

**Remarks at Holy Cross Hospital's
50th Anniversary Reception
January 9, 2013**

**The Honorable Congressman Christopher Van Hollen, Jr
U.S. Representative, 8th District—Md**

Let me start by thanking the entire Holy Cross family for all you do in our community. Congratulations on 50 years.

To Kevin Sexton, thank you for your leadership and for your guidance as we worked on the Affordable Care Act in the United States Congress, which I believe, will provide more access to affordable health care for millions more Americans. It's far from perfect and we're going to have to work on it as a community and as a country, and I look forward to continuing to receive the input of all members of this important Holy Cross Community. So, thank you for that.

To the Chairman of the Board, and trustees both current and former, thank you for the stewardship that you've all provided as well. To Sister Nickerson, thank you very much for that important history and for your role in it, along with the other Sisters of the Holy Cross, some of whom are here tonight. Judith Rogers, I look forward to continuing to work with you. Congratulations on your very important and new assignment.

And it's always good to be here with my friend and colleague, Ike Leggett, who's done a terrific job for our County as our Chief Executive here in Montgomery County. He's always focused on trying to make sure that we have a health care system that provides for the needs of our community.

It's great to be here on the 50th.

I've also had the privilege and pleasure of being here on other important occasions; when you opened your doors to various seminars, to try to find ways to make sure that we provide access to people throughout our community. And in the past, I've had opportunities to meet with your doctors and nurses and medical family.

I remember in 2006 when we laid the corner stone for the new wing, which we're in now. I'm trying to remember what we put in the time capsule but I guess they'll figure out what it was years from now.

There were also times when I wasn't so pleased to be here, but was pleased that you Holy Cross Hospital were here — like the times our kids got stitches and like the time I was playing an extra rough flag football game and dislocated my shoulder. And on a very happy occasion we in the Van Hollen family remember Holy Cross, because our youngest child, Alexander was born here.

He's 17 years old today. So, thank you for helping him get off to a very good start, Holy Cross Hospital.

As Kevin and others have described, our community and county have changed dramatically over the last 50 years. This community was once just a little bedroom community outside of Washington, DC, but it's changed enormously, and Holy Cross has changed and grown up with the County.

I think the things that have made Holy Cross successful are the things that did not change. Holy Cross did not change its core mission; its commitment to excellence; its commitment to innovation and making sure that it was among the pioneers for some new ideas in the health care arena; and certainly never wavering in its commitment to making sure that the most vulnerable people in our community have access to health care, whether those were good times for the hospital or leaner times for the hospital.

And I think Montgomery County — and I know the County's Executive will speak to this — will be eternally grateful to Holy Cross Hospital for what you've done for people in our community. When it came time to evaluate hospitals this year, you got a perfect score. There were four hospitals in the state that ranked for community benefit, and I was not surprised at all to see Holy Cross Hospital as part of that group. And it's because of that commitment to service, that I think Holy Cross Hospital was welcomed at the Germantown campus of Montgomery College.

There are many examples of you opening your doors to people throughout our community, with the focus on quality healthcare for all. This has been your mission from the beginning and I'm very grateful to have the opportunity to represent this hospital and this community in the United States Congress. I look forward to continuing to represent you, and welcome your input, as we meet the very difficult challenges for our community, for our state and for our Country in the area of healthcare, with our aging population and other challenges.

In those areas and others —for example, being among the first to open an emergency room for seniors— you were able to look beyond the horizon to recognize the needs that we'll all be facing. So thank you, Holy Cross Hospital and God bless you for all your good work.

In celebration of its 50th Anniversary, with gratitude for five decades and providing exceptional and compassionate care to our community and in appreciation of its tradition and service, particularly to the poor and vulnerable, congratulations from the United States Congress.