

With a signature, Obama seals his health-care victory



MARVIN JOSEPH/THE WASHINGTON POST

Surrounded by lawmakers and ordinary Americans, mentioned in his speeches, who wrestled with the health-care system, President Obama signs the overhaul bill into law at the White House. "We are not a nation that scales back its aspirations," he told the crowd.

THE OPPOSITION

Cuccinelli forges his own path in suing U.S. government over law

BY ROSALIND S. HELDERMAN

RICHMOND — Not five minutes after President Obama signed health-care legislation into law Tuesday, top staff members for Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli II made their way out of his office, court papers in hand and TV cameras in pursuit, and headed to Richmond's federal courthouse to sue to stop the measure.

Thirteen other state attorneys general also sought to stop the health-care law Tuesday, jointly suing in Florida. But Cuccinelli (R) went his own way, arguing that a Virginia law enacted this month that prohibits the government from requiring people to buy health insurance creates an "immediate, actual controversy" between state and federal law that gives the state unique standing on which to sue.

The move was classic Cuccinelli — bold, defiant and in-your-face, an effort to use any means at his disposal to stop what he

The end isn't near

For special interest groups, the health-care fight isn't over so much as changing venues. **A5**

Ted Kennedy's lifetime cause

The senator is remembered for his longtime fight for reform. **A7**

Editorial

The scorched earth left behind after the long battle. **A16**

Biden's expletive

The vice president is caught on video using profanity during ceremony. washingtonpost.com/politics

sees as a federal government gone wild. That approach has transformed him in just a few months from being a fairly obscure state senator into a nation-

CUCCINELLI CONTINUED ON A7

THE CELEBRATION

Jubilant event hints at how bill will be sold: As moral imperative

BY SCOTT WILSON

His replies of "Thank you, thank you" were barely audible over the applause, whistles and shouts that filled the East Room on Tuesday, and when the noise finally faded, President Obama nodded to history in summing up the moment and the celebration unfolding before him.

"Today, after almost a century of trying; today, after over a year of debate; today, after all the votes have been tallied — health insurance reform becomes law in the United States of America," he said. "Today."

Minutes later, sitting at a small desk surrounded by congressional leaders and some of the Americans whose problems he highlighted in speeches, Obama turned the most contentious bill in recent memory into law with his left-handed signature. He used 22 pens to do so, adding what his Democratic supporters say is another strand in a widening social safety net designed to

protect those living in the world's wealthiest society.

Rich with symbolism and ceremony, the White House event provided clues about how the administration plans to sell the measure to a skeptical public: as a moral necessity of historic proportion. Obama told his audience of allies that "we are not a nation that scales back its aspirations." But his central challenge remains convincing an anxious nation that it can afford to help all, even at a time of rising debt, high unemployment and two distant wars.

In a 10-minute speech interrupted more than 20 times by ovations, Obama suggested that those Republicans and Democrats who opposed the measure sit now on the wrong side of history. But Republicans have promised to defeat his argument at the ballot box in November and take back those swing-district seats that Obama's once-towering popularity turned Democratic in 2008.

OBAMA CONTINUED ON A6

Western firms begin to change approach in China

GOOGLE'S MOVE SIGNALS A TREND

Beijing insists case won't affect business climate

BY JOHN POMFRET

BEIJING — The showdown between Google and the world's most populous country marks a turning point in one of the great alliances of the late 20th century — the bond between Western capitalists and Beijing's authoritarian system.

After Google's audacious decision to confront China over the issue of censorship, officials here insisted Tuesday that the Internet giant's case was an isolated one and would not affect China's opening to the West or its market-oriented reforms.

But Western businesspeople said the episode had underscored a broader sea change in how U.S. and European companies deal with the government here. More specifically, they said, Western businesses have begun to push back openly against China.

In announcing Monday that it would stop censoring results on its Chinese site, Google acknowl-

edged that it was "well aware" that the Beijing government "could at any time block access to our services." But the company also made clear that such an outcome would be better than having to censor itself any longer.

Although China has not yet taken any draconian action against Google or its employees, it has started censoring results for sensitive searches in China on Google's Hong Kong-based Web site, where its users on the mainland have been redirected. (Hong Kong users could see uncensored results.)

