

plans (including CHAMPUS supplemental plans) and directs that all funds received under these provisions be credited to the facility that provided the care. It also exempts those personnel involved in providing care under this provision and other sharing authorities from personnel ceilings.

The effective date for the implementation of an administrative reorganization is reduced from 90 to 45 days during which Congress has been in continuous session.

The bill repeals limitations in 38 USC Section 8110(c) on contracting-out services currently performed by VA employees. VA is required to report annually to the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees on those activities which it proposes to study for possible contracting out and those which have been contracted out.

Under Subtitle B of the bill, Care of Women Veterans, it stipulates that mammography standards for the VA be as stringent as those prescribed by Public Law 102-539 and requires that VA report to the Congress within 120 days of enactment of the legislation on the implementation of such standards. The bill also requires annual surveys through 1999 of all VA medical centers to identify patient privacy deficiencies relating to the treatment of women veterans, to develop plans for the correction of identified deficiencies, and to give priority to correction efforts in the Department's construction planning and budgeting process.

Under Subtitle C, Readjustment Counseling and Mental Health Care, VA is required to furnish readjustment counseling to those veterans who served in-theater during the Vietnam era and those Vietnam-era veterans who seek or who have sought readjustment counseling before January 1, 2000. The provision also authorizes Vet Center counseling services to veterans of conflicts prior to the Vietnam-era such as Korea and World War II. Other provisions of this section require the VA to submit to the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees a report on the feasibility and desirability of collating Vet Centers and also a report on the provision of offering limited health care services at readjustment counseling centers. Both reports are due within 6 months of enactment of the legislation. The bill also establishes an 18-member Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of Veterans which is required to submit an annual report on the readjustment of veterans with department comments to the Congress.

The bill authorizes appropriations for establishment of up to five centers of excellence in mental health research, education, and clinical care activities (MIRECC's). The MIRECC concept is intended to improve the quality of care, particularly at VA psychiatric facilities, by fostering collaboration between those facilities with primarily psychiatric or mental health missions and non-psychiatric tertiary medical centers. MIRECC's are to be modeled after the successful Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers (GRECC's). Authorizations for appropriations are \$3.125 million for fiscal year 1998 and \$6.25 million for fiscal years 1999 through 2001. VA is required to submit reports on the operation of MIRECC's for the years 1999 through 2002.

The bill requires VA to establish a Committee on the Care of Severely Chronically Mentally Ill Veterans to assess VA's capability to meet the treatment needs of veterans includ-

ing women veterans who suffer from chronic mental illnesses. The committee is required to submit reports for 1998 and the three years following on ways to improve care to this group of veterans.

Subtitle D of the bill contains the following important provisions:

HOSPICE CARE STUDY

This provision requires VA to conduct an in-house research and evaluation study on the most effective way of providing hospice care to veterans.

ADULT DAY CARE PER DIEM

Authorizes VA to make per diem payments to state veterans' homes in conjunction with adult day care provided at such homes. The bill also authorizes construction grant support to States for expansion, remodeling, or alteration of existing buildings to permit the provision of adult day health care.

RESEARCH CORPORATIONS

This provision renews VA's authority to establish additional research corporations through the year 2000. It also expands reporting requirements to Congress and requires an annual independent audit of research corporations with revenues in excess of \$300,000. It also requires research corporations to more closely mirror reporting requirements of the Internal Revenue Service.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS

This provision requires that the Office of the Under Secretary be staffed to include designated clinicians to provide expertise and direct policy guidance on VA's specialized services programs (including the readjustment counseling program) and that the latter be responsible for management of the readjustment counseling program.

DISBURSEMENT AGREEMENTS RELATING TO MEDICAL RESIDENTS AND INTERNS

Authorizes VA to make disbursement agreements for residents who train at outpatient clinics, nursing homes, or other VA medical facilities.

AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND SPECIAL PAY AGREEMENTS FOR PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS WHO ENTER RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAMS

This provision suspends special pay agreements during residency training.

REMUNERATED OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES BY VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION PERSONNEL

Lifts current law restrictions on title 38 health care professional working in their professional capacity in outside employment while employed full-time by the VA.

MODIFICATION OF RESTRICTIONS ON REAL PROPERTY, MILWAUKEE COUNTY, WI

Authorizes VA to modify conditions under which land previously transferred to Milwaukee County for civic and recreational purposes may be re-transferred.

MODIFICATION OF RESTRICTIONS ON REAL PROPERTY, CHEYENNE, WY

Authorizes VA to modify conditions under which land previously transferred to grant medical center lands on which the City of Cheyenne, WY may be re-transferred to permit First Cheyenne Federal Credit Union to build a building to house its operations.

NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER, JOHNSON CITY, TN

Renames the VA medical center in Johnson City, TN, the "James H. Quillen Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

REPORT ON THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA VETERANS

This provision requires VA to submit a report to Congress on the health care needs of needs of veterans in east central Florida.

EVALUATION OF THE HEALTH STATUS OF SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERANS

Extends VA's authority until December 31, 1998 to offer diagnostic examinations to the spouses and children of Persian Gulf veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have been part of the legislative process that makes these critical changes which benefit our Nation's veterans. I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING THE POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 1996

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 85th anniversary of the Polish American Journal.

As Representatives from Polish-American districts are sure to recognize, the Polish American Journal is the largest independent monthly English language newspaper in the United States and carries on the tradition of preserving Polish culture and customs in our country. Founded in 1911 as *Zorza*, *The Dawn*, it was subsequently renamed *Republika* before combining with another newspaper under the ownership of John Dende, 1920, and to become known as *Republika-Gornik Pennsylvanski* (*Republic-Miner of Pennsylvania*). The paper was influential in providing anthracite coal miners with information about working conditions, wages, and mine safety. John Dende's editorials won wide acclaim and were often reprinted in other Polish language newspapers. Indeed, John Dende became a highly respected activist for his work on behalf of his Polish-American compatriots.

Following John Dende's passing, the paper was published by his sons, Henry and Richard. In 1948 the Dende brothers made the difficult decision of changing from strictly Polish to mostly English to meet the needs of the nearly 5 million U.S.-born Polish-Americans and reach directly into the English-speaking community. Renamed *Polish American Journal*, the paper acquired national stature as the voice of Polish-Americans. Members of Congress, government officials, civic and political leaders, free Poles of the cold-war era, and anti-Communist crusaders throughout the world all turned to the *Journal* as a freedom forum and information source.

Henry and Richard Dende remained publishers of the *Polish American Journal* until 1983, ever true to their mission of promoting and preserving Polish and Polish-American culture, customs, traditions, and interests. In August of that year, however, Henry and Richard Dende agreed to have the *Journal* published by Panagraphics Corp. of Buffalo which is located in the 30th Congressional District of New York. And Panagraphics continues the work begun by the hearty Polish immigrants 85 years ago.

It is fitting to enter these remarks in anticipation of Polish-American Heritage Month, for

the Polish American Journal is a familiar voice in these halls. It was this publication that gave us firsthand accounts of a war-ravaged Poland and the plight of the Poles who were forced to live behind the Iron Curtain. During that period, the Journal became the most quoted ethnic newspaper in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, as its headlines were cited by many of our former colleagues and their constituents.

Since that time, the Polish American Journal has fought hard to see freedom restored in Poland, a dream that was realized with the election of Lech Walesa to Poland's presidency.

While the Polish American Journal has demonstrated its role as a voice for Poland here in the United States, it more importantly serves as witness to the countless contributions Americans of Polish descent make to the United States. From Revolutionary War heroes Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski to World War II flying ace Col. Francis Gabreski and the highly decorated late Col. Matt Urban, Poles and Polish-Americans have long demonstrated their deep commitment to America's liberty.

The pages of the Polish American Journal are a record of the achievements of Polish-Americans in all fields, from academia and politics to science and the arts. This gives all citizens of the United States a deeper understanding and respect for the lives of the sons and daughters of self-sacrificing immigrants whose stories proudly shine in the colorful ethnic mosaic we call America.

Since its founding, the Polish American Journal has been dedicated to the promotion and continuation of Polish-American culture in the United States, a heritage rich in the joys of the family, church, and country. Its anniversary is a milestone by which all can be proud, for its success mirrors the achievements of all Polish-Americans whose virtues and ethics have contributed to American society.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the paper on its anniversary and commend its staff, writers, contributors, and subscribers who take pride in their economic roots and who willingly share the ideals of their ancestors with Americans of all backgrounds.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE PATRICIA SCHROEDER OF COLORADO AND REPRESENTATIVE CARDISS COLLINS OF ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 1996

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add voice to those who want to recognize two wonderful public servants and truly special people, my colleagues PAT SCHROEDER and CARDISS COLLINS. It has been an honor for me to serve with these two distinguished Members, who have worked hard to help the people of Colorado, Illinois, and the United States. Their dedication, passion, and commitment to the betterment of our country will be missed.

For 11 terms, Pat Schroeder, my friend from Colorado, has been an active and influential leader on behalf of women's and children's issues, health care, educational opportunity, constitutional rights, and foreign and military policy. In doing so, she has shaped legislation

that has affected every American and has earned the respect of legislators on both sides of the aisle.

