

credit opinions, indicates that labor expenses due to personnel shortages will continue to plague hospitals and is the biggest financial concern for that sector because it typically costs up to twice normal equivalent wages to fill gaps with temporary agency help.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects that in the period 1998–2008, a total of 93,000 positions in clinical laboratory science need to be provided in the form of creating 53,000 new jobs and filling 40,000 existing vacancies. Of the 9,000 openings per year, academic institutions are producing only 4,990 graduates annually. BLS projections in 2004 show that nine of the 10 fastest growing occupations are health or computer (information technology) occupations.

Accredited respiratory therapy programs in 2000 graduated 5,512 students—21% fewer than the 6,062 graduates in 1999. In 2001, the number of graduates from these schools fell another 20% to 4,437. The BLS expects employment of respiratory therapists to increase faster than the average of all occupations, increasing from 21% to 35% through 2010. The aging population and an attendant rise in the incidence of respiratory ailments, including asthma and COPD, and cardiopulmonary diseases drive this demand.

Employment growth in schools will result from expansion of the school-age population and extended services for disabled students. Therapists will be needed to help children with disabilities prepare to enter special education programs.

The American Hospital Association has identified declining enrollment in health education programs as a factor leading to critical shortages of health care professionals. That assessment is buttressed by data from 90 institutions belonging to the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions. The following professions were unable to reach enrollment capacity over a three-year period: cardiovascular perfusion technology, cytotechnology, dietetics, emergency medical sciences, health administration, health information management, medical technology, occupational therapy, rehabilitation counseling, respiratory therapy, and respiratory therapy technician.

Given the level of anxiety over the possibility of terrorist attacks occurring in this country, in a study released by the General Accounting Office (GAO) on April 8, 2003 that focused on the nation's adequacy of preparedness against bioterrorism, it was reported that shortages in clinical laboratory personnel exist in state and local public health departments, laboratories, and hospitals. Moreover, these shortages are a major concern that is difficult to remedy.

Laboratories play a critical role in the detection and diagnosis of illnesses resulting from exposure to either biological or chemical agents. No therapy or prophylaxis can be initiated without laboratory identification and confirmation of the agent in question. Laboratories need to have adequate capacity and necessary staff to test clinical and environmental samples in order to identify an agent promptly so that proper treatment can be started and infectious diseases prevented from spreading.

Meanwhile, the U.S. population continues to become more racially and ethnically diverse. A health care workforce is needed that better reflects the population they serve. Practitioners must become more attuned to cultural differences in order to facilitate communication and enhance health care quality.

THE DEMOGRAPHIC IMPERATIVE

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that rapid growth of the population age 65 and over will begin in 2011 when the first of the baby boom generation reaches age 65 and will continue

for many years. The larger proportions of the population in older age groups result in part from sustained low fertility levels and from relatively larger declines in mortality at older ages in the latter part of the 20th century. From 1900 to 2000, the proportion of persons 65 and over went from 4.1 percent to 12.4 percent.

In the 20th century, the total population more than tripled, while the 65 years and older population grew more than tenfold, from 3.1 million in 1900 to 35.0 million in 2000.

Among the older population, the cohort 85 years and over increased from 122,000 in 1900 to 4.2 million in 2000. Since 1940, this age group increased at a more rapid rate than 65-to-74 year olds and 75-to-85 year olds in every decade. As a proportion of the older population, the 85 and over group went from being four percent of the older population to 12 percent between 1900 and 2000.

THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE

The baby-boom generation's movement into middle age, a period when the incidence of heart attack and stroke increases, will produce a higher demand for therapeutic services. Medical advances now enable more patients with critical problems to survive. These patients may need extensive therapy.

According to Solucient, a major provider of information for health care providers, profound demographic shifts over the next twenty-five years will result in significant increases in the demand for inpatient acute care services if current utilization patterns do not change. An aging baby boom generation, increasing life expectancy, rising fertility rates, and continued immigration will undoubtedly increase the volume of inpatient hospitalizations and significantly alter the mix of acute care services required by patients over the next quarter century. Nationwide, demographic changes alone could result in a 46 percent increase in acute care bed demand by 2027. Total acute care admissions could also increase by almost 13 million cases in the next quarter century—a growth of 41 percent from the current number of national admissions. Currently, the aged nationwide account for about 40 percent of inpatient admissions and about 49 percent of beds. By 2027, they could make up a majority of acute care services—51 percent of admissions and 59 percent of beds.

