

Editorials

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StarTribune

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Readers Write

LETTERS OF THE DAY



MICHAEL REYNOLDS • European Pressphoto Agency

A bugler played taps during a burial service earlier this month at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

Make this Memorial Day about those who gave their all

The ultimate sacrifice paid by our fallen military and their families deserves our humble respect on this Memorial Day. Throughout our history we have been fortunate to have men and women who have stepped forward to defend our nation's people with their very lives. Today like always our soldiers fight, as G. K. Chesterton said in 1906, "Not because they hate what is in front of them, but because they love what is behind them." Let's honor their glory and service, for their sacrifice has kept us free for these many years.

JOE REPYA, Eagan

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Memorial Day used to be a solemn day to remember those who paid the ultimate price for our freedoms. Unfortunately the

FIXING HEALTH CARE

A solution that is working right here

The latest data on the increasing burden of medical care costs on American families is indeed no surprise ("Medical care fees shift to workers," May 19). The study author's speculation that the employee burden "may be reaching a breaking point" is right on the mark. But for those without access to employer-sponsored health insurance, that breaking point has long been breached.

While we've been waiting for a national solution, Minneapolis-St. Paul has developed a unique community-hospital partnership that, for the last 15 years, has provided primary and preventive health care services to those individuals who don't qualify for government aid, but don't make enough to afford coverage on their own (defined as income up to 275 percent of federal poverty guidelines).

Funded mainly via grants and funding commitments from local hospitals and managed-care organizations, this model provides substantial rate of return via utilization of preventive care and early intervention in place of uncompensated emergency room visits long after less costly intervention is possible.

More important, it provides education around the efficient use of preventive care for thousands of Twin Cities residents each year. And when the focus is on prevention, health care spending falls as we all live healthier lives.

DEBRA HOLMGREN, St. Paul; president, Portico Healthnet