

for community health centers all across America. One thing I know for certain: Every dollar Congress appropriates for centers like the one in Burlington is a dollar spent wisely and frugally. It never ceases to amaze me how their staff members are able to do so much—and to serve so many people—with such limited resources.

I dare say that nobody in the health care profession faces greater challenges than those who choose to work in community health centers challenges including chronic illness, cultural and linguistic differences, geographical barriers, homelessness, and on and on. Nothing stops these superb professionals.

And one more thing: Community health centers have a well-deserved reputation for caring and kindness. In some ways, their physicians and nurses are a throwback to another era. They offer a direct and personal style of health care. They follow up. They care about prevention and wellness.

So I am deeply grateful to executive director Ron Kemp, to Dr. Beverly Simone, the president of Southeastern Community College, to the center's dedicated board members, to Ted Boesen, executive director of the Iowa/Nebraska Primary Care Association, and to all the other people who made this new facility possible. They work their hearts out to provide the very best health care to some of our most needy citizens. I deeply appreciate their passion, their compassion, and their dedication to public service.●

RETIREMENT OF BOB ROTHENBERG

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today we recognize a distinguished executive at the Social Security Administration, Bob Rothenberg. Bob is an Associate Commissioner and Director of the Social Security Budget Office. He is a dedicated public servant who has served his country at the Social Security Administration for nearly 37 years.

A native of New York, Bob began his career in the local Social Security Office in Brooklyn. In 1973 he moved to the Budget Office at Social Security Headquarters in Baltimore. Bob's intellect and resolve were quickly recognized and he rose to the position of Budget Director—a position he has held for nearly 20 years. During Bob's long and distinguished career with the agency he has received many awards, of special note, the Presidential Rank and Meritorious Executive Awards.

For many years I have had the privilege of relying on Bob's outstanding work on the Social Security Administration's budget. He has always been resourceful, insightful, and forthcoming.

Bob will retire from the Social Security Administration on March 31, 2007. He will be sorely missed by his fellow colleagues and his congressional contacts on the Hill. He will leave behind

the numerous individuals he has mentored and encouraged over the years and who, because of his guidance, are now prepared to carry on his work.

It is important that we in Congress recognize the many men and women who devote their working lives to improve the lives of others. Career civil servants often do their work in quiet anonymity behind the scenes providing vital service to the American people. They are rarely recognized for their important contribution. Bob Rothenberg is one of those people. His record of leadership at the Social Security Administration and his commitment to providing the American people with effective and compassionate service is a record of which he can be justly proud.

I wish Bob all the best in his retirement from Federal service and thank him for his many years of dedicated service.●

HONORING JESSE L. BROWN

● Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the life and service of Ensign Jesse LeRoy Brown, U.S. Navy. Ensign Brown was born in Hattiesburg, MS, on October 13, 1926. He enlisted in the Naval Reserve in 1946 and was appointed a midshipman, U.S. Navy, the following year. After attending Navy preflight indoctrination and flight training, he was designated a naval aviator in October 1948, the first African American to achieve this status. Midshipman Brown was then assigned to Fighter Squadron 32. He received his commission as an Ensign in April 1949.

During the Korean war, he operated from USS *Leyte*, flying F4U-4 Corsair fighter aircraft in support of United Nations forces. On December 4, 1950, while on a close air support mission near the Chosin Reservoir, Ensign Brown's plane was hit by enemy fire and crashed. Despite heroic efforts by other aviators, he could not be rescued and died in his aircraft. Ensign Jesse L. Brown was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his Korean war combat service.

In honor of his service, the Secretary of the Navy named the 38th ship in the Knox-class of frigates the USS *Jesse L. Brown*.

I know my colleagues will join me in honoring Jesse's memory and celebrating, along with his friends, family, and fellow naval aviators, the addition of a plaque in his memory to the Naval Aviation Monument Park in Virginia Beach to be presented May 5, 2007. Ensign Brown was both a pioneer and a model of service to country, who gave his life that we might enjoy our freedom. Mr. President.●

HONORING TIMOTHY WILLIAMS

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Timothy Williams for his 35 years of service at the Department of Veterans Affairs. This month, he is retiring as director of the

VA Puget Sound Healthcare System. I want to thank him for his many years of hard work and leadership.

Our country makes a solemn promise to our servicemembers and their families, and every day dedicated VA employees help keep that promise. Director Williams faced many challenges in providing care in the Puget Sound, from increasing caseloads to difficult budgets. Through it all, he approached those challenges with unparalleled respect, understanding, and compassion for our veterans.

Throughout the country, the VA is recognized as providing some of the best health care in the Nation. The VA has led the way in pioneering electronic medical records and critical health research, much of which has been done in Seattle and Tacoma under the direction of Director Williams. On behalf of the constituents I represent, I want to thank Director Williams and all of the dedicated VA employees who have worked so hard to reach those milestones.

Director Williams has been a tireless champion for veterans. Working closely with Veterans Service Organizations, individual veterans, and the congressional delegation, he was always willing to work with people, to listen to their needs, and to sit down and discuss what is possible.

From hosting the VA's Wheelchair Games in 1995, to establishing one of the Nation's best spinal cord injury centers, to renovating the cancer clinic and bringing a Fisher House to the Seattle campus of the VA Puget Sound, Director Williams leaves behind a great legacy of championing the needs of veterans.

Circumstances were never easy for the VA's Puget Sound health care system. Tight budgets forced Tim and his entire staff to do more and more with less and less. As demand for care increased, Director Williams expanded the ability for the VA to treat more veterans. In fact, he oversaw the doubling of the patient care area to meet the demands.

Tim and his staff worked to expand the VA's efforts to treat veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan through the Deployment Health Clinic. The clinic focuses on the care of veterans who are experiencing health concerns related to a specific deployment. At the clinic, veterans receive a comprehensive evaluation, benefits counseling, and assistance with compensation and pension claims. Deployment Health Clinic staff will continue to provide veterans with their primary medical care as well as their mental health follow-up.

Today, the VA is facing tremendous challenges. A whole new generation of veterans is entering the system, and many will need care and support for a lifetime. As the VA takes on these new challenges, I know Director Williams will be missed. I hope his legacy lives on throughout the VA's Puget Sound health care system and throughout the VA.