Along with the aging of the population came an increase in the number of Americans living with one, and often more than one, chronic condition. Today, it is estimated that 125 million Americans live with a chronic condition, and by 2020 as the population ages, that number will increase to an estimated 157 million, with 81 million of them having two or more chronic conditions. Twenty-five percent of individuals with chronic conditions have some type of activity limitations. Two-thirds of Medicare spending is for beneficiaries with five or more chronic conditions.

Many individuals with chronic conditions rely on family caregivers. Approximately nine million Americans provide such services, and on the average, they spend 24 hours a week doing so. Caregivers age 65–74 provide an average of 30.7 hours of care per week and individuals age 75 and older provide an average of 34.5 hours per week.

Women are more likely than men to have chronic conditions, in part because they have longer life expectancies. These same women are caregivers to other chronically ill persons. In addition, 65 percent of caregivers are female, and of all caregivers, nearly 40 percent are 55 years of age and older.

Physicians report that their training does not adequately prepare them to care for this type of patient in areas such as providing education and offering effective nutritional

guidance. Allied health professionals can provide those aspects of care, but many of them need better preparation to treat and coordinate care for patients with chronic conditions. While much emphasis is placed on curative forms of care, additional efforts must be devoted to slowing the progression of disease and its effects.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN REMEMBRANCE OF HAROLD "HAL" RUBIN

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, it is my honor to speak in memory of Harold "Hal" Rubin, a professor and activist who will always be remembered for his love of family, politics and the environment.

Hal Rubin was an excellent example of a citizen who consistently worked to make his community a better place. Mr. Rubin's love for politics motivated his involvement in numerous local issues and political races in Placer County. He was passionate about issues such as campaign spending limits, the environment and preserving the rural characteristics of Placer County.

Hal had an exceptional career as a professor. He began his teaching career as a professor of English and Political Science at Sierra Community College. At Sierra, he was voted by the students as their favorite professor. He continued his teaching career as a professor of journalism at California State University, Sacramento.

His strong writing skills coupled with his concern for the environment led him to a job as a senior technical writer for what is now GenCorp Incorporated, where he wrote about nuclear propulsion in the Nation's space program. Those traits combined with his interest in politics also led him to a freelance writing career, with articles published in various California magazines.

In addition to his dedication to politics, teaching and the environment, Hal was devoted to serving his country. His service during World War II as a member of the Army Air Force was an act of selfless dedication to protecting our Nation. He also served as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1942.

Hal Rubin committed his life to his community, his Nation and most of all his family. He touched the lives of many, and his impact on his community will be long remembered. ●

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD O. DAVIES

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I would like to take the opportunity to honor Mr. Harold O. Davies, a Seaman on the USS *Yorktown* in the Battle of Midway during World War II.

During the Memorial Day holiday, we have honored many of our service men and women who risked their lives for their country. We have especially honored what Americans call "our greatest generation"—the men and women who fought in WWII—and Mr. Davies is an

extraordinary addition to this generation.

Mr. Harold Davies fought on the USS *Yorktown* at the Battle of Midway. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States' retaliation emerged in a grueling war of the Pacific. The Battle of Midway was the major turning point in the Pacific in which Japan lost all four aircraft carriers and all of the airmen and planes in the battle. On June 4, 1942, before the last Japanese aircraft carrier sunk, it struck the USS *Yorktown*, leaving the ship dead in the water. The crew worked diligently to repair the damage and returned the ship to fully operational. The USS *Yorktown*, also known as the "Fighting Lady," launched fighters for three more days, gaining a major victory for the United States before sinking on June 7.

Mr. Davies never left his post during this battle. He remained courageous and loyal to his crew and duties. As the ship was sinking, he refused to board the lifeboat until all the wounded were aboard. After the ship sank, he remained in the water for two and a half hours before being picked up by a whaleboat. Mr. Davies was not injured in the battle. He lives today as a prominent member of his community and church in Hebron, KY and is able to share the story of the legendary Battle of Midway. This type of valor should not go unrecognized. Therefore, I join my fellow Kentuckians to honor Mr. Harold O. Davies and thank him for his service in the United States Navy.●

HONORING DAVID TIDMARSH

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize David Tidmarsh from South Bend, IN, as the champion of the 77th annual National Spelling Bee. On June 3, 2004, David became the first Hoosier to win the National Spelling Bee in more than 75 years.

