

NATO's job, but the alliance should favor any policy shift that would reduce the calls on its military might.

Europe, and the world, needs something more than SWAT teams and untrained verifiers.

Daniel Plesch is director of the British American Security Information Council an independent research organization. Juliane Smith is BASIC's senior analyst.

SOME QUALIFICATIONS

Here is the OSCE's job posting for the Kosovo Verification Mission. Words in bold are as they appeared in the ad, along with the phrase, "POSTS ARE OPEN UNTIL FILLED".

ESSENTIAL: Several years experience in the area of work; knowledge of written and spoken English; computer literacy (Microsoft applications); excellent physical condition with no chronic health problems that limit physical activity; possession of a valid driver's license and capability to drive standard transmission vehicles; ability to establish contact and develop confident relations with local population as well as the ability to work with government officials and institutions; flexibility and adaptability to difficult living conditions; willingness to be deployed in different Field Offices; ability to perform in a crisis environment.

DESIRABLE: Knowledge of local languages; prior experience in peacekeeping, international operations, or another international organization.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION EQUITY ACT OF 1999

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing H.R. 1764, the "Veteran's Compensation Equity Act of 1999". This legislation will provide more equitable treatment to approximately 100,000 older veterans who receive service-connected disability compensation and who are also eligible to receive retirement pay based upon their military service.

Under current law, the amount of military retirement pay received by a military retiree is reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the amount of service-connected disability compensation the military retiree receives. This reduction in military retirement pay when the military retiree is in receipt of service-connected disability compensation is intended to prevent dual compensation. The notion of dual compensation is erroneous. Service-connected disability benefits are paid to compensate a veteran for an injury or illness incurred or aggravated during military service. Retirement benefits are paid to provide an income to military retirees who have spent at least 20 years of their lives working for and serving our country as members of the Armed Forces. These two programs are completely different and payments made by these programs should not be considered duplicative.

This treatment of military retirees is simply inequitable. A veteran receiving service-connected disability compensation could become eligible for civil service retirement pay based on his or her subsequent work as a civilian employee of the federal government. This individual, unlike the military retiree, can receive the full amount of both of the retirement ben-

efit which has been earned and the service-connected disability compensation for which he or she may be eligible.

The "Veteran's Compensation Equity Act of 1999" will reduce and then eliminate the reduction in military retirement benefits for veterans who are entitled to both military retirement pay and service-connected compensation benefits. This bill will limit the reduction in military retirement pay to 50 percent when the military retiree attains age 65. The reduction in military retirement pay would be completely eliminated when the retiree reaches age 70.

Retired military personnel who were fortunate enough to have emerged from military service unscathed receive military retirement pay, but do not qualify for service-connected disability benefits. In many cases, these retirees are able to earn additional income through non-military employment and thereby accrue Social Security or other retirement income benefits. These retirement benefits are not reduced by receipt of service-connected disability benefits.

Military retirees who were not so fortunate, are required to forfeit all or a portion of their military retirement pay in order to receive service-connected compensation benefits due to illnesses or injuries that were incurred or aggravated during their military careers. These veterans, as a result of their service-connected medical conditions, face diminished employment possibilities and, therefore, a diminished ability to earn additional income through non-military employment. They therefore lose the opportunity to accrue Social Security or other retirement income benefits.

In general, Social Security disability benefits received by retirees are offset by monies received under state Worker's Compensation laws. However, the Social Security statute provides that this offset ends when the worker attains 65 years of age. Furthermore, while recipients of Social Security benefits who earn income have their Social Security benefits reduced as a result of their earnings, this offset is reduced at age 65 and eliminated entirely at age 70.

While all veterans who are subject to the concurrent receipt offset are unfairly penalized, my bill would begin to rectify the injustice which falls most heavily on our older veterans. This bill will promote fairness and equity between military retirees and Social Security retirees by reducing the amount of this offset by 50 percent at age 65 and eliminating it entirely at age 70.

Military retirees who have given so much to the service of our country and suffered disease or disabilities as a direct result of their military service do not deserve to be impoverished in their older years by the concurrent receipt penalty.

