

THE CHIROPRACTIC CHOICE

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LEGISLATIVE DAY

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ropractic story and the importance of chiropractic's unique benefits. "No one in Washington or in the U.S. Congress has a monopoly on wisdom and the more constituents can make their needs and concerns clear to legislators, the stronger the nation will be," said Rep. Manzullo. He also urged the group to look to their own creativity to help solve the looming health care crisis in the United States, stating, "Government does not have all the answers, and our American traditions and values hold important lessons for us all, including taking the steps necessary to care for ourselves and our families."

Rep. Manzullo has been one of chiropractic's most active and outspoken advocates for many years and The Chiropractic Coalition took the opportunity of his presence to present him with a special "Champion of American Freedom" Award in recognition of his personal efforts to secure fair treatment for chiropractors and patients alike in federal programs, especially the Medicare program. I am truly honored to receive this very meaningful award," said Rep. Manzullo. "Freedom does need to be fought for and I sincerely appreciate being thought of as a warrior in this grand cause of American freedom."

Another welcome speaker was outspoken chiropractic ally and dedicated veterans' advocate Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA). Rep. Filner spoke about his personal experience with chiropractic and stated his passionate belief that if he, as a private citizen, had easy access to chiroprac-



Rep. Phil Hare (D-IL)



Rep. Thelma Drake (R-VA)



The Coalition presents Rep. Filner with "America's Most Outstanding Public Servant for 2007" award. L to R: Richard Plummer, DC, FSCO president; Rep. Filner; Dr. Michael McLean, ICA Chairman of the Board; and Chris Kent, WCA.

tic care, the nation's veterans, whose sacrifice has earned them the right to the very best possible care on every front should have the same option.

Rep. Filner had a few days earlier, introduced legislative initiative aimed at easing access to chiropractic services for US military veterans. On the same day he introduced HR 1471 the "Better



Rep. Manzullo (I) with Dr. Michael McLean and Dr. Don Hirsh, ICA Board Member and Legislative Day chair.

Access to Chiropractors to Keep Our Veterans Healthy Act." This legislation would provide for direct access to chiropractic services for eligible veterans. It would also address the long waiting periods and the documented reluctance or outright refusal of medical doctors and physical therapists, now in the gatekeeper role in the Department of Veteran's Affairs, to provide referrals for veterans to chiropractic care.

The next speaker, Representative Phil Hare (D-IL), who took the seat of retired House Member, The Hon. Lane Evans, spoke about his long record of experience with chiropractic issues while serving as Rep. Evans' Chief of Staff and pledged to continue the close and positive relationship that Mr. Evans had established. During his 12 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, Rep. Evans had authored and introduced more chiropractic legislation than any other legislator in history.

Rep. Thelma Drake (R-VA) offered her continued strong support for chiropractors and chiropractic patients. She urged the audience to be active in their communities and to establish a relationship with their individual Members of Congress so that when issues arise, they are in a much stronger position than they would be if they were meeting their Member of Congress or their staff for the very first time. She spoke about her special interest in ensuring reasonable access to chiropractic services for the nation's veterans and military personnel, as her district includes large numbers of both active duty military personnel and veterans.

For the fourth consecutive year, dedicated chiropractic supporter Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-NV) addressed the Coalition's Legislative Day, making her the only federal legislator to have attended all of these events. Rep. Berkley spoke about the unique role DCs play in the national health care system, and the tremendous cost saving contribution made by chiropractic because of the drugless, non-surgical approach to health chiropractors utilize. Rep. Berkley also urged all present to be involved in the political process and to be in regular communication with their Congressional representatives.

President of National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare Keynotes Medicare Roundtable

Former Member of Congress Barbara B. Kennelly, President & CEO of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare (NCPSSM), presented the keynote address to the Medicare Roundtable held in conjunction with the 2007 Chiropractic Coalition Legislative Day in Washington, DC.

Mrs. Kennelly offered a unique overview of the status of Medicare and the prospects for the future, with a strong emphasis on the needs of the Medicare beneficiary. In her remarks, Mrs. Kennelly told the chiropractic audience of the urgent need for all citizens concerned about the health and well-being of the nation's senior citizens to work together to find solutions to the problems facing the Medicare system. She thanked the chiropractic community for the invitation, stating that, "Chiropractic is an important part of Medicare and the drug-free nature of what you do is so important when the average Medicare beneficiary spends \$200 or more a month on prescription drugs."

We are deeply honored that Mrs. Kennelly was able to address the 2007 Legislative Day Medicare Roundtable," said Donald Hirsh, DC, FICA, Coalition Legislative Day Chairman. "She brought an urgently needed perspective on Medicare and powerful insights on what needs to be done to preserve what can only be described as a pro-



Mrs. Barbara Kennelly

gram on the brink of failure. She is especially aware of the need to mobilize citizens to lobby for meaningful reforms, and the NCPSSM has one of the best records in the nation of bringing people together on this vitally important series of issues."

Barbara Kennelly has spent 25 years in public service at local, state and federal levels, including 17 years as a member of the U.S. Congress. A former ranking member of the House Ways and Means Committee's Subcommittee on Social Security, Mrs. Kennelly was the first woman to serve as Chief Majority Whip and she was Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus and the House Committee on Intelligence.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Kennelly has advocated for Social Security, Medicare and other health and retirement issues. After leaving Congress, she

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