

# Senator Knapik visits Holyoke VNA

**Legislator, agency work to raise awareness of home health services**

HOLYOKE - Senator Michael R. Knapik recently accompanied Holyoke Visiting Nurse Association

(Holyoke VNA) staff on a scheduled visit to a patient home, to raise awareness of the important programs and services provided by home health visiting nurse associations in the community.

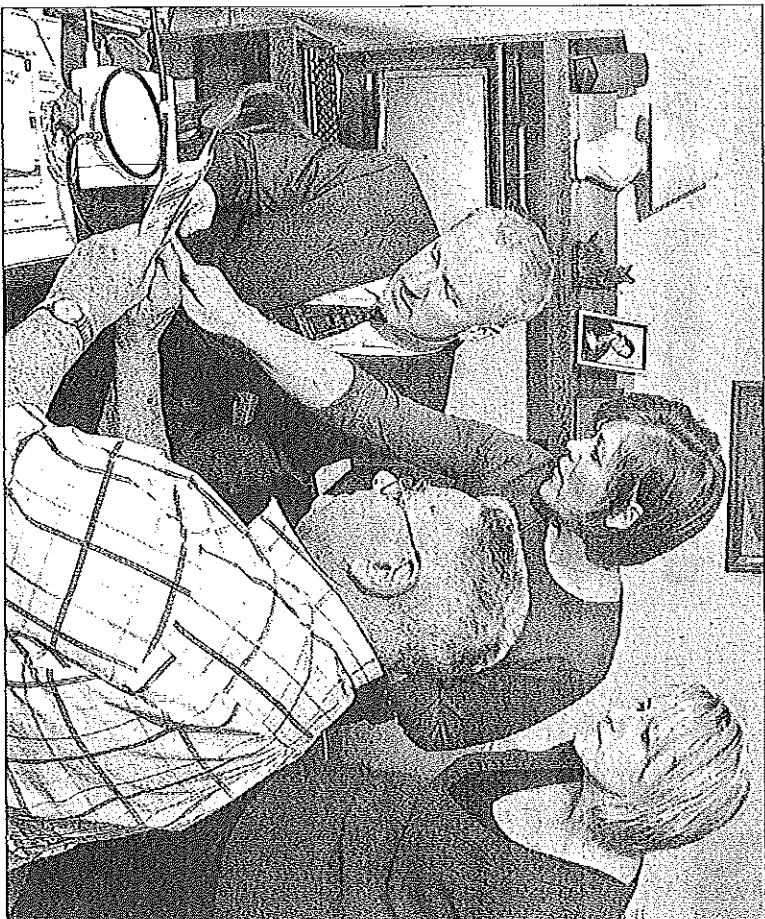
Knapik and Kathy Briant, RN visited Mr. Frederick Lambert who recently returned home from the hospital, facing several new complex medical conditions. Lambert walked Senator Knapik through the proper use of the Telehealth Monitoring System that was placed in his home by the Holyoke VNA.

Lambert stated that this system, which he uses daily, has helped him, his wife, and his physician, to manage his new conditions successfully. He feels more comfortable knowing that if a problem arises, the Holyoke VNA will follow up with him immediately.

Knapik said, "I first saw the Telehealth Monitoring System about ten years ago. The advancements in this technology are impressive and should be used to assist patients and help control health care costs."

Lambert kept excellent track of all his vital signs and medications as coached by Terry Murray, RN, the Care Transition Coach for the Holyoke VNA. The Care Transition Program is grant funded through WestMass ElderCare and the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. This is another resource that can help patients and families learn how to manage chronic diseases (congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiac diseases, diabetes, etc.) at home.

Knapik and Holyoke VNA joined their counterparts across the state to raise awareness of home health services that help keep people healthy and independent. The Holyoke VNA is a member of the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts. Their Executive Director, Patricia Kelleher stated, "We are very proud of the work performed by the Holyoke VNA, along with our other member agencies all over Massachusetts that enable patients to remain in the most comfortable and familiar setting: their own homes."



*Tulley Publications Submitted Photo*

Mr. Frederick Lambert (left) demonstrates the Telehealth Monitoring System to Senator Michael R. Knapik, as Holyoke VNA Clinical Manager, Kelly Miller, RN and Case Manager, Kathy Briant RN, explain the results.