I commend Mr. BILIRAKIS, an original co-sponsor of this bill, for his efforts to address the problems caused to our military retirees by the statutory prohibition on concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. I urge my other colleagues to support this bipartisan effort to promote fairness for our Nation's older military retirees.

SELMA GOMEZ—WHITE HOUSE
FELLOW FOR 1998-1999

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate my constituent, Ms. Selma Gomez of Miami, Florida for her service as a prestigious White House Fellow for 1998-1999.

The daughter of Cuban refugees in Miami, Ms. Gomez has an outstanding record of academic achievement, business leadership and community service which made her well qualified for this high honor. She earned four degrees from Harvard University including a PhD in decision sciences and has taught at the University of Miami's engineering department. In addition to extensive community service, Dr. Gomez also excelled in the business world as the president and founder of Applied Consulting Services Corp. after serving as a senior manager at KPMP Peat Marwick LLP.

Assigned to the State Department, Dr. Gomez specialized in the critical Y2K issue. She has traveled around the world on fact-finding missions regarding the Y2K problem, as well as representing our nation at the G-8 Year 2000 Working Group and the Year 2000 meeting of international Y2K coordinators at the United Nations. A leading highlight of her fellowship was briefing Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and other top State Department officials on Year 2000 Challenges and Responses.

I am honored to recognize Selma Gomez for her outstanding work as a White House Fellow. Her service in this position makes all of us in South Florida very proud.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO STOP FINANCIAL HEMORRHAGE OF NATION'S PREMIER TEACH- ING HOSPITALS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to stop the cuts in Medicare's indirect medical education (IME) program. Identical legislation is being introduced in the Senate today by Senator MOYNIHAN of the Senate Finance Committee.

IME payments are extra payments made to teaching hospitals for the fact that they are training the next generation of doctors, and that the cost of training a young doctor—like any apprenticeship or new person on the job—is more expensive than just dealing with experienced, older workers. The young person requires mentoring, orders more tests, and makes mistakes unless closely supervised. It is natural that a group of young residents in a hospital will reduce a hospital's efficiency and increase its costs. Medicare should help pay for these extra "indirect" costs, if we want—as we surely do—future generations of competent, highly skilled doctors.

The Balanced Budget Act took the position that the extra adjustment we pay a hospital per resident should be reduced from 7.7 percent in FY 1997 to 5.5 percent in FY 2001.

This provision was estimated to save about \$6 billion over 5 years and \$16 billion over ten—in addition to about another \$50 billion in hospital cuts in other portions of the BBA.

Mr. Speaker, these cuts are too much. The nation's teaching hospitals, which do so much to serve the uninsured and poor, and which are the cradle of new clinical research and technical innovation, are hemorrhaging red ink.

Our bill stops further scheduled cuts in the IME, freezing the adjustment factor at 6.5 percent rather than letting it fall to 5.5 percent, and saving teaching hospitals about \$8 billion over ten years that would otherwise be taken from them.

I hope this legislation will receive early consideration. The situation is, as a hospital ER would say, STAT.

Mr. Speaker, I would also note that we should pass other legislation to help our Nation's hospitals: HR 1103 is a bill I introduced to 'carve out' disproportionate share hospital payments from the amount we pay HMOs and give that money directly to the DSH hospitals when an HMO uses those hospitals. Today, Medicare HMOs are paid as if they use DSH hospitals, but they frequently avoid the hospitals that serve the uninsured because they are more expensive hospitals—thus pocketing the DSH payment and leaving the DSH hospital with empty beds.

We must also correct a technical error in the BBA which capped the amount we pay psychiatric and rehabilitation hospitals (so-called TEFRA hospitals) but failed to adjust the cap for higher wage costs in urban areas. The result is severe hardship for such hospitals in urban areas. At the first opportunity, I will try to amend the BBA to correct this drafting error.

COMMENDING WHITE HOUSE FELLOW, DR. STEPHEN ENGLAND OF ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Stephen England of St. Paul, Minnesota. Dr. England has served this year as a distinguished White House Fellow.

