

predict deployment and post-deployment mental health in active duty military personnel.

The final featured speaker was Yuval Neria, Ph.D., of the New York Psychiatric Institute. Dr. Neria educated the audience about "Israeli War Veterans and POW's Two Decades After the War: Findings from the Yom Kippur 1973 War." She concentrated her discussion on understanding the phenomenology of war-trauma; understanding the nature of combat stress reactions; and understanding the impact of war-trauma across the lifespan.

These medical professionals provided just a snapshot of the strides VA has made and hopefully will continue to make in the field of war-trauma. I applaud these VA health care providers. As ranking member of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, I will be working to ensure that DoD and VA cooperate to make sure that there is a seamless transition from active military status to veteran status. VA providers are quite obviously incredibly important as we seek to make this seamless transition.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise to extend my congratulations to the American Medical Women's Association, AMWA, on the occasion of its 90th Birthday Year Celebration.

Throughout this century, AMWA, which is known as the Vision and Voice of Women in Medicine, has been determined in its efforts to advance women in the medical profession and to promote women's health. This leading multidisciplinary association of women in medicine in our country has encouraged and honored excellence in the fields of medicine, health care and science through a wide array of scholarships, grants, and awards, as well as diverse educational programs for physicians, medical students and the general public.

Over these nine decades, AMWA has supported numerous charitable programs, particularly focusing on the needs of disadvantaged women and their families. For 75 years, AMWA's American Women's Hospitals Service clinics in the U.S. and abroad have provided desperately needed care to the medically underserved. In addition, hundreds of medical students and residents have received remarkable healthcare training in these and other remote clinics worldwide through AMWA's sponsorship.

AMWA's advocacy on behalf of women's health and research has made AMWA a leading voice for the care of women and their children.

As someone who has been committed to expanding opportunities for women and enhancing women's health, I am

pleased to have this opportunity to applaud the accomplishments of this outstanding organization and to celebrate with them the history and future of American Medical Women's Association. •

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION DELIVERED TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS ON FEBRUARY 2, 2005—PM 2

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:

Mr. Speaker, Vice President CHENEY, Members of Congress, fellow citizens:

As a new Congress gathers, all of us in the elected branches of Government share a great privilege: we have been placed in office by the votes of the people we serve. And tonight that is a privilege we share with newly elected leaders of Afghanistan, the Palestinian territories, Ukraine, and a free and sovereign Iraq.

Two weeks ago, I stood on the steps of this Capitol and renewed the commitment of our Nation to the guiding ideal of liberty for all. This evening I will set forth policies to advance that ideal at home and around the world.

Tonight, with a healthy, growing economy, with more Americans going back to work, with our Nation an active force for good in the world—the state of our Union is confident and strong. Our generation has been blessed—by the expansion of opportunity, by advances in medicine, and by the security purchased by our parents' sacrifice. Now, as we see a little gray in the mirror—or a lot of gray—and we watch our children moving into adulthood, we ask the question: What will be the state of their Union?

Members of Congress, the choices we make together will answer that question. Over the next several months, on issue after issue, let us do what Americans have always done, and build a better world for our children and grandchildren.

First, we must be good stewards of this economy, and renew the great institutions on which millions of our fellow citizens rely.

America's economy is the fastest growing of any major industrialized nation. In the past 4 years, we have provided tax relief to every person who pays income taxes, overcome a recession, opened up new markets abroad, prosecuted corporate criminals, raised homeownership to the highest level in history, and in the last year alone, the United States has added 2.3 million new jobs. When action was needed, the Congress delivered—and the Nation is grateful.

Now we must add to these achievements. By making our economy more flexible, more innovative, and more competitive, we will keep America the economic leader of the world.

America's prosperity requires restraining the spending appetite of the Federal Government. I welcome the bipartisan enthusiasm for spending discipline. So next week I will send you a budget that holds the growth of discretionary spending below inflation, makes tax relief permanent, and stays on track to cut the deficit in half by 2009. My budget substantially reduces or eliminates more than 150 Government programs that are not getting results, or duplicate current efforts, or do not fulfill essential priorities. The principle here is clear: a taxpayer dollar must be spent wisely, or not at all.

To make our economy stronger and more dynamic, we must prepare a rising generation to fill the jobs of the 21st century. Under the No Child Left Behind Act, standards are higher, test scores are on the rise, and we are closing the achievement gap for minority students. Now we must demand better results from our high schools, so every high school diploma is a ticket to success. We will help an additional 200,000 workers to get training for a better career, by reforming our job training system and strengthening America's community colleges. And we will make it easier for Americans to afford a college education, by increasing the size of Pell Grants.

To make our economy stronger and more competitive, America must reward, not punish, the efforts and dreams of entrepreneurs. Small business is the path of advancement, especially for women and minorities, so we must free small businesses from needless regulation and protect honest job-creators from junk lawsuits. Justice is distorted, and our economy is held back, by irresponsible class actions and frivolous asbestos claims—and I urge Congress to pass legal reforms this year.

To make our economy stronger and more productive, we must make health care more affordable, and give families greater access to good coverage, and more control over their health decisions. I ask Congress to move forward on a comprehensive health care agenda—with tax credits to help low-income workers buy insurance, a community health center in every poor county, improved information technology to prevent medical errors and needless costs, association health plans for small businesses and their employees, expanded health savings accounts, and medical liability reform that will reduce health care costs, and make sure patients have the doctors and care they need.

To keep our economy growing, we also need reliable supplies of affordable, environmentally responsible energy. Nearly 4 years ago, I submitted a comprehensive energy strategy that encourages conservation, alternative sources, a modernized electricity grid, and more production here at home, including safe, clean nuclear energy. My Clear Skies legislation will cut power plant pollution and improve the health