

State, both by rule and enforcement. In this day and age, that is not acceptable.

That is why I have worked, along with my colleague Senator DORGAN, to ensure this legislation remedies these inequities by establishing, for the first time, minimum uniform national health and safety standards. These provisions will ensure that every professional boxing match in the United States is conducted under these standards. Every professional boxer will know that, no matter where they fight, there will be a doctor at ringside; an ambulance available; and health insurance provided.

I also want to commend our colleagues in the House who significantly strengthened this legislation by adopting a provision I have previously proposed—prohibiting conflicts of interest on the part of boxing regulators. My investigation highlighted conflicts of interest to be among the major problems facing boxing today, always to the detriment of the boxers. Dealing with this problem is essential if we are to effect meaningful boxing reform.

Dave Tiberi has never fought again, despite numerous lucrative offers. Instead he has dedicated his efforts to working with young people in Delaware and reforming boxing. If there has ever been a role model in boxing for our young people, his name is Dave Tiberi. Although he never got his world title, knowing that his hard work will protect future boxers is his big payday; and that is why Dave Tiberi will always be a champion.

Boxing reform is not a marquee issue that appeals to a large constituency. As such, it could be easily pushed aside and lost among all the other issues clamoring for attention in the final days of this Congress. Yet, professional boxing is important, not only to its millions of fans, but primarily because the sport creates opportunities for many young men for whom such opportunities are rare. We owe these young men a system outside the ring that works as hard to protect them as they do inside the ring. That is why I have worked to reform professional boxing. While it does not go far enough, I believe this legislation is a significant step toward achieving that goal. I commend and thank my colleagues for adopting this important legislation.●

H.R. 3118, VETERANS' HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY REFORM ACT OF 1996

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3118, the Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996, as amended by the committee substitute. I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the substitute amendment, which provides for greater uniformity and flexibility in veterans' health care eligibility, enacts significant improvements in health care programs, and authorizes major construction projects.

I am especially pleased with sections of the bill that make improvements in the Readjustment Counseling Service [RCS] program. As my colleagues know, RCS operates over 200 community-based vet centers around the Nation, each of which provides a variety

of services designed to help returned veterans adjust to civilian life. These include services relating to post-traumatic stress disorder, homelessness, disaster assistance, sexual trauma, alcohol and substance abuse, suicide prevention, the physically disabled, and minority veterans. To date, vet centers have successfully assisted well over 1 million veterans.

The RCS improvements in this bill include: making World War II and Korea theater veterans eligible for vet center services for the first time; directing VA to study the desirability of collocating vet centers with outpatient clinics; directing VA to report on the feasibility of providing limited, primary health care services at vet centers; making the Advisory Committee on Readjustment of Veterans a permanent, statutory entity; and clarifying and enhancing the status of the Director of RCS, which will guarantee a degree of administrative autonomy for the program.

Mr. President, these provision are derived from S. 403, the Readjustment Counseling Service Amendments of 1995, which was cosponsored by Senators DASCHLE, WELLSTONE, INOUE, and JEFFORDS. S. 403 in turn was derived from legislation I originally offered in the 103d Congress which twice passed the Senate. I am disappointed that some of the provision of S. 403 were not included in this compromise measure. These include provisions that would have: made RCS a statutory agency within VA, required congressional notification of proposed changes to the administrative or organizational structure of RCS, required a specific RCS operating budget to be identified in VA's annual budget submission, and authorized vet centers to offer bereavement counseling to the families of service persons killed in service. Nevertheless, I am deeply appreciative that many of the goals of that legislation have been achieved in the pending measure.

Mr. President, many people deserve to be recognized for their efforts in making possible the RCS provisions in this bill. First, I would like to thank Senators SIMPSON and ROCKEFELLER and their respective staffs, notably Chris Yoder and Bill Brew, for putting together this compromise.

Second, I wish to recognize Al Batres, Susan Angell, Stephen Molnar, and other RCS employees, whose testimony before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee in 1993 provided the original justification for my legislation. Steve Molnar, Director of the Honolulu Vet Center, has been, and continues to be, a source of inspiration for his untiring dedication to the Aloha State's veterans.

Last, I wish to acknowledge the contributions of Gerry Kifer, a former Congressional Fellow with my office, whose insights and hard work led to the drafting of my original RCS legislation. Gerry provided the focus and energy that made today's legislation possible.

Thank you, Mr. President. I hope my colleagues can support the RCS provisions contained in H.R. 3118, as amended. I urge swift enactment of the bill.●

REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S 85TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask that the following letter of congratulations recognizing the 85th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China be

printed in the RECORD. In light of the efforts at political reform and recent economic successes of the Republic of China, it is appropriate that we honor this important milestone.