There were also signs that China wants to punish Google in other ways. On Tuesday, a Hong Kong-based Internet company, TOM Online, announced that it had stopped using Google's search tools. TOM is owned by the family of Li Ka-shing, Hong Kong's richest man and a supporter of the Communist government. Meanwhile, analysts said two major state-owned mobile phone companies on the mainland, China Mobile, with 500 million users, and China Unicom, China's second biggest, were rethinking deals with Google.

GOOGLE CONTINUED ON A18

● Trade disputes cloud export initiative. **A12**

ANALYSIS

For some, a disquieting shift in U.S.-Israel ties

BY GLENN KESSLER

The two-week-old dispute between Israel and the United States over housing construction in East Jerusalem has exposed the limits of American power to pressure Israeli leaders to make decisions they consider politically untenable. But the blowup also shows that the relationship between the two allies is changing, in ways that are unsettling for Israel's supporters.

President Obama and his aides have cast the settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, not just the relationship with Israel, as a core U.S. national security interest. Gen. David H. Petraeus, the head of the military's Central Command, put it starkly in recent testimony on Capitol Hill: "The

conflict foments anti-American sentiment due to a perception of U.S. favoritism toward Israel." His comments raised eyebrows in official Washington — and overseas — because they suggested that U.S. military officials were embracing the idea that failure to resolve the conflict had begun to imperil American lives.

Visiting Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu received warm applause at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) conference on Monday night when he bluntly dismissed U.S. demands to end housing construction in the disputed part of Jerusalem. He was greeted as a hero when he visited Capitol Hill on Tuesday.

But the administration has

ISRAEL CONTINUED ON A4



Army Spec. Zachari Klawonn, who is Muslim, sits in his barracks at Fort Hood, where he hung the flag of his mother's country, Morocco.

JAH CHIKWENDU/THE WASHINGTON POST

Serving his country, testing his faith

After the Fort Hood shootings, a Muslim American soldier battles on friendly ground

BY WILLIAM WAN
AT FORT HOOD, TEX.

At 2 o'clock on a Monday morning, the sound of angry pounding sent Army Spec. Zachari Klawonn bolting out of bed.

THUD. THUD. THUD. Someone was mule-kicking the door of his barracks room, leaving marks that weeks later — long after Army investigators had come and gone — would still be visible. By the time Klawonn reached

the door, the pounding had stopped. All that was left was a note, twice folded and wedged into the doorframe.

"F--- YOU RAGHEAD BURN IN HELL" read the words scrawled in black marker.

The slur itself was nothing new. Klawonn, 20, the son of an American father and a Moroccan mother, had been called worse in the military. But the fact that someone had tracked him down in the dead of night to deliver this specific message sent a chill through his body.

Before he enlisted, the recruiters in his home town of Bradenton, Fla., had told him that the Army desperately needed Muslim soldiers like him to help win the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Yet ever since, he had been filing complaint after complaint with his commanders. After he was ordered not to fast and pray. After his Koran was torn up. After other soldiers jeered and threw water bottles at him. After his platoon sergeant warned him to hide his faith to avoid getting a "beating" by fellow troops. But nothing

changed.

Then came the November shootings at Fort Hood and the arrest of a Muslim soldier he'd never met: Maj. Nidal M. Hasan, who is charged with killing 13 people and injuring more than 30 in a massacre that stunned the nation. And with it, things only got worse.

Staring at the note in his hands that dark February morning, Klawonn trembled with panic and frustration. His faith, he believed,

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INSIDE



«FOOD» The lighter side of matzo

The stars of the soup need not be great balls of lead — or even shaped like balls, for that matter. **E1**

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STYLE

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Hoping for a Sarah Palin reality show? Discovery Channel might have your consolation prize. **C1**

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Jail sought for Arenas

Federal prosecutors want Gilbert Arenas to spend at least three months behind bars for the Verizon Center gun incident. **D1**

SPORTS

Capitals players asked about chiropractor

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Top officers will make less at five firms getting major federal aid. **A12**

