Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate Dr. Freis and the Veterans Administration on this outstanding achievement, and I hope that it will be possible to expand these research programs in the future so that this great work can be accelerated.

The remarks are available for public education and it is too big to be left entirely to the practicing physician.

There is still another problem which requires public attention. Although the drugs we have today are good they are not ideal. None is effective in all patients and none is entirely free of side effects. However, no new anti-hypertensive drugs have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration in the past 10 years. This is in striking contrast to the situation in Europe where several new drugs have been introduced recently and are being used with benefit by European physicians. Because the American pharmaceutical companies are finding that drug research in hypertension is a frustrating and unprofitable enterprise, their great talent and knowhow are in large measure being directed into other channels. Informed public opinion is needed to restore a climate in the FDA where new drug research in hypertension will be encouraged rather than discouraged.

Recent surveys have shown that only 20% of the patients with persistent hypertension in the United States are receiving effective treatment. This fact points up the real need for mass screening and detection of hypertension in its early stages; for intensive public education; for provision of adequate treatment facilities; and many, for a concerted research effort to develop even more safe and effective drugs than are available today.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate Dr. Freis and the Veterans Administration on this outstanding achievement, and I hope that it will be possible to expand these research programs in the future so that this great work can be accelerated.