The letter follows:

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC.

President LEE TENG-HUI,
c/o Foreign Minister John H. Chang, the Republic of China, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

DEAR PRESIDENT LEE: We wish to extend our greetings to you, Vice President Lien Chan and Foreign Minister John H. Chang on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China.

In the last few years, Taiwan has impressed the world with economic success and political reform. We are well aware of your efforts in cooperating with us on matters of mutual interest. We are also aware of your recent campaign to rejoin the United Nations and other international organizations. As you seek to develop even better ties with the U.S. and shoulder more international responsibility, we wish you and your countrymen every success.

Representative Jason Hu has done an excellent job of keeping members briefed on what has been happening in your country. He and his staff are to be commended for their efforts.

Mr. President, may you and your people have a wonderful 85th anniversary celebration. Congratulations.

Sincerely,

TRENT LOTT.
THAD COCHRAN.
DON NICKLES.
LARRY E. CRAIG.●

THE DEFENSE MANPOWER DRAWDOWN

● Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, almost 4 years ago I made a series of speeches about our men and women in uniform who won the cold war.

I asked my colleagues to remember their sacrifice as we undertook the unprecedented drawdown of our All Volunteer Force.

I asked that we ensure that the drawdown was accomplished in a way that preserved the legacy of national security which that force had built.

And I called on the Congress to see that people leaving military service were given a helping hand as they moved into civilian life, because we owed it to them and because the Nation needed their skills.

When I made those remarks, the post-cold-war drawdown was mostly in front of us. Although it had started in 1987, the downsizing moved slowly at first and then halted completely for Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Today, as I rise to review what has happened in the intervening 3 years, the downsizing is over 90 percent complete, and next year it will essentially be complete.

Let me begin by looking at the drawdown and how we did at meeting this enormous challenge. In the late 1980's, after the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet Union, it became clear that we could make significant reductions in the size of our Armed Forces. It was decided by the Bush administration and the Congress to reduce military personnel by approximately one-third over a period of 5 years.

As a nation, we had experience with large demobilizations after World War

I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. This drawdown, however, was to be different. The United States had never before sought to downsize an all-volunteer force.

In those earlier reductions, our conscripted soldiers were more than happy to return to civilian life. In contrast, the men and women who had won the cold war had all chosen a military career and expected to be able to remain in uniform as long as they performed their duties well.

Under these circumstances, nobody in the Congress or in the Defense Department knew how the downsizing would turn out, and many were skeptical that it would turn out well.

A drawdown of this magnitude could easily have caused bitterness, skill gaps, stalled promotion opportunities, morale problems and could have created a hostile attitude toward the military across the society.

As we began to reduce the size of the force, some predicted that the best and the brightest would take the opportunity to get out of the service, leaving us with a less than ready military.

But Congress, two administrations, and the military leadership worked together to ensure that through the drawdown the force was carefully shaped to maintain quality and readiness.

We in the Congress provided creative tools, like early retirement and special separation benefits, which allowed the Pentagon to carefully shape the force and to address emerging problems as they occurred.

In this regard, each of the military services—and especially the Army—did a tremendous job in balancing the needs of current and future readiness with the imperative of easing in every way possible the transition to civilian life of those who would be leaving the service as a direct result of the drawdown.

Mr. President, the results are impressive:

The quality of our force is higher than at the start of the drawdown. The proportion of active duty enlisted personnel in the upper aptitude categories has increased from 56 percent in 1987 to 66 percent in 1995. Those in the lowest acceptable aptitude category dropped from 11 percent of the force in 1987 to just 6 percent in 1995.

Our force is more experienced, as measured by age and length of service. For example, the average age increased 1.4 years from 1987 to 1995 (to 28.7) and there are 45 percent fewer enlisted service members under age 22.

And, despite warnings that the drawdown would sacrifice the military's hard won gains for women and minorities, their representation has actually increased. The percentage of women in active service has increased from 10 percent to 13 percent. Total minority representation in the active force has increased from 27.4 percent to 30.5 percent. Minority field grade officers showed an even larger increase:

from 7 percent of the total to 12 percent.

As we achieved these impressive results, we maintained our obligation to be fair to our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. Only a very small number of service members were involuntarily separated to achieve our downsizing goals.

Let me repeat that, although over 1 million people have left the military during the drawdown, fewer than 2,000 service members were involuntarily separated. The Pentagon used tools such as the special separation benefit, provided by the Congress, to perform this miracle.

The Nation will be reaping the benefits of that accomplishment in recruitment and public good will for years to come.

