

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF LT. GENERAL WILLIAM ODOM

**HON. LINCOLN DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2008*

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, born in Putnam County and raised in Cumberland County, Lt. General William E. Odom rose to great prominence in the U.S. military intelligence community and was a widely known expert on matters relating to the Soviet Union.

A natural born leader, Odom graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1954. Over the next twenty years Gen. Odom earned a Masters Degree and Ph.D. from Columbia University, was stationed in East Germany for a lengthy period of time, taught at West Point, and served at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

In 1977, he was appointed as the military assistant to President Carter's National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski. General Odom served in that position till 1981. Shortly after leaving the White House and for a little more than 3 years, Odom held the position of Assistant Chief of Staff for Army Intelligence. By 1985 General Odom was named the 11th Director of the National Security Agency, our nation's largest intelligence agency.

Retiring in 1988 from the Army and the National Security Agency, General Odom embarked in a career in academia. Over the next twenty years he taught at Yale University and Georgetown University and was a Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute.

General Odom is a member of the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame at the United States Army Intelligence Center in Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

On behalf of Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District and a grateful nation, we thank General Odom for his service in defense of our country.

EDWARD WILLIAM BROOKE III  
CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL  
ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. NIKI TSONGAS**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for S. 682, the "Edward William Brooke III Congressional Gold Medal Act." It is my privilege to honor this most distinguished gentleman who broke barriers and tirelessly served his community and country with great conviction.

Edward Brooke was the first African American elected to the United States Senate by popular vote. I am proud that he accomplished this feat in my home state of Massachusetts, which he represented from January 1967 until January 1979. He has been Captain Brooke, Professor Brooke, and Attorney General Brooke. He has fought for civil rights in our country and against apartheid in South Africa. For his many accomplishments, he has received numerous medals and awards, most notably the Bronze Star and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Senator Brooke paved the way—his election to the United States Senate was a milestone in the march toward racial equality—and his impact continues today, as we watch the first African American nominee run for President, carrying Senator Brooke's legacy forward.

In a political world growing increasingly divisive and polarized, Senator Brooke has always had the distinct ability to separate the political from the personal. My husband, Paul, ran for the Senate against Senator Brooke in 1978. Although the race was tightly contested, Senator Brooke was always respectful, always warm, and Paul, in turn, greatly admired him.

It is appropriate that we express our gratitude with this legislation. Senator Brooke, in his life and through his service, broke barriers and created new opportunities for so many, and in so doing, moved our country further down the path towards the America that we all hope will someday be a reality.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HONORING  
OUR NATION'S OBLIGATION TO  
RETURNING WARRIORS ACT

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Honoring Our Nation's Obligation to Returning Warriors Act (HONOR Warriors Act), along with my colleague and friend Representative JOHN SALAZAR (D-CO). It is a companion bill to S. 3008, bipartisan legislation authored by Senator KIT BOND of Missouri and Senator BARBARA BOXER of California.

This legislation recognizes that our servicemembers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan need and deserve improved mental health care services. The HONOR Warriors Act will provide better mental health care treatment for these military members and veterans, enhance care for military families, and better prepare our troops to cope with stress related to combat.

The Pentagon acknowledged recently that Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and major depression are affecting an ever greater number of U.S. troops. Nearly 40,000 troops have been diagnosed with PTSD since 2003, up 50 percent just last year. The RAND Corporation found even more disturbing statistics recently: Nearly 20 percent of all military servicemembers who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan—300,000 total—have reported symptoms of PTSD or severe depression. More than 600,000 returning troops suffer from PTSD or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), or both. With many our servicemembers deploying for their third or fourth tours to Iraq, we can expect that these numbers will continue to rise.

Treating these mental health problems is in some ways more difficult than treating wounds we can see. PTSD is the "invisible wound" that some soldiers don't even know they have, and the onset of its symptoms can be delayed, making it even harder to recognize. In addition, because of the stigma attached to PTSD, estimates are that nearly 50 percent of troops don't seek treatment. They are ashamed to seek help or fear that a diagnosis of mental illness will harm their careers.

The recent RAND report also found that of those who do seek help for PTSD, only about half receive treatment that is considered to be "minimally adequate." With its shortage of funds and trained staff, it is clear that our military mental health care system isn't prepared to deal with this growing mental health crisis.

This is unacceptable. If the Pentagon can't act to help these injured servicemembers who have sacrificed so much for our country, then Congress must. That's why I am introducing this legislation—to ensure that the mental health needs of our military members and veterans are addressed now. The legislation will:

Create a scholarship program to educate and train behavioral health care specialists to serve servicemembers and veterans;

Give active-duty servicemembers access to Vet Centers, which currently provide readjustment counseling, outreach, and mental health care services to veterans only;

Extend survivor benefits to families of military personnel who commit suicide and have a history of combat-related mental health conditions, PTSD, or TBI;

Provide grants to non-profit organizations to offer services to survivors of members of the Armed Forces and veterans;

Establish pilot programs to better prepare servicemembers for combat through a focus on improved prevention, early detection, intervention, and treatment of PTSD. The bill sets up two locations for these programs—Fort Carson in Colorado, and Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri.

With Veterans Affairs Secretary James Peake himself suggesting a few weeks ago that concerns about PTSD and TBI are overblown, it's clear that Congress needs to step in to ensure that our servicemembers and veterans suffering from the invisible wounds of PTSD and major depression are getting the support they deserve. They shouldn't have to fight another war to get proper care once they return home. Providing prompt and effective treatment to our returning troops can help prevent many of the negative effects related to PTSD and depression. It's the least we can do to repay them for the sacrifices they have made for our country.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
TO DELAY MEDICARE'S DME  
COMPETITIVE BIDDING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2008*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Medicare DMEPOS Competitive Acquisition Reform Act of 2008." I am pleased to be introducing this bill with my Ranking Member on the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, Representative DAVE CAMP (R-MI); Ways and Means Committee Chairman CHARLES B. RANGEL (D-NY); House Minority Leader JOHN BOEHNER (R-OH); Energy and Commerce Chairman JOHN D. DINGELL (D-MI); and Energy and Commerce Committee Health Subcommittee Chairman FRANK PALLONE (D-NJ). In particular, I would like to thank Mr. CAMP for helping to craft this bipartisan legislation.

The Medicare Modernization Act mandated a competitive bidding program for durable