fred's greatest accomplishments as chairman of the museum has been developing the profile and influence of the Committee on Conscience and, in turn, calling increased attention to genocide around the world.

This week, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum is honoring Fred at its National Tribute Dinner. I can't think of anybody that deserves this any more. Fred is a dedicated and visionary leader who has guided the transformation of the museum into a global institution that challenges people everywhere to remember, to learn, and to act. Inspired by the survivors and their legacy, Fred has helped place the museum at the forefront of Holocaust education and worked tirelessly to empower leaders and citizens alike to create a more just world. The Holocaust Museum today is stronger because of his leadership and dedication.

Not only is Fred Zeidman known for his work here in Washington but also he's a fellow Texan and a leader in the business and Jewish communities in Houston.

I have had the great opportunity of working with Fred through AIPAC for several years now and have seen firsthand his tireless devotion to this great American institution. Today, I am proud to honor Fred upon his recognition at the National Tribute Dinner and the many successes the Holocaust Museum has seen in recent years.

Fred, thank you for your service as chairman of the Holocaust Museum. I look forward to your continued leadership in the future.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA SHELTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my chief case-worker, Virginia Shelton, who will retire at the end of this month after 25 years of service to the Illinois 17th Congressional District and our Nation.

GINNY, as she is known by her friends and colleagues, handled one of the most important jobs in any congressional office: outreach to veterans.

My predecessor, Lane Evans, had a great reputation for fighting for our Nation's heroes. I have sought to continue that legacy. But the constant behind both of our efforts has always been Ginny, who has dedicated not just her career but her entire life to the men and women who served our Nation in uniform. She is known for spending countless hours explaining each and every right to veterans who are looking to exercise them. She built invaluable relationships with VA staff, putting herself in the best position to advocate for the constituents who sought her help. She studied hard and made herself an expert on VA disability, health care, and other crucial benefits.

For Ginny, serving our veterans was a labor of love. Whether it was on the phone or over a drink at a VFW, Ginny listened and learned about the lives of our veterans. She knew them personally. She was not only an advocate, she was their friend. Their struggle was her struggle. She recognized that behind every case file was a human being, and she understood that when it comes to our veterans, justice delayed is justice denied.

GINNY was passionate about the issues of veterans' homelessness. Each and every year, she was active in the local Stand Down, an event where our homeless heroes are provided haircuts, food, medical care, a place to stay for the night, and counseling. She believed that our Nation should have a Stand Down 365 days a year. Inspired by her efforts, I introduced a bill last year to reduce veterans' homelessness.

GINNY was instrumental in helping me secure a VA outpatient clinic for Whiteside County. The VA predicts approximately 2,500 veterans will use this facility during its first year of operation. Thanks to Ginny, many veterans will no longer have to travel hours upon hours just to receive basic care.

GINNY also managed my nominations to America's service academies, fully investing herself in the process to ensure our young people get the best opportunities possible. She always made sure students filled out their applications fully and got them in on time. She treated each applicant as if they were one of her own kids. I know one of her favorite things to do is visit the academies and see firsthand the young men and women who will be our future warriors.

GINNY has been a wonderful friend to my wife, Beckie, and me for many years. I know her late husband, Jack, himself a Marine, is very proud of her today. There are many things I will miss about Ginny: her sense of humor, that unmistakable voice, her invaluable advice and guidance. But it is our veterans who will miss her the most. Her retirement is the end of an era, but I know she will continue her great work going forward. She leaves a leg-

acy marked by selfless service to our Nation and its heroes. And for all the work she has done for our veterans, Ginny Shelton is a hero in her own right.

GINNY, thank you. Thank you so much for 25 years of wonderful work.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MEDICARE FRAUD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, this morning, my good friend and Florida colleague Congressman RON KLEIN and I held a press conference at the Little Havana Activity and Nutrition Center where we unveiled our bipartisan anti-Medicare fraud bill.

Medicare fraud is a problem that hurts our most vulnerable citizens. Our South Florida community knows firsthand the hardship that it creates. In 2008, approximately \$703 million in false Medicare claims originated from South Florida. Last year, that figure rose to \$952 million from South Florida.

Our community needs to say in no uncertain terms that fraud and abuse in Medicare will not be tolerated and that our seniors will not be preyed upon by opportunistic vandals. That is why Congressman RON KLEIN and I filed the Medicare Fraud Enforcement and Prevention Act. This legislation will help curb the fraud in the Medicare system. It will not only toughen the penalties on those individuals who engage in fraud but it will also help implement new screening procedures and biometric checks for all Medicare claims and services.

Medicare fraud is not isolated to cases that involve rogue individuals. Unfortunately, the reality is that more and more Medicare fraud is being perpetrated by groups that are organized and are sophisticated in their technique. This bipartisan bill will help catch up existing rules and regulations with the reality of today's threats.

Fraud and abuse costs the Medicare system billions of dollars each year. It costs the system, in fact, \$60 billion every year. It harms the health care industry as a whole, and it undermines the market for legitimate health care products. It hurts legitimate suppliers who cannot compete with illegitimate suppliers who pad their income by billing for services that they never rendered. Fraud undermines public confidence in health care providers.

The Klein-Ros-Lehtinen bill will create a strong deterrent for would-be