We also took special care with the service members who had dedicated their professional lives to the military. In order to maintain an orderly flow through the ranks, we had to thin at all experience levels, including those with 15 to 19 years in the service.

Service members with this many years in uniform had made a long-term commitment to military, but had not yet reached the 20 years necessary for retirement benefits. In many cases their decisions to stay in the Armed Forces were predicated on being able to make it to 20 years to be eligible for retirement.

An easy approach would have been simply to dismiss these people—but that would have been short-sighted and, I believe, morally indefensible. However, using the early retirement program which I called for in 1992 and which became law in fiscal year 1993, we were able to keep faith with these patriots and save taxpayer money, too, by offering early retirement. Over 34,000 men and women have availed themselves to the early retirement option.

By shaping the force thoughtfully, we also maintained promotion opportunities that helped us keep the highly skilled and experienced service members we needed to retain.

In sum, the drawdown has been a real success. The credit for that success goes to those who administered this effort, to my colleagues and former colleagues in the Congress, to the leadership of the military services, and to the rank and file service members who have performed so brilliantly during this time of turbulence.

The second part of my call in January 1992, was to see that those departing the service were helped in their transition to the civilian economy. It would have been wasteful and wrong to send these people out into the job market with no guidance or support.

I am pleased to report that the military has used the programs created by the Congress to benefit departing service members on an unprecedented scale.

The effort begins 3 months before a service member leaves the military,

when they are offered pre-separation counseling. This includes information concerning relocation, employment issues, financial assistance, education and training benefits, health and life insurance rules, veterans benefits and assistance in developing individual transition plans.

The next step in preparing for the civilian job market is the transition assistance program workshop. Working in coordination with the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense has implemented transition assistance programs at some 200 sites in the United States, and more overseas.

Staffed by outplacement and employment experts, 330 transition sites worldwide provide intensive individual counseling to departing service members and their families. These programs teach resume writing and interviewing, provide information on the current job market and help the attendees understand how best to translate their military skills into skills needed in the civilian work force. The courses have also been put on video to accommodate the special needs of sailors deployed at sea for their last tour and those service members stationed at remote duty locations.

The rewards of this program can be seen with people like Jerry Sack. As Jerry was getting out of the Marine Corps in California, he had two dreams, to be a fireman and to move to Georgia, where his wife had grown up.

He said at the outset that he thought these twin goals were nearly impossible. But the transition assistance people worked intensively with Jerry on his resume, interviewing techniques, and job search strategies.

Then they gave him a lead on a civilian fire chief's job at the Marine Corps logistics base in Albany, GA. With the tap team's guidance, he hit the books to prepare for the interview. The team heard that Jerry got his dream job when he wrote back saying:

Because of your staff, and only because of your staff, I was able to prepare myself personally and on paper to be selected for this position as fire chief.

The Department of Defense has also created an automated job matching system. Departing service members enter their resumes, skills, and job criteria and they can be matched with private employers who use the service free of charge. This system and a transition bulletin board maintained by DOD, is a great example of how the information super highway can be used to help veterans.

Here are just a few examples of the results of this system: a number of individuals have been placed with Infotec Corp. in Virginia helping to track down missing children; a dozen more are working as managers and line officers at the Indiana Department of Corrections; three were hired by Metropolitan Life Insurance; and the new engineering coordinator at Telspan International was hired through this system. And there are many more who

have been hired as computer programmers, stockbrokers, and supervisors.

One satisfied employer who used this high-technology service wrote back saying, "the guys coming out of the military are our best workers."

That comes as no surprise to anyone here, but it is good to know the word is getting out to employers nationwide.

All of this has led to a much friendlier transition for many thousands of military families.

The best indicator of our success is that thousands of employers who hire veterans come back to hire more through the automated systems and job fairs. A healthy economy is certainly helping, but the transition programs are ensuring that people leaving the military can match their skill to high quality civilian jobs.

The heart of my challenge 3 years ago was to help departing service members use their skill and leadership abilities to address some of our Nation's pressing needs. The problems I talked about then are, unfortunately, still with us today including violence in the streets and a need for discipline and role models in our schools.

In the fiscal year 1994 Defense Authorization Act, we created a program within the temporary early retirement authority which encouraged retiring service members to enter public and community service employment.

Under this program, if an early-retiree takes a job in a critically needed skill area, he or she can accrue additional military retirement credit up to the 20-year mark.

Today almost 9,000 individuals who chose early retirement are working in public and community service positions and, as such, are earning additional credits toward their military retirement. This program has encouraged many of our former service members to use their talents to improve their communities.