The White House Fellowship Program was created in 1965 to employ the talents of outstanding individuals in various areas of public service. White House Fellows explore issues of both global and nationwide significance while working closely with influential leaders in government. The nearly 500 alumni of the program have gone on to become leaders in all fields of endeavor, fulfilling the fellowship's mission to encourage active citizenship and service to the nation. This program is extremely competitive, choosing individuals who have demonstrated excellence in community service, leadership, academic and professional achievement. It is the nation's most prestigious fellowship for public service and leadership development.

As a White House Fellow for the U.S. Department of Education, Dr. England assists in the Safe and Drug-Free School program. This program provides support to governors for a variety of drug and violence prevention activi-

ties focused primarily on school-age children. He also oversees the creation and implementation of Project SERV, a federal program designed to assist states and local education agencies in managing school crises attributable to violence. In addition, Dr. England assists in a new federal coordinated grants program that distributes community-wide grants for safer schools and communities.

Dr. England is a pediatric orthopedic surgeon at Gillette Children's Specialty Health Care and the Shriners' Hospital in St. Paul, where he focuses on children with special health care needs. He is also an assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at the University of Minnesota. Dr. England lectured nationally and internationally on pediatric and adolescent health topics. He serves on numerous state commissions addressing the health issues of children with disabilities. As part of a medical mission in Ecuador, Dr. England has made a lasting impact on many lives by operating on children with cerebral palsy. He has also demonstrated his commitment to public service by founding the Children's Health Enrichment Program in St. Paul, which teaches African-American teenagers about health topics and provides mentoring and academic guidance. Dr. England received a BA in biology from the University of Minnesota, an MD from Cornell University Medical College and an MA in public health from Johns Hopkins University.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in commending Dr. Stephen England for his distinguished leadership in community endeavors and for his service as a White House Fellow. His accomplishments and civic contributions have earned him recognition as an outstanding member of the St. Paul community.

RECOGNIZING MAY AS TEXAS MOHAIR MONTH

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, May has been recognized by the Governor of Texas as Mohair Industry Month. More than one million Angora goats are raised in Texas and the lion's share of them are raised in the 23d Congressional District, that I represent.

The mohair industry in Texas traces its roots back to 1849 with the arrival of a small flock of seven does and two bucks. The goats were originally from Turkey, near the city of Nakara. Angora goats were highly regarded and jealously protected from exportation by Turkey until the 16th century when they were exported to Spain and France.

Today the United States is the second-leading mohair producer in the world and more than 90 percent of that production is in Texas. In 1998 Texas produced more than 4.654 million pounds of mohair. This hair was shipped to more than 10 countries around the world and provided a \$12 million infusion into the state's economy.

Mohair is said to be the fabric of kings. The rich luster and soft texture of the fiber, in combination with the durability, make it a highly valued textile. Because of its durability Mohair is used to decorate many public places such as symphony halls and theaters.

I encourage all of my colleagues to seek out and wear clothes made of mohair. Biblical wise men once wore robes made of this special fabric. It has endured over time and fashion trends. I am proud to honor Texas mohair producers.

HONORING THE AMERICAN FUJIAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the American Fujian Association of Commerce and Industry, an organization that has become an integral part of our diverse community in New York. It is an organization that understands the importance of diversity, and seeks to tap into the vast spectrum of talent and initiative of the Chinese-American community. The association has always worked to strengthen families and businesses throughout our city.

Started in 1992, the American Fujian Association of Commerce and Industry has been dedicated to helping Chinese-American business owners who immigrated to this country. The Association's 1,000 members truly epitomize the American Dream. They came to America from poverty. Once in the land of opportunity, they seized their chance and worked to make their dreams a reality. Through hard work, discipline, and sacrifice, they have become successful and productive American citizens.

Their efforts have helped build strong families and strong communities. The association takes a dynamic approach to their mission. Though they focus on business and economic development, they do a great deal of work in other key areas. The American Fujian Association understands that economic development must be accompanied by many important attributes.

For this reason, the American Fujian Association is active in the community in humanitarian efforts, immigration support, job training, and health services for families. By ensuring that these services are available, the association gives back to their communities and America.

I would urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the American Fujian Association for Commerce and Industry for their contribution and the efforts they make on behalf of Chinese-Americans and all Americans in the New York community.

RECOGNIZING THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES ON OCCASION OF ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce House Resolution 168, recognizing the Foreign Service of the United States on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.