In his quest to be the Nation's top seller, David triumphed over 265 of the best spellers from across the Nation. He successfully disposed of his competition in 15 rounds over three days and claimed victory with the correct spelling of "autochthonous." David and his fellow top spellers, including fourteen other from Indiana, emerged from a pool of more than 9 million 9- to 15-year-olds through winning their local spelling contests.

David's achievement is a testament to his perseverance and dedication. This was David's second time participating in the competition. He tied for 16th place in last year's National Spelling Bee. His hard work and commitment to his goal of winning the National Spelling Bee will serve as an example and inspiration to students across the country and around the world.

Hoosiers throughout Indiana can take immense pride in David's accomplishment, as he represents the full academic potential that exists in the

young people of our State. David's parents and educators also deserve a great deal of credit for David's success. Their support and encouragement throughout David's schooling have been critical to his success and will continue to play an important role in his future academic achievement.

I am honored to enter the name of David Tidmarsh into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, to officially congratulate him on his accomplishment as champion of the 2004 National Spelling Bee.●

TRIBUTE TO WILMINGTON'S REVOLUTIONARY MAYOR

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a mayor of Wilmington, DE, who created a revolutionary government and was beloved by all.

Mayor John E. Babiarz Sr. was a legend in his native city of Wilmington. He was first elected to office in 1948, then served as president of city council before being elected to Mayor in 1960. His reign was made all the more remarkable because he was the city's leader throughout the turbulent 1960s. He was a voice of calm and reason when Delaware's Governor ordered the National Guard to patrol the streets of Wilmington in 1968 after Martin Luther King Jr.'s death.

Despite the troubled times in which he served as mayor, he will be forever remembered and credited with creating a revolution toward a modern form of government for Delaware's largest city and corporate hub. He changed the old commission form of government into a modern, merit political system.

On a personal note, I owe my start in politics to the integrity, guidance, and friendship of Mayor Babiarz. He was a confidant and a friend.

Mayor Babiarz' best friend in life was his wife of 65 years, Adele. She and their two sons, John Jr. and Francis, were the joys of his life.

Wilmington has truly lost one of its greatest native sons.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CHURCH OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today I invite my colleagues to join in recognizing a wonderful celebration that will take place in my hometown, Detroit. On Sunday, June 13, 2004, the Church of the Precious Blood will celebrate its 75th Anniversary.

Founded in 1929 by Father William Hermes with a congregation of only 94, the church grew to a membership of nearly 900 families. Its numbers are moderately lower today, but the work performed in the community by the active members has never waned and is no less vital.

The Church of the Precious Blood, under the outstanding and accomplished leadership of Father Hermes, succeeded by Father Marvin Young, succeeded by Father Leo Priemer and

then Father Donald Clark, followed by Father Ronald Kurzawa, succeeded by Bishop Moses Anderson and now led by Deacon Wyatt Jones, has experienced great transition, encountered enormous challenges, overcome monumental obstacles and celebrated wonderful victories to become the oasis, the Hidden Treasure, in Detroit's northwest community.

For 75 years, the Church of the Precious Blood has been committed to ministering to a diverse community, ethnically, culturally, socially, economically, providing the kind of support and encouragement necessary to confirm the spirit of faith and hope in humankind and our ability as nurturing and loving individuals to make this world a better place. Sunday's celebration is a major milestone on Precious Blood's committed journey on the path of fostering spiritual and economic growth, raising educational standards and providing a multitude of services to the women, men and children in the area.

It is an honor and a pleasure for me to ask my colleagues to join in extending our congratulations and the sincere wish for even greater victories over the next 75 years for the members and community of the Church of the Precious Blood.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICIALLY NOTIFYING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF THE DEATH OF FORMER PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN—PM 84

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was ordered to lie on the table:

To the Congress of the United States:

By this message, I officially inform you of the death of Ronald Reagan, the fortieth President of the United States.

Ronald Reagan was a great leader and a good man. He had the confidence that comes with conviction, the strength that comes with character, the grace that comes with humility,