

Fellow senators, we are in a war against terrorism and those who hate us and those who hate Israel are very often one and the same. We, of course, are responsible for ensuring that government funds we distribute as foreign aid are serving our national security interests and those of our allies. But what I think these reports have brought to our attention is that there are other entities out there, foundations, and not just of the sort that are part of extremist communities whose clear purpose is to channel funds to the terrorists and against whom the Treasury Department is moving aggressively and indictments are being handed down but well known, respected foundations can undermine our policies and activities by making an end run and supporting those with whom we deeply disagree.

As a member of the Finance Committee, I am going to be asking Chairman GRASSLEY that the committee look into this more deeply and again review the controls we have in place for foundation activities and grant overseas.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ESSENTIAL TO VA

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, has some of the most dedicated volunteers in the country, and today I would like to shine a light on those at the Gainesville VA Medical Center, VAMC, in my home State of Florida.

The Malcolm Randall VAMC in Gainesville is a tertiary care facility that specializes in an array of services including cardiology, neurosurgery, and nursing home care. With its symbiotic relationship to the University of Florida, it is also an active teaching hospital. In 2002, the hospital had 388,471 outpatient visits, and it continues to draw hundreds of volunteers. The hospital currently has over 800 registered volunteers.

The Gainesville Sun profiled some of these selfless individuals and their commitment to service at the VAMC. Included among these volunteers was an 82-year-old widow named Dorothy "Dot" Caldwell. The article described how every Tuesday, Dot leaves her home at 3:30 in the morning to make the 1-hour drive to the medical center and then spends 10 hours there. She makes this 100-mile round trip every week so she can repay VA for the care if gave her husband William, a World War II veteran, her father, and two of her brothers. Dot has been volunteering at the Gainesville VAMC for 21 years.

Each of us owes a debt of gratitude to those who risked their lives defending our country, and I am thankful to all of this Nation's hardworking, compassionate volunteers for helping to repay that debt. I am especially proud that such shining examples of this kind of service hail from my own State, one

that is so highly populated with veterans.

I ask unanimous consent that the article from the Gainesville Sun highlighting the work of these volunteers, as well as the complete list of volunteers who work at the Gainesville VAMC be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Gainesville Sun, Sept. 25, 2003]

HOSPITAL ANGELS

(By Julie Garrett)

At a time when friends and loved ones are serving our country overseas and when cuts to veterans' benefits are taking place back home, one way we can support veterans is by taking care of those who need us here in the states.

Dorothy "Dot" Caldwell has given more than 20,500 hours of volunteer time to the Malcolm Randall VA Medical Center in Gainesville. That's the equivalent of a full-time job for more than 10 years.

Every Tuesday morning, she rises at 2:30 a.m. ("God wakes me up. I don't need an alarm clock.") so that she can be on the road by 3:30 a.m. to make the one-hour trip to Gainesville from her home in Old Town—a 100-mile round-trip drive. She'll volunteer 10 hours, then start home at about 2:30 p.m. She's 82.

"It's kind of special to see a vet smile at you when you come in and just pat him on the arm or hand him something," says Caldwell. "That look of gratitude on their faces. They light up. They look at us as family."

Caldwell started volunteering at the VA 21 years ago after her husband, William, a combat engineer during World War II, underwent heart surgery.

"I saw the volunteers running around and I said, 'When you get out of this hospital, we're gonna repay. We're gonna volunteer.' He said, 'Like hell I am.'"

But she prevailed, fueled by the fact that William, her father and two of her brothers were veterans who received medical care through the VA. "So I'm trying to pay back," she says.

Her own health is good. William died of cancer 10 years ago after the couple were married for 53 years.

"Volunteering is keeping me young. God is rewarding me," she says. "You see veterans here a lot younger than I am and they can't even feed themselves."

The Gainesville VA had 388,471 outpatient visits in fiscal year 2002, said John Pickens, public affairs officer for the North Florida South Georgia Veteran's Health System.

And last year, more than 800 volunteers gave more than 80,000 hours at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville, says Julie Baker, chief of voluntary services.

The youngest volunteers are 13, the eldest is 88, with a 50-50 split between male and female volunteers, Baker says.

The entire VA orientation takes about three hours and consists of watching a short video and meeting with Baker.

Volunteers perform clerical duties, staff the information desk, transport patients to appointments in departments around the hospital and make hospitality visits. In the pharmacy, they open and sort mail.

Groups from organizations such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars serve coffee and doughnuts in the outpatient clinics' reception areas.

"It's a great PR tool for us," says Baker. "This is a great way for a group to volunteer together."

During the holidays, the VA encourages people to sing Christmas carols to patients. You need to coordinate your visit through the Voluntary Services office, but Baker says it tends to be easier to set up a visit at the VA than at other hospitals.

Students planning careers in medicine can get their feet wet by volunteering at the VA. They observe in the emergency room, surgical unit and intensive care unit, take specimens to labs, answer phones and stock supplies.

Helena Chapman, a 22-year-old University of Florida graduate student in public health, began volunteering at the VA through the teen volunteer program as a 15-year-old Oak Hall student.

At first, she volunteered through the recreational therapy department, playing bingo with the veterans on Saturdays. From there, she proceeded to the ICU, where she helped with bedside stocking.

The nurses took her under their wing when they saw she was a serious, consistent and responsible volunteer. It wasn't long before she was drawn to medicine as a career choice.

On the lighter side, Chapman plays piano for the VA's nursing home patients—there's a nursing home onsite—and paints the nails of female veterans.

"I like to pamper them," she said. "Everyone has a story to tell. I love 'em."

Chapman was awarded the Disabled American Veterans' \$5,000 National Commander Youth Scholarship for 2002 for her volunteering and plans to become a physician focusing on geriatric medicine. Despite the demands of graduate school, she still volunteers at least three hours a week, sometimes up to 10.

Baker says the VA's teenage volunteer program is growing in popularity as schools require community service for graduation.

In the summer, young people ages 13 to 18 can volunteer two to three full days a week, or weekdays four hours a day. The VA starts accepting applications May 1. Slots fill quickly.

Once teens volunteer for the summer, they can return on school breaks and weekends to continue volunteering, if they choose.

And finally, if you've had bus driver fantasies all your life, you can drive a van through the Disabled American Veterans Driver Program. Drivers are needed to transport veterans to appointments in Jacksonville, Ocala and Inverness. You don't need a special driver's license to do this, but they do check driving records and require a physical.

"We need more drivers. There's always a turnover," says Baker.

Don Myhre, a 79-year-old retired UF professor, started volunteering at the VA 11 years ago.

He and his wife travel a lot to visit family, but when he's home in Gainesville he volunteers about four hours a day at the VA.

He spent three years in the U.S. Army as an X-ray technician during World War II. The GI Bill of Rights sent him to college. He worked as a soil chemist and retired from UF as a meritorious professor in 1991.

"I'm giving back something to the government. That was a good program," he says.

Myhre says he likes volunteering at the VA and being around all sorts of people.

"It's fun, and you get the benefit of lots of exercise. I probably walk about 3 miles a day here. I like to be doing something constructive."

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN FRANK MCCLOSKEY

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of my fellow