

otherwise held accountable to the Rule of Law, "We the People"—even those of us who serve "at the pleasure of the President"—should follow his lead and talk about forgiveness. In the meantime, other commanders might do well by following the lead of, and by telling their troops to follow the lead of, Archbishop John Carroll, whose "A Prayer for the Republic" seems as timely now as when penned by the founder of Georgetown University 200 years ago: "We Pray Thee, O God . . . assist with Thy holy spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of the United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness, and be eminently useful to Thy people over whom he presides; by encouraging the due respect for virtue and religion; by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy; and by restraining vice and immorality. Let the light of Thy divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress, . . ."

DALLAS LIVER TRANSPLANT PROGRAM

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I submit the attached materials to be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

DALLAS LIVER TRANSPLANT PROGRAM, BAYLOR UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER, CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER OF DALLAS, DALLAS, TX, September 22, 1998.

Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN JOHNSON: I am aware that the House recently passed H.R. 4250, the Patient Protection Act of 1998. I understand that the Patient's Bill of Rights Act, S. 2330, is currently under consideration as the companion bill.

Managed care is here to stay, but it has, as you are well aware, caused many significant problems. I have had personal, intimate experience with health care plans ever since they were first introduced into the Dallas health care market in the late 1980s. I support the provisions in the bill as it is currently worded. However, I find it very troublesome that the private insurance plans would not be required to emulate the same restrictions against financial incentives as the current Medicare rules provide. To allow a system that awards or penalizes physicians depending on how "cost effective" the care is they provide I believe is unethical. The simple thought of paying physicians extra if they do not provide health care is, in effect, repugnant to me. In addition, we must prevent the development of separate requirements for public and private health care sectors.

In my own particular field, that of transplantation, it is very obvious that transplant patients, i.e. recipients of kidneys, pancreas, livers, hearts, lungs and other organs, are so sick and have such serious disorders that they need to be cared for by specialists in their respective fields, both before and after the transplant. There are areas of the country where a specialist's care is not available. In those circumstances, the local physicians work very closely with the super-specialists at the transplant institutions. I think it is essential to allow chronically ill patients to have specialists designated as their primary care physicians.

On a separate vein, the basis for improvement of care and the safety of treatment we

can provide to patients is to allow the patients to participate in scientific, peer-reviewed, controlled trials. It is essential for medicine, and to have health care plans for-bid patient participation because of whatever reason they deem fit is unthinkable. They always want to participate and reap the benefits of any advances, especially if they can save a few dollars for themselves. However, they don't ever want to participate and help such developments along.

Finally, since I have seen health care being prevented and withheld by health care providers so many times, I believe it is imperative to allow patients to sue their carrier. The unconscionable way that many health care providers approach health care today is upsetting. One situation I bring to your attention is several years ago open of the biggest HMOs in the country had patients who were 20% more expensive to transplant than other patients. The reason was simply that the patients coming from this particular HMO were so much farther advanced and therefore more complex when they finally arrived for transplantation. The patients were simply prevented from having the transplants when they were in optimum condition, thus jeopardizing their lives. Clearly this was not the fault of the referring physicians or the physicians involved in the transplantation, but the HMOs corporate policy in trying to avoid the cost that would be incurred. Thus, the right to sue the carrier is absolutely essential to insure the patient's right to prevent withholding of care that is so widely prevalent today.

As always I appreciate your work in Congress and your involvement In the health care problems.

Yours most sincerely,

GORAN B. KLINTMALM, M.D.

Medical Director, Transplantation Services, Baylor University Medical Center—Dallas.

DEPARTMENT OF

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES,

Washington, DC, September 23, 1998.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. JOHNSON: Thank you for your letter regarding implementation of the surety bond requirement for home health agencies (HHAs) included in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. I regret the delay in this response.

In response to concerns raised by Members of Congress and the home health industry, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), in a rule published in the Federal Register on July 31, announced the indefinite suspension of the compliance date by which home health agencies must obtain a surety bond. As a result, home health agencies no longer have a date by which they must obtain a surety bond. The Congress has requested that the General Accounting Office conduct a study of the home health surety bond requirement, and upon completion of that study, HCFA will work in consultation with the Congress about the surety bond requirement. Following this review and consultation, the new date by which home health agencies must obtain bonds will be at least 60 days after HCFA publishes a revised rule requiring bonds, but will not be earlier than February 15, 1999.

I hope this information is helpful, and I appreciate your letter. A similar letter is being sent to the other members of the delegation who co-signed your letter.

Sincerely,

NANCY-ANN MIN DEPARLE,

Administrator.

A TRIBUTE TO MARGARET ROBERTS AND CHAR CALLIES

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today a recent editorial from one of the finest weekly papers I know, the Desert Trail newspaper in Twentynine Palms, California. This editorial pays tribute to two remarkable woman who have made, and continue to make a tremendous difference to the people of Twentynine Palms.

[The Desert Trail, Thursday, Sept. 10, 1998]

CONGRATS TO OUR CITY CLERKS

There are upsides and downsides to every situation, and the announcement this week that Deputy City Clerk Char Callies will succeed retiring City Clerk Margaret Roberts is no exception.

We all knew the day would come when Margaret would hang up her city of Twentynine Palms seal and head into "retirement" with her husband, Marine Sgt. Maj. Alex Roberts.

That day will officially come on Dec. 18, when Margaret closes the door on an 11-year career with the city, City Manager Jim Hart announced Wednesday.

"Margaret was the city's first full-time employee and she was instrumental in helping guide the new city after incorporation. We all owe Margaret a sense of gratitude for her efforts on behalf of the city," Hart said in announcing that her resignation had been accepted reluctantly by the City Council for the end of the year.

There's probably not anyone in this city who doesn't owe Margaret some debt of gratitude. For more than a decade she has represented the city of Twentynine Palms in a most gracious and straightforward fashion. It seems there's nothing she can't do, nothing and no one she cannot handle with aplomb.

She has guided council candidates, provided information and assistance of all kinds to just about everyone and their brother and been there to lend an ear when needed.

Margaret has never failed to provide The Desert Trail with information we've requested and never hesitated to pick up the phone and let us know when a story needed to be told.

We will all miss Margaret, even as we wish her well, when she and Alex head East to pursue the next part of their lives together.

That said, we don't think the City Council could have made a better choice to replace Margaret than Char Callies.

A longtime resident of Twentynine Palms, Char is personable, caring, efficient, strong, hard-working and no-nonsense, just like her predecessor.

"Char has been working hard over the past three years to gain the knowledge and experience the City Council felt was needed to become city clerk," Hart said in announcing her promotion. "She has done an outstanding job as the city manager's secretary and deputy city clerk and this promotion is a recognition of Char's efforts."

We wholeheartedly congratulate Char on her promotion and look forward to working with her come mid-December. It's nice to know that she'll be on the job when Margaret says goodbye.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in recognizing the incredible contributions and achievements of these fine women.