

On behalf of Bobby and his family, I stand before you today to briefly discuss this growing trend and associated symptoms, as well as highlight prevention efforts within my district and nationwide by both the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

More than 2 million troops have served in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and that's a lot of people who have seen war up close and personal. It can affect some of them adversely when they come back home.

In fiscal year 2009 alone, 1,868 veterans of these wars made suicide attempts.

Faced with the stigma of post-traumatic stress disorder, unemployment rates tipping 12 percent for our veterans, and a loss of the military camaraderie, many veterans report feeling purposeless upon returning home.

We are aware of three conditions that contribute to many of the suicides of our veterans, and they are post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD; traumatic brain injury, TBI; and depression. We know that veterans with these three medical conditions are at a higher risk of succumbing to suicide behavior.

As friends and family members of our veterans and those serving our country, there are some things that we can do: first, recognize the symptoms that could lead to serious problems; understand where and how to get assistance while still part of the military; and know the availability of treatment after service.

As members of the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee, my colleagues and I on both sides of the aisle have had the opportunity to meet and discuss some of these very important issues, and I'm pleased with Secretary of the VA Shinseki's recent outreach efforts such as Stand By Them and Side By Side.

The purpose of the joint DOD and VA Stand By Them campaign and public service announcement, Side By Side, is to increase awareness with focus on support networks for military members.

Detection and treatment are key components required for resolution. Those closest to the military member can often see signals of distress before the member recognizes it himself or herself. The quicker the detection, the quicker the treatment.

Yesterday, I joined back in my home district Director Costie and Dr. Napp at the Dayton VA Medical Center to bring awareness to Suicide Prevention Month. With a large geographic span of responsibility in my district, the Dayton VA Medical Center provides services to veterans from 16 counties.

□ 1100

During the joint press conference at the VA, we announced the ongoing efforts and helped in the promotion of the VA and DOD programs. I know communities across our Nation are doing similar awareness and education programs.

As our young men and women are fighting to protect our freedoms, while

they're often faced with multiple and lengthy employments, exposed to stressful situations in combat—including death—we cannot look the other way and hope that these issues disappear. The reality is we are faced with a growing number of PTSD, TBI, depression, and suicide within our military and veterans. This is a real problem. And if we can alleviate one of the symptoms and causes of suicide, PTSD, we may see a change in the current trendline before the problem becomes completely systemic across our fighting force.

Let me just say, as members of the grateful communities to which our brave men and women return, we need to do whatever is possible to recognize these veterans at risk and help them get the assistance they need.

NEW MEXICO CENTENNIAL RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a proud milestone in the history of the great State of New Mexico. This year marks the centennial anniversary of the "Land of Enchantment."

Filmmakers have spent years documenting the history and beauty of New Mexico, sharing the importance of our acequias, stories of history and tradition in "Canes of Power," stories and tales told by Rudolfo Anaya, and art and landscapes captured by Georgia O'Keefe.

New Mexico has a long and rich heritage that is rooted in the shared history of a diverse population, a history that respects diversity and language, a land whose State constitution was drafted and adopted in both English and Spanish. And while Santa Fe, the City of Faith, holds the distinction as the oldest capital city in the country, celebrating 400 years last year, statehood came later in 1912, when a territory known for its beautiful scenery, natural wonders, and pristine landscapes was admitted into the Union as the 47th State.

New Mexico is blessed with rich cultural landmarks: Chaco Canyon, Bandelier, the Taos Gorge and Blue Lake, and the Plaza in Santa Fe. Thousands of visitors each year travel to learn of the unique traditions and spirit that make New Mexico such a special place with blue skies, sunsets and sunrises and starry nights you won't find anywhere else in the world.

The Land of Enchantment is home to a diverse population that can trace its roots back to Spanish, Mexican, and Native American cultures, amongst others. As home to one of the richest indigenous tribal populations in the United States, New Mexico is proud of the influences and contributions of the 19 Pueblo Nations, two Apache Nations, and the Navajo Nation. These diverse cultures coming together to

share a common bond of calling New Mexico home has served as a source of strength for our State, as the influence of art, agriculture, and architecture can be felt to this very day.

During the past 100 years, New Mexico has had a proud tradition of service to our country. In World War II, Navajo Code Talkers contributed to victory for the Allied Forces, while many native sons of New Mexico sacrificed in the Battle of Bataan. In the Korean Cold War, Hiroshi Miyamura of Gallup was awarded the Medal of Honor for his distinguished service. Most recently, Santa Fe native Sergeant Leroy Petry earned the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions in the face of great danger in Afghanistan. And in every war in between, New Mexicans have proudly defended our Nation and answered the call of duty when they were needed most.

New Mexico has also served our Nation as a center for scientific innovation and research. Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories have been home to a number of scientific endeavors that have been important priorities for our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, as New Mexico celebrates 100 years of statehood, we're reminded of how special this beautiful land we call home is. As a native New Mexican, it is with great pride in our past and hope for our future that I come to this floor to recognize the enduring contributions of New Mexicans during the course of our State's history.

A special love for our land and water helps shape our lives. A land of faith and family, culture and tradition—and, Mr. Speaker, the best chili found anywhere in the world—ours is a special story, an American story, one passed from one generation to the next, with our most precious lessons coming from our elders: our parents and our grandparents. In the words of my parents, Ben and Carmen, when they send me off on any journey when I depart from home: *Y que Dios les bendigan—may God bless you.*

SEQUESTRATION TRANSPARENCY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, during the month of August, I had held several town hall meetings throughout my district in Oregon. In these meetings, I've done a summary of the work that we're doing here in Congress and then opened the floor for questions from and discussions with my constituents.

Without fail, in every town hall meeting at least one person would ask about the partisan rancor and the gridlock that's come to characterize Washington. They would ask me: Can you tell us something that's bipartisan that you've done, something where you've worked together, some achievement that everyone's agreed on.