

I would like the record to show that, had I voted, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR ROGER B. BROWN (RET.) AND MR. E. PAUL VOORHEES

**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate two prominent members of the Columbus, Georgia community, Army Ranger, Major Retired Roger B. Brown and Mr. E. Paul Voorhees for being inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame on July 8, 2004 at Fort Benning Army Base in Columbus. These two extremely worthy inductees have made endless lists of astonishing contributions and are recognized for this reason. The Ranger Hall of Fame honors and preserves the legacies of America's most extraordinary Rangers and friends of the Army Rangers. They signify selfless sacrifice, professional excellence, and remarkable accomplishment in the defense of the greatest nation in the world and to the highest ideals of service. These gentlemen stand as examples to all professionals.

In addition to Ranger Brown's many accomplishments, he is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for his phenomenal service as a Non-Commissioned Officer NCO and Officer in the modern Rangers. During the Vietnam War, Ranger Brown served three combat tours as an NCO in Ranger Units. He also served numerous tours with the Ranger Department. Ranger Brown served as team leader with both the 173rd Airborne Brigade's Long Reconnaissance Patrol and with the 101st Airborne Division's F/58th Infantry. His exploits are recorded as legend. His teams' accomplishments were those by which others were judged. Ranger Brown served with the F/58th Infantry, those who served with him still admire his leadership qualities of understanding and compassion supported by the highest standards of fitness, discipline, training, and morality. He attended Officer Candidate School where he received a Commission as a 2LT in the Infantry, he retired at the rank of Major. Distinguished as an outstanding Ranger, everyone who served with Ranger Brown had only the highest regard for him. Sergeant Major of the Army Retired, Julian Gates, has stated that "Roger is a great American, a great Ranger, a great soldier leader." For many, Ranger Brown has always followed the Rangers motto and "led the way."

Mr. E. Paul Voorhees, a licensed, ordained minister, is renowned for his selfless sacrifice. Serving the children and the underprivileged, his compassion is celebrated in the Valley Rescue Mission in Columbus, Georgia. In 2003, he traveled at his own expense to Amman, Jordan, and Baghdad, Iraq to visit with and minister to the troops during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served on the National Staff, Royal Rangers, Assemblies of God, from 1967 to 1985. He has also been a partner-in-education at Stowers Elementary School, Fort Benning. He received a proclamation by the Mayor of Columbus, along with many other community citations, he has earned the Fort Benning's Commander's

Award for public service and the St. Maurice Medal. Paul currently serves on the board of directors, National Infantry Association, is a member of the Association of the U.S. Army AUSA, a charter member of the Georgia Sheriffs's Association chaplain's division, and is a chaplain and reserve deputy in Harris County, Georgia.

His store, Ranger Joe's International has grown under his leadership with the worldwide distribution store in Hinesville, Georgia, and two stores in Columbus. Mr. Voorhees was selected as "Small Business Giant, 2003" by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Voorhees is a brilliant example of what U.S. Army Rangers epitomize—excellence in leadership; excellence in performance of duties; and excellence of character.

I congratulate Major Roger B. Brown and Mr. E. Paul Voorhees for their outstanding performances and contributions to the United States Army Rangers. They are a tremendous source of pride and inspiration to all Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO REPLACE THE PROVISIONS OF LAW MAKING REEMPLOYED ANNUITANTS INELIGIBLE FOR PHYSICIANS COMPARABILITY ALLOWANCES AND SPECIAL PAY FOR PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to provide rehired annuitant physicians eligibility to receive a Physicians Comparability Allowance (PCA) and Physicians Special Pay (PSP) under Title 38. This bill would aid in the recruitment and retention of qualified physicians to the federal workforce.

The PCA and PSP are both mechanisms by which federal agencies can provide physicians allowances when these agencies are experiencing recruitment and retention problems. Currently, civilian rehired annuitant physicians are prohibited by law from receiving these benefits. However, retired military that join the civilian federal workforce are currently not subject to an exclusion from the PSP and PCA.

We are all aware of the possibilities of a shortage of federal employees due to an aging federal workforce. We must begin now to ensure that we have available pools of talent to replace the current workforce. We must make the Federal Government a viable option for talented and committed Americans. This legislation will provide additional flexibility and authority for attracting and retaining experienced physicians to the federal government.

This issue was brought to my attention by my constituent, Dr. Nancy Scher, who is a Medical Officer in the Division of Oncology Drug Products, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Dr. Scher is prohibited by law from receiving a PCA or PSP in her current position at the FDA because she is a reemployed civilian annuitant.

Dr. Scher spent 20 years as a part-time physician at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Huntington, West Virginia while also em-

ployed as a full-time Professor of Medicine at Marshall University. At the VA, Dr. Scher provided a high level of specialty medical care to veterans in a part of the country and at a time when this was a scarce resource. Because of her increasing duties as Chief of Hematology-Oncology at Marshall University, Dr. Scher took an early retirement from the VA with a deceased retirement benefit.

Dr. Scher is devoted to her craft and being denied PCA and PSP will not prevent her from continuing her position at the FDA. However, the law should be changed to make her eligible for these allowances. It would be a shame for the Federal Government not to give highly skilled and experienced physicians like Dr. Scher all the possible advantages available to stay in the federal workforce. The FDA currently pays a PCA and PSP to younger and less experienced physicians. Dr. Scher, as a rehired annuitant is prohibited from receiving these benefits.

Thousands of federal employees over the years have been responsible for breaking new ground in science and medicine. We must continue this tradition by ensuring that the Federal government becomes the employer of choice for scientific and medical talent.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING COLONEL DONALD R. CURTIS, JR.

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Colonel Donald R. Curtis, Jr. is retiring after a long and distinguished career.

Colonel Curtis' outstanding service to the nation has been marked by meritorious service in increasingly demanding command and staff positions in both the United States and overseas. Throughout his career, Colonel Curtis demonstrated strong, outstanding executive ability, and dedication to the spirit and mission of the United States Army.

Colonel Curtis was commissioned from the United States Military Academy in 1979. He is a graduate of Ohio State University, holding a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. He also graduated from the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses School, the United States Army Command and General Staff College, and the United States War College. He is a registered Professional Engineer as well.

Colonel Curtis served in command and staff positions over the past twenty-five years. He served as a platoon leader in the 902nd Engineer Company (Assault Float Bridge) at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He was commander of B Company, 44th Engineer Battalion in the Republic of Korea. Then he did a tour as Assistant Resident Engineer for the Fort Leonard Wood Resident Office, Kansas City District. He served as Battalion Operations Officer, 12th Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division at Mannheim, Germany, and served in a joint assignment with the Defense Intelligence Agency. He was the commander of the Walla Walla District from 1996–1998, and then did a tour on the Army Staff. He now is retiring from the Army after having served his last assignment as the District Engineer for the Fort