

SEPTEMBER 24, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 9811--William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital. This bill designates the Veterans Administration (VA) hospital in Madison, Wisconsin as the "William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans' Hospital;" authorizes VA to participate in the swine flu immunization program.

Middleton served as Dean of the University of Wisconsin Medical School for 20 years prior to serving as VA Chief Medical Director, and was the only Chief Medical Director to serve two four-year terms. H. R. 9811 also contains a provision, which will authorize VA to participate in the Administration's National Swine Flu Immunization Program. The amendment in H. R. 9811 will specifically allow VA to administer swine flu vaccine to veterans receiving care in a VA hospital or other health facility who voluntarily request such vaccine. In addition, the bill would explicitly provide personal immunity for VA medical personnel from malpractice or negligence claims in connection with the administration of swine flu vaccine.

H. R. 9811 provides that the flu vaccine shall be provided to VA at no cost by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW).

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