

Penobscot Bay Medical Associates, doing business as Martin's Point, became a designated uniform service treatment facility. Maine military retirees were able to come from all over the State to the facility and have their care paid for by CHAMPUS. Access to primary care—family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics—along with on-site laboratory, dental, optometry, pharmacy and radiology was made available to all patients utilizing the facility.

In 1996, under the U.S. Family Health Plan, Martin's Point was authorized as a TRICARE prime provider and awarded their first multimillion-dollar, multiyear contract with the Department of Defense. This all happened under the direction of Dr. David Howes, who became the president and CEO of Martin's Point in 1996.

In the 2000s, Martin's Point expanded their USHFP membership—they now have over 35,000 members in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, and the northern tier of Pennsylvania.

Then, in 2006, they launched their Generations Advantage plans. These are Medicare Advantage options for seniors and persons with disabilities in six Maine counties. They have since expanded so that in 2010, their Medicare Advantage plans are offered in all 16 counties in Maine. They serve over 12,500 members.

In 2008, Martin's Point became one of the first 40 organizations to become a prototyping organization in the Institute for Healthcare Improvements Triple Aim initiative. In 2009, they affiliated with Bowdoin Medical Group, a large group of physicians with five health centers in southern and coastal Maine communities. This acquisition essentially doubled Martin's Point provider base and patient count—bringing their total number of health centers up to 9.

In November 2010, Martin's Point opened the doors of their new, state-of-the-art primary care facility on the Veranda St. peninsula at Martin's Point. This flagship facility, designed with input from providers, patients and other clinical employees, is a fitting tribute to the patient-focused philosophy of Martin's Point and helps them to realize their unending commitment to providing a better health care experience for their patients.

Today, Martin's Point's Medicare Advantage plans are in the top 3 percent nationally based on quality. I am delighted to recognize Martin's Point for this accomplishment, and I wish them all the best in the coming years.

#### NATIONAL TRADEMARK EXPO

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I would like to recognize and express my support of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's, USPTO, National Trademark Expo.

Trademarks are characteristics of a good or service such as a name, symbol, or sound that identify and distin-

guish one party's goods and services from those of others and help many of us distinguish between authentic and counterfeit merchandise. On any given day, an individual may be exposed to as many as 1,500 trademarks.

Trademarks are useful tools against counterfeit goods, which cost the United States billions of dollars and many jobs each year, as well as undermine consumer confidence in brand integrity when purchasers encounter imitation goods of lesser quality. Through the USPTO's efficient approval process and registration of trademarks, the agency assists businesses in protecting their investments, promoting goods and services, and safeguarding consumers against confusion and deception in the marketplace.

This year's National Trademark Expo will be held on Friday, October 14, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, October 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, VA. The Expo will feature educational seminars, children's workshops, story time, guided tours and presentations from some of America's leading large corporations, small businesses, governmental agencies and non-profit corporations.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the USPTO for its continued efforts to educate the public on the important role of trademarks, as well as the benefits of the National Trademark Expo.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL ALFRED FLOWERS

• Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, I take this opportunity to congratulate MG Alfred K. Flowers, U.S. Air Force, for his dedicated service to our country. General Flowers has the distinct honor of being the longest serving member in the history of the U.S. Air Force, and he is the longest serving active duty member in the Department of Defense.

In his present assignment, General Flowers serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget and is responsible for planning and directing the Air Force's budget. Over the last 2 years in this role, he led a team of over 160 military, civilian and contractor professionals charged on behalf of the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force to present to the Congress the funding of all Air Force programs. It is his responsibility to organize and present to the Congress annual appropriations submissions as well as various overseas contingency operations requests. His leadership and his keen understanding of the Congress has served the Air Force and the security interests of our country very well during appearances of the senior leadership of the Air Force before committees of the House and Senate. General Flowers' vision, inspirational leader-

ship, and unselfish devotion to duty have resulted in important improvements in the resourcing of and strategic direction of Air Force's missions.

General Flowers began his career as an enlisted supply warehouseman in August 1965 at Grand Forks Air Force Base. He then served as an air transportation specialist for 4 years beginning in September 1967. In 1971, General Flowers became an accounting specialist for the Air Force and served 7 years in that role. After his selection to the grade of master sergeant, General Flowers was commissioned, following graduation from Officer Training School as a distinguished graduate in December 1978. In his first three assignments as a budget officer, he served at the squadron, major command and air staff levels. In 1990, he was assigned as Chief of the Budget Operations Division for Air Combat Command, where he later served as the chief of budget.

The general has served on the Joint Staff as a defense resource manager, and in 1999 was the director of budget programs for the Department of the Air Force. General Flowers also served as the Air Education and Training Command comptroller. His other assignments include director, Center for Force Structure, Requirements, Resources and Strategic Assessments at Headquarters U.S. Special Operations Command, and commander, Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools. Prior to his current assignment, the general was commander, 2nd Air Force, at Keesler Air Force Base, MS.

Of distinct importance and significance, as the comptroller for Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, he budgeted and managed funding of the largest flying hour program in the Air Force, involving 542,000 hours annually and 38 percent of the Air Force's total flying hour program and spanning 21 major weapons systems. As director, Center for Force Structure, Requirements and Strategic Assessments, U.S. Special Operations Command, he spearheaded the largest increase in resources and force structure for Special Operations Forces in the history of U.S. Special Operations Command. His insightful vision and tireless dedication were instrumental in garnering 13,000 additional personnel and \$11 billion in additional funding to enhance and expand Special Operations Forces to successfully execute the Global War on Terrorism.

As the 2nd Air Force Commander, General Flowers led the largest transformation of basic military training in 50 years, expanding training from 6.5 to 8.5 weeks. This modernization was vital to providing realistic expeditionary combat skills training to prepare enlisted airmen for their deployments. His support of combatant commanders included providing over 14,000 joint expeditionary tasking airmen to the area of responsibility and reshaped the role of the Air Force in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.