

Winnefeld said. "The majority of the seen and unseen injuries our warriors have endured from Iraq, . . . Afghanistan and other places are scars they'll bear for life."

With medical facilities such as the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and others just a road trip away, Boulder Crest Retreat, Winnefeld said, goes the extra mile to not only be a home away from home, but a home away from clinics and hospitals.

"The severity of many veterans' physical and emotional trauma suggests long-term care needs that will surpass our publicly available medical capacity well into the future," the admiral said.

The 37-acre, Americans With Disabilities Act-accessible retreat already has proven popular, with bookings in each of its four private cabins through 2013 and projected recreation and resources for 250 to 500 families each year.

Each cabin accommodates up to six people and is available for two- to 14-day stays, and guests also can gather in the 6,000-square-foot, two-story lodge to connect with other families and participate in programs.

Visitors also can enjoy outdoor amenities such as an archery range, nature trails, a playground, an organic garden, a bird sanctuary and a fishing pond, while recreational activities include nature walks, Shenandoah River kayaking and swimming, and golf and tennis.

In addition to the retreat's healing offerings of yoga, meditation, massage therapy, journaling, art and music therapy, Winnefeld also noted featured assistance therapy with dogs and horses, which resonates well with wounded warriors who may be weary of sudden noises and movements.

Winnefeld directly addressed wounded warriors, lauding them for their courage and buoyancy. "I'm continually amazed by your grit and resilience [and] your commitment to ability over disability."

Julia Falke, too, admired the courage not only of her husband, an explosive ordnance disposal technician, but also of fellow military families, which she said ultimately inspired her journey to Boulder Crest Retreat.

The Falkes lived in military family housing in both Scotland and her native England. "We'd always invite the young families stationed there to come and have dinner and feel the comforts of home," she said. "You could really see the difference it made."

Thirty years later, the Falkes bought 200 acres of land in rural Virginia, where they took residence in a large, stone farmhouse atop the hilly grass and briar. The couple began visiting wounded warriors and their families at nearby military hospitals, and soon resumed the tradition of inviting guests over for home-cooked meals and relaxation.

But sending the troops back, Julia said, became less and less practical. So when a friend suggested a writer's retreat for the Falkes' countryside, Julia thought of something more meaningful.

"The more we started talking about [Boulder Crest Retreat], the more other people would come to us and say, 'If you start it, we will help you,'" Julia said.

The Falkes soon secured a 501c3 charitable foundation status, and in less than a year, various donors poured more than \$5 million into the organization.

Julia said contributors ranged from the Boy Scouts of America to multi-billion-dollar corporations. "There has been every kind of involvement, the outcome has been unbelievable," she said.

But the nascent project will continue to grow with the ideas and donations of those who support it, Julia said. "I've been crying all day long," she added. "To see it in reality is so amazing."

Perhaps the most interesting style of arrival to the grand opening was that of

wounded warrior Dana Bowman, who parachuted in by way of tandem jump with an American flag in tow.

In 1994, Bowman, a former special operations troop who once served with Falke, lost both of his legs after being injured while serving on the Army's Golden Knights parachute team.

Standing tall on legs of steel, Bowman didn't lose his courage, and he became the first double amputee to re-enlist in the U.S. military. So when Ken Falke asked him to attend the Boulder Crest Retreat grand opening, Bowman said, the decision to help his former comrade was easy.

"Absolutely, I said I'd be there to bring the American flag in . . . and to land on target, and that's exactly what we did," Bowman said. "We're able to come back, bring the whole team and tandem jump a warrior in for this special event and day."

Bowman said the retreat, at its essence, is about giving back.

"At the end of the day," he added, "we all bleed the same way, so we have to rally our troops from the different services to come out and make a difference."

Elected and public officials, corporate and private organization representatives as well as Vietnam veteran and former Pittsburgh Steelers running back Rocky Bleier all attended the grand opening.

NUTRITION REFORM AND WORK OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill.

I opposed the first farm bill this House considered because of a \$20.5 billion cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). I opposed the second attempt to pass a farm bill, because it completely removed the Nutrition title of the farm bill. And I oppose this bill today because the Majority has doubled down on a bad policy with a nearly \$40 billion cut to SNAP.

Right now, as the U.S. is emerging from a great recession, robust nutrition programs are needed more than at any time in recent history.

In New Jersey the number of SNAP participants over a 5 year period has doubled from 437,860 monthly participants in 2008, up to 875,437 participants in June of this year. These families need just a little assistance in order to afford the most basic of needs—something to eat.

The Majority here in the House has titled this legislation the "Nutrition Reform and Work Opportunity Act of 2013." Some of my Democratic colleagues have called this bill the "More Hunger, Less Opportunity Act." I personally think we should call the bill before us today the "Malnutrition Act" because even though 92 percent of people on SNAP are children, elderly, disabled, or already working, this bill would take the food out of their mouths, hurting nearly 4 million Americans next year.

Representatives here in Congress continually punctuate their arguments with assertions that the U.S. is the greatest, most powerful, most wealthy country in the world.

Well, the greatest country in the world makes sure that working families, children, seniors, veterans, and the unemployed have the support they need to afford something to eat.

It is not simply the existence of wealth and power that makes the U.S. exceptional; it is the willingness to use that wealth and power to help the less fortunate among us. It is the ability of our elected leaders to not just make the rich richer but to make sure that the hungry are fed.

I'm sick and I'm tired of these ceaseless attempts to cut spending at the expense of those who can least afford it, but at least I'm not going hungry tonight. With \$40 billion in SNAP cuts I could not claim as much for the 4 million Americans who will suffer from the cuts in this bill.

In 2011 I joined my wife, representatives from the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, and a local SNAP beneficiary to shop for a week's worth of food with the average weekly SNAP benefit of \$31.50. I have always looked at prices when I shop, but never in the past 30 years have I had to watch the budget this closely. I left that experience with a strong reminder of what beneficiaries of federal nutrition programs experience week in and week out.

When the House farm bill passed, minus the Nutrition title, the Majority claimed that they were not taking a position, but Democrats opposed the bill because we knew the position of our colleagues.

So, thank you Mr. Speaker for bringing this bill to the Floor today, because now all of our constituents across the country can see clearly where every Member of Congress stands in the fight against hunger in America.

MIKE "FLAGMAN" BOWEN

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Mike "Flagman" Bowen from my district. I ask the House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on completing a truly inspiring mission to commemorate those who served and died in Vietnam. I could not be more sincere in my appreciation of his pledge to run a mile for each of our fallen heroes—58,292 miles total—commemorated on the Vietnam Memorial. You have inspired not only me, but our entire nation.

We must remember the sacrifice of those who have given their lives to preserve our freedom. Your dedication and mission are resounding reminders of this responsibility. It is a true honor, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Bowen represents Michigan and I thank you for your service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mr. Bowen's efforts and determination and I am looking forward to greeting him in Washington, D.C. after he completes his 58,292nd and final mile.