

Other provisions in this legislation include prohibiting the VA from collecting copayments from veterans who are catastrophically disabled; creating a pilot program to provide specified dental services to veterans, survivors, and dependents of veterans through a dental insurer; providing hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for certain Vietnam-era veterans exposed to herbicide and Gulf-War era veterans who have insufficient medical evidence to establish a service-connected disability; and expanding the organizations offering transitional housing and other support for homeless veterans that can receive grants or per diems from the VA, which is particularly important to veterans in rural areas.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and for the Senate to swiftly act so that this legislation can become law and our veterans can begin to benefit from the important programs this comprehensive bill implements.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS S. HIGGINS'
75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th birthday of Thomas S. Higgins. Mr. Higgins has lived a life of compassion and dedication towards his family and his community and for this he deserves great praise.

Mr. Higgins was born in Camden, New Jersey on April 23, 1935. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in political science from St. Joseph's University before earning his Juris Doctorate at Villanova Law School. After graduating, Mr. Higgins and his partners founded a successful practice in Laurel Springs, New Jersey. During his forty-year tenure as an attorney, he specialized in environmental law, serving as counsel to the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority and the Cape May Municipal Utilities Authority. Mr. Higgins represented both governmental and personal clients with the utmost vigor and integrity.

Mr. Higgins has also served as chairman of the Health Care Facilities Finance Authority. In this role, he helped obtain financing for the construction, expansion and renovation of hospitals and other health care facilities throughout the state of New Jersey. Additionally, he has served as a Camden County Freeholder, as a chief fundraiser for the Camden County Democratic Committee and as a member of the Finance team for the campaigns of New Jersey Governor Jim Florio in 1989 and 1993. Among his most rewarding moments was preparing the background information for the successful nomination of Governor Florio for the 1993 John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage Award.

All who know Mr. Higgins know his love of law and politics is exceeded only by his love for his wife, Kathy, his partner and teammate for 27 years. Until her passing in 2006, the two were inseparable and together were an inspirational story of love and dedication. A devoted family man, Mr. Higgins' takes great pride in the successes and achievements of his seven children, and in the blissful faces of his twelve grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Thomas S. Higgins's contributions to his field and the state of New Jersey, and his commitment to his family should not go unrecognized. I am honored to be a part of his special day, and I would like to personally wish him a Happy 75th Birthday.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY SENIOR GAMES AND EXPO

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo on the occasion of this organization's milestone 25th Anniversary. The Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo will be held at Montgomery County Community College from May 10 through 14, 2010.

The Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo originated in 1985 through the efforts of Montgomery County's state legislative delegation. Through the continued support and tireless work of talented volunteers, the Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo has been successful in ensuring that this annual event combining healthy exercise and community spirit has continued. The Games & Expo is comprised of weeklong competitive events for Montgomery County senior adults and culminates with an Expo featuring health screenings and various exhibits with services and products to benefit the lifestyles of senior citizens. This event gives seniors the opportunity to not only gain information about their health resources, but to come together in the spirit of community to engage in sports and recreation. I am proud to represent the volunteers who work so hard to organize this outstanding event, as well as the participants who take advantage of such a wonderful experience.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo's 25th anniversary and in wishing the volunteers, participants, and community many more years of health and fellowship.

HONORING ISRAELI
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the State of Israel on the occasion of its 62nd anniversary. For 62 years, the United States and the modern State of Israel have shared a deep friendship and strong bonds of cooperation. Since the establishment of our ally in May 1948, the United States and Israel have been united by their strong ties and mutual democratic values.

This week, we pay tribute to the tremendous accomplishments of the State of Israel, which has developed a prosperous, educated, and

vibrant nation since its establishment 62 years ago. During that time, the United States has stood in vigorous support of Israel's right to exist and will continue to do so in the future. As a democracy, Israel's people enjoy freedom of speech and religion, an open political system, an independent judiciary and many other practices. Israel's colleges and universities are highly respected, which strengthens the Israeli economy and allows the country to be a leader in research and innovation.

I am also pleased to celebrate the ties between the American and Israeli people and the rich history of the American Jewish community. For hundreds of years, the United States has benefited from Jewish contributions to American culture. As a nation of immigrants, the United States is better and stronger because Jewish people from all over the world have chosen to become American citizens. When the first Jewish settlers came to this land, they sought a place of promise where they could practice their faith in freedom and live in liberty. American Jews have strengthened our country and helped shape our way of life. By recognizing those contributions to the fabric of American life, we promote awareness and understanding.

Israel is an integral and essential partner and I look forward to opportunities to continue and enhance the strong bonds between our nations. As a defender of the inherent rights of all people and nations, I am proud to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I regret that due to other legislative business, I missed the last vote on April 22, 2010. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 220, H. Res. 1270, Expressing support for Mathematics Awareness Month.

RECOGNIZING WORLD MALARIA
DAY 2010

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of 2010 World Malaria Day, an issue of great importance to me. I witnessed the widespread devastation malaria can cause both times I lived in Africa, first in Ghana with a program called Operation Crossroads and then when I worked in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) as a Foreign Service Medical Officer. While the disease affects people in every corner of the globe, it is particularly destructive to sub-Saharan Africa. There are 250 million malaria cases worldwide and nearly one million deaths are caused by malaria every year, ninety percent of which occur in sub-Saharan Africa. About 3.3 billion people—about one-half of the world's population—are at risk of contracting the disease. It is important to recognize the