

## Fathers of Success



JAMES D. EDWARDS, DC

**L**ate in the evening of Jan. 23, President George W. Bush signed the veterans bill into law. Despite strong opposition by the Veterans

Administration, medical groups, and the physical therapists, chiropractic care is now a permanent benefit in the Veterans Administration.

Since then, nearly every national chiropractic membership organization has claimed credit for passing the bill. Those claims remind me of President John F. Kennedy's well-remembered axiom from the immediate aftermath of the disastrous CIA-organized "Bay of Pigs" invasion of Cuba in 1962: "Success has a thousand fathers; failure is an orphan."

In the final analysis, this tremendous victory occurred due to the actions of two chiropractic national organizations—the ACA and the Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC). Without question, they were the real "fathers" of this success.

Even World Chiropractic Alliance (WCA) President Dr. Terry Rondberg acknowledged the ACA's pre-eminent role when he wrote, "The ACA successfully coordinated a massive grassroots campaign to counter the opposition and won widespread acceptance of the proposal in Congress." Dr. Rondberg added, "It could not have passed without the hard work of the ACA."

In addition, several individuals deserve special mention for their efforts in making this dream a reality. They should also be given a measure of "fatherhood" status for this monumental victory:

- Senator Tom Daschle and Dr. Kerwin Winkler. The majority leader of the Senate personally got involved in negotiating the Senate version of our provision and pushed Senator Jay Rockefeller from supporting only three demonstration sites to agreeing to a permanent chiropractic benefit. One must be impressed with the amount of time Senator Daschle spent on this issue, given everything else he has had on his plate (negotiations with the White House over the stimulus package, terrorism, etc.). Yet he found time to address our issue. Special recognition also goes to Dr. Winkler (former ACA chairman of the board), whose personal relationship with Senator Daschle provided an opportunity to present our case and to persuade him to become involved on such a personal basis.

- Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Congressman Jerry Moran (R-KS), the Republican

leaders on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, who pushed for the aggressive House version of the bill.

- Congressman Bob Filner (D-CA), ranking Democrat on the VA Committee who was the constant thorn in the side of the VA and a strong advocate of our position.

- The ACA Government Relations Department and the ACA Legislative Commission. Over the past couple of years, they pushed this measure through Congress under the most difficult of circumstances and rallied the profession behind the effort.

- David O'Bryon and Bobby Mills of the Association of Chiropractic Colleges. These men could always be trusted to do their part and were always there when it counted.

- Dr. Joseph Martin and the doctors from West Virginia who carried out an intensive campaign to try to persuade Senator Rockefeller to modify his position. According to Rockefeller's own office, in a five-day period, over 654 calls from doctors, patients, and veterans were registered in support of the chiropractic provision.

- Pennsylvania state association executive director Gene Veno and Pennsylvania doctors of chiropractic. They worked hard to persuade Senator Specter (R-PA) to support our measure. As ranking minority member of the Senate Veterans Committee, Senator Specter could have exercised his veto on the chiropractic provisions...but he did not.

- ACA-PAC contributors.

Contributions provide awareness and demand attention and an

opportunity to make our case. The ACA-PAC has contributed millions of dollars to our friends in Congress and is the only viable chiropractic PAC entity at the federal level.

- ACA members. They are the ones who have labored for years in the vineyards of politics and have always been willing to take action when asked to mount a grassroots effort.

- And finally (and possibly most important), past ACA Chairman

J. Michael Flynn, DC. In the 11th hour of his chairmanship, Dr. Flynn worked tirelessly behind the scenes to get the ACA, ICA, WCA, and ACC to all agree on compromise language. Because of his heroic effort, these four chiropractic organizations met and worked out their differences. As a result, the chiropractic profession was united on this issue and avoided a potentially disastrous squabble before Congress. None other than Dr. B. J. Palmer

introduced the first chiropractic bill for veterans in 1937. Finally, after 65 years, the chiropractic profession stands victorious. On behalf of a very grateful profession, I congratulate each one of you who worked so hard to pass this important measure.



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## EXAMINATION LEADING TO A DIPLOMATE IN CLINICAL NUTRITION (DACBN)

The Oral, Practical and Written Examination leading to a Diplomate in Clinical Nutrition (DACBN) will be given September 7-8, 2002 in St. Louis, MO. The exam fee is \$995.

**Five case histories must be received by June 1, 2002.** The case history portion of the exam must be passed prior to sitting for the written, oral and practical exams that will be given September 7-8, 2002.

Exam retakes will also be given September 7-8, 2002. Application fee for retaking is \$150, plus \$50 for each part of the exam to be retaken.

A doctor of chiropractic who has successfully completed the 300-hour course in Clinical Nutrition within the last three years or who has achieved a Master's degree in nutrition from Bridgeport University and who has two years of active practice is eligible to sit for this examination.

If you are eligible, please call Bonnie immediately at 540/635-8844 for an application to sit for the examination leading to a DACBN in clinical nutrition. Application should be made as promptly as possible. **The deadline for application and presentation of case histories is June 1, 2002.**