There has been a big push lately for the Federal Government to help States and localities cope with crime. But in many ways, the quality of law enforcement will never be better than the quality of the front line police officers patrolling the street. That's why I suggested that service people, with their training to think on their feet and handle complex and dangerous situations, be encouraged to pursue a law enforcement career.

To this end, we authorized the Troops to Cops Program. A combined effort of the Departments of Defense and Justice, Troops to Cops will provide funds to local law enforcement agencies to offset the initial cost of hiring former service members as police officers. We may never have statistics on the number of crimes prevented or how much safer people feel as a result of having these highly-trained professionals on their local police force, but America will certainly be the better for it.

Perhaps the most successful community service initiative we established

for people leaving the service is the troops to teachers program. This program provides stipends to assist people leaving the military in obtaining certification as elementary and secondary school teachers or teachers' aides.

In addition, it helps disadvantaged local schools that have a shortage of teachers and teachers' aides to hire program participants. This program helps bring together one of our greatest national needs, tough but inspiring teachers for tough schools, with one of our greatest national assets the men and women trained and molded by the Armed Forces.

Departing service members placed in the troops to teachers program everywhere from South Carolina to New York are writing back to the Department of Defense, raving about the support they've gotten.

To date, 4,337 departing service members have been selected for the troops to teachers program; 1,482 are now in training programs leading toward the necessary certification. And over 800 former soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines are already in classrooms helping America's kids. This is a success story of the first order.

In sum, Mr. President, the post-cold war drawdown of our forces and the transition programs for departing service members are a case of government doing a job well. The Congress, the executive branch, and the uniformed military each did their part, and we all had the readiness of the force and the well-being of the service members in mind as we created and executed these policies.●

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to lend my strong support to H.R. 1281. This sense of the Congress measure is intended to act as a first step to urge several Federal agencies through the Freedom of Information Act, to open their files that contain information about individuals that are believed to have participated in Nazi war crimes.

This sense of the Congress measure stems from the efforts of Representative MALONEY of my home State of New York. Representative MALONEY propose H.R. 1281, a bill that would have amended the National Security Act of 1947, and required Federal agencies to make public under the Freedom of Information Act, all information regarding individuals who participated in Nazi War Crimes during World War II.

Mr. President, it is very important that we make a strong statement in this body that all the facts relating to the Holocaust be brought to light. I believe that it is our duty to never forget the millions of people who died in the Holocaust. Further, I believe we also have a duty to the survivors and victim's families to pursue every answer into this terrible period in the history of man. Yet, over 50 years have passed since the end of World War II and we

still have many unanswered questions. Some of these questions can be answered with the cooperation of our own Federal agencies, but, some agencies have inexplicably blocked access to files and information that could help to shed light on the Holocaust and Nazi war criminals. These answers could help to provide piece of mind to millions of people around our country and around the world. Further, the release of these Nazi war crime files could provide historians with a more clear view of these horrible events over half a century ago, thus helping to ensure the despicable acts of the Holocaust are never repeated.

The survivors and victim's families have waited too long. The time to open the files is now, there can be no more excuses. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort and ask for their support on this measure.●

TRIBUTE TO THE 1996 OLYMPICS GAMES

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, this year marked the 100th anniversary of the Olympic games. As with any Olympiad, hard work, blood, sweat, and tears culminated in 2 weeks' worth of contested international sportsmanship. The best of America, and the world, competed for the thrill of victory again on American soil in Atlanta, GA. There, over 10,000 athletes from 197 countries were brought together—with the world watching—to witness 17 days worth of comradery, expectation, determination, triumph, and defeat.

I am proud that West Virginia played a key role in allowing the 1996 Olympic summer games to proceed. Two historical cities of my State, Wheeling and Martinsburg, hosted separate Olympic time-trial qualifying events for cycling. This was a first. West Virginia had never hosted an Olympic trials event. But our role contributed to the selection of the most superior men and women cyclists ever to represent the United States. For cycling enthusiasts, the eyes of the Nation were focused on these world-class riders. But they also witnessed the best attributes of my State—the beautiful outdoors, friendly people, culture, communities, and spirit that defines the proud residents of Appalachia.

The 1996 Olympic games, America's Games, began on July 19 when the Olympic torch entered Olympic Stadium. The torch carried a flame that had traveled from Athens, Greece, on an 84-day voyage to the United States host city. The flame represented both an ending and a beginning.

It symbolized an ending to the first 100 years of the modern Olympic games. Since 1896, we have seen our world savaged by wars, famines, Depression, and conflict. At times, it seemed unlikely that not much more than the spirit of the games would survive. But it did. Each and every time, the flame was relit—its message of hope and strength brought the world