By holding strong to her convictions and by keeping an unwavering commitment to help America, PAT SCHROEDER has become one of the best-known Members of this body. To many Americans, PAT SCHROEDER has become synonymous with women's rights, and rightfully so. Allies on important issues are always thankful to have PAT fight on their behalf, while foes on issues fear her powerful voice.

PAT SCHROEDER's legislative accomplishments are countless. Some of her most recent bills that are now law include the Violence Against Women Act, the Economic Equity Act, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Act, the Child Support Responsibility Act, and the National Child Care Protection Act.

PAT SCHROEDER has won recognition from a wide range of groups because of her dedication, including the National Women's Hall of Fame. We'll all remember PAT, though, for some of the every day things she does, like the smiley faces in her signature, the bunny suits and her flair for language and the art of debate. As I told her earlier this year, without PAT we never would have known whether Presidents were Teflon or Velcro, or which hawks were really chickens in disguise.

My colleague from Illinois, CARDISS COLLINS, also has had a most distinguished career of service to her constituents, and significant legislative contributions during her tenure here. Since arriving in 1973, CARDISS COLLINS not only has been a remarkable congresswoman, but has been a leader. CARDISS COLLINS has led the charge on minority, women's, children's, and safety issues. By doing so, she has enhanced equality and helped our Nation become stronger and safer.

I have had the honor to serve with CARDISS on the Commerce Committee, where I was able to witness her hard work and commitment to not only the people of Illinois, but to all Americans.

During her tenure as chair of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Competitiveness, CARDISS COLLINS was instrumental in enacting the Child Abuse Prevention Act, the Child Safety Protection Act, the Gender Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act, and many, many other bills. She also conducted investigations which helped triple the number of child care centers in the General Services Administration.

CARDISS COLLINS' tireless efforts have also resulted in increased safety standards for America's airline passengers, tougher safety standards in the transport of toxic materials, and an increased African-American participation in advertising. She has led a dedicated staff both in the Government Reform Committee, and before that in the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Competitiveness. It was on this panel that Chairwoman COLLINS led hearings on gender equity, insurance redlining, and deceptive practices in the sale of life insurance.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have served with such noble individuals. PAT SCHROEDER and CARDISS COLLINS will not be forgotten. America owes them both a debt of gratitude. I urge all my colleagues to salute PAT and CARDISS for their exceptional accomplishments as Members of the House. They both will be

greatly missed, but I know they will both find great satisfaction in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMEN SCHROEDER AND COLLINS

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 1996

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, when the 105th Congress convenes next year, this body will regrettably be absent two of its most dedicated and distinguished public servants, the Honorable PAT SCHROEDER and the Honorable CARDISS COLLINS. It is with mixed feelings of pleasure and sadness that I rise today in tribute to these two extraordinary leaders.

Congresswoman SCHROEDER and Congresswoman COLLINS have served the Congress longer and with greater dedication than few others. Among women Members, their longevity is virtually unmatched. As co-founders of the Congressional Women's Caucus they have shared in the historic mission of elevating this body's awareness and understanding of legislative issues of greatest concern to women. Both have served selflessly and tirelessly in the struggle for social justice and equality.

PAT SCHROEDER and CARDISS COLLINS represent very different constituencies. Their legislative styles are distinct and they speak in somewhat different voices, but they have consistently spoken in unison on behalf of those who have been traditionally under-represented in the halls of Congress. The achievements of these two legislative giants are too numerous to recount and too phenomenal to address adequately in these few minutes. They each leave a legacy of achievements fulfilled. PAT has performed some miraculous feats as a member of the National Security Committee while CARDISS has left her signature on the business of the Commerce Committee. And both of these great Members of Congress has left her personal imprimatur on issues like health care, education, employment security, environmental protection, consumer safety, and civil rights and humanitarian causes.

These two gentlewomen have made countless personal sacrifices and enormous contributions to this body and to the Nation. No truer advocates of peace, justice, and equality I have known in my 28 years in Congress. Congresswoman CARDISS COLLINS acts from the heart and steadfastly nurtures policies of fairness and virtue. Congresswoman PAT SCHROEDER speaks eloquently from her soul and illuminates the path to truth and justice.

Mr. Speaker, the Congresswoman from Denver and the Congresswoman from Chicago have played magnificent roles in redirecting our future. They have moved our Nation closer toward realizing those principles of freedom and equality of which our Nation's founders paid lip service but to which they failed miserably in their shameless defense of racism and sexism. Our Nation and this institution have changed for the better by the dedicated contributions of these exceptional legislators.

Representatives SCHROEDER and COLLINS have demonstrated the kind of faith and dedication that inspire the best in others. I will PAT's humor and I will miss CARDISS' determination, and I will especially miss their generous support and friendship. My memories of