

## Chiropractic Champion Rep. Lane Evans to Retire from U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Lane Evans, (D-IL), Member of the U.S. House of Representatives for more than two decades, will retire from Congress at the end of the current session.

Rep. Evans, a native of Rock Island, Illinois, represents the state's 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, and is serving his twelfth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. A well-known and highly respected figure within chiropractic circles, Rep. Evans has earned the gratitude of the chiropractic profession by sponsoring more chiropractic legislation than any other sitting federal legislator and for being an accessible, straightforward and consistent advocate for chiropractors and chiropractic patients. Mr. Evans is retiring from the House for serious health reasons.

The Ranking Democratic Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Congressman Evans is recognized as a leading advocate of veterans in Congress, and was key in securing the much heralded permanent chiropractic benefits program for veterans. During his Congressional career, Rep. Evans sponsored eight specific chiropractic initiatives for veterans. His other legislative achievements for veterans include spearheading the successful effort to pass Agent Orange compensation. This past Congress, he built on that legislative milestone by winning passage of a law that delivers health and compensation



Rep. Lane Evans (D-IL)

benefits to children of veterans exposed to Agent Orange who were born with spina bifida, a crippling birth defect. It represents the first time children of veterans will receive government benefits.

A Vietnam-era Veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Rep. Evans has been active throughout his career in the promotion of chiropractic services for the US military and for military dependents and retirees. He has personally authored, sponsored and/or co-sponsored a dozen initiatives in this arena, including the vitally important legislation, passed in 1992, authorizing the US Secretary of Defense to commission doctors of chiropractic as career health care officers in all of the service branches. Sadly, this authority has never been implemented, and military commissions for DCs remains one of ICA's top public policy goals.

Mr. Evans was a frequent speaker at ICA's chiropractic legislative conferences and spoke on many occasions at chiropractic colleges and chiropractic organization meetings in his home state of Illinois.

"Representative Evans always kept his constituents as his highest priority," said ICA Board Member J. Richard Burns, a constituent of the Congressman from East Moline. "Once when a group of Illinois DCs were in Washington for a legislative workshop, Mr. Evans actually excused himself from a committee meeting which he was chairing to meet with us. I thought he would give us a polite "hello" and go back into his meeting. He sat and listened attentively for twenty minutes to our thoughts, not once acting like he was in a hurry or not interested in our conversation. I had always been a fan of Mr. Evans, but that meeting solidified my feelings. I appreciate everything Mr. Evans has done for the people of our great nation and the state of Illinois," said Dr. Burns.

In acknowledgement of his legislative leadership, Congressman Evans was recognized by the International Chiropractors Association (ICA) as "America's Most Outstanding Public Servant" in 2004, and has, over the years, received a host of other chiropractic awards from ICA, ICA's affiliated state association in Illinois the Illinois Prairie State Chiropractic Association, as well as numerous other chiropractic professional organizations. In 1990 he was awarded the Vietnam Veterans of America's first annual President's Award for Outstanding Achievement. In 1994, he received the AMVET's Silver Helmet Award, called the "Oscar" of veterans' honors.

In what may be Rep. Evan's greatest honor, one coming from his Congressional peers, on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the US



Congressman Evans with ICA members Dr. Michael Hulsebus (L) from Rockford, Ill., and Dr. Rick Burns (R) of Moline, Ill.

Senate voted to name the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center in Rock Island, Illinois after Rep. Evans, acting on a provision proposed by Sen. Dick Durbin, (D-III.), as part of the defense reauthorization bill. The bill was approved unanimously.

"The chiropractic profession owes much of the legislative progress we have achieved in the past decade to the years of developmental work and the hands-on leadership of Rep. Lane Evans," said ICA Legislative Committee Co-Chairperson Dr. Michael S. McLean. "Mr. Evans has been a steady, effective and understanding advocate, and a truly selfless, dedicated and service-minded leader, combining qualities that are rare in life, let alone the American political process. He will be sorely missed and long remembered," said Dr. McLean.

Rep. Evans was born in Rock Island, Illinois on August 4, 1951. He attended

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