

willing to fight to ensure that the most basic guarantee of our Constitution—equal protection under the law—is secure, there are role models for others to follow, from which others might take the torch and lead. I wanted to publicly salute them today here in the Senate, and thank them for their tireless efforts on behalf of their daughter, and on behalf of gay and lesbian people in my State and throughout the Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO LORI MOONEY, RETIRING CLERK OF ATLANTIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

● Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the public career of a very special woman. The Honorable Lori Mooney will this month retire from public service having completed 19 years of faithful and distinguished service as the first publicly elected clerk of Atlantic County.

Having been elected in 1977 as the first woman to serve in the position of county clerk, Lori Mooney made one promise at that time to the people of the county—to bring the operations of the office of the clerk into the 20th Century. To that end, she can take great pride in her achievements. She has managed, with the help of a highly professional, service-oriented staff, to raise the professional standards of the office from hand-written entries to the complete computerization of all records. She has consistently worked to meet the growing and changing needs of her county by recognizing the importance of easy, accessible service to the general public. From being the first to provide a satellite office in Atlantic City to her forward-looking efforts today in establishing a World Wide Web site and a "County Connection" at the Hamilton Mall, Lori has instinctively understood the dynamic of citizen contact and public outreach. She has truly incorporated and made real her own motto, "Always At Your Service."

Mr. President, as important as her work as county clerk has been, so too has Lori distinguished herself as a professional businesswoman having been the first woman appointed to the National Small Business Council for New Jersey by President Lyndon Johnson in 1966. And finally, her love and her energy on behalf of Democratic candidates both local and national make her one of the very few Democrats in the State to have been a delegate to the party's national convention six times.

Mr. President, I offer my warmest and most sincere congratulations to one of New Jersey's most beloved public servants whose public career should stand as an inspiration to all who respect honesty, unquestioned integrity and sound judgement in public office.●

THE JAPAN-AMERICA STUDENT CONFERENCE

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today I would like to salute the efforts of a distinguished student organization that has been at the forefront of enhanced United States-Japanese cultural dialogue and understanding since 1934. I refer to the Japan-America Student Conference [JASC], which was founded 63 years ago by a group of conscientious Japanese and American students concerned about the cultural misunderstanding plaguing their countries' relations. The JASC continues to play a significant role in facilitating exchanges between American and Japanese university students.

Over the years, the annual JASC student exchanges have produced a remarkable collection of American and Japanese leaders in business, government, journalism, and academia, leaders whose familiarity with their counterparts' culture has been instrumental to their professional success. This year, as we celebrate the 63rd anniversary of student exchanges under the auspices of the Japan-America Student Conference, I commend its leadership and all its participants for their dedication to the cause of cultural enlightenment and enrichment in United States-Japanese relations.

As a completely student-designed and student-implemented program, JASC organizes an annual conference to promote its mission of "Pursuing World Peace through Education, Cooperation, and Personal Commitment." Conference locations alternate between Japan and America and typically involve 30 to 40 university students from each country who come together for a full month to live, travel, work, debate, study, and socialize in the host country. Intensive round-table discussions on topics of fundamental importance to Japanese-American relations complement field studies in which delegates meet with government officials, educators, business executives, journalists, and other prominent citizens of the host country. Homestays with local families allow visiting students insight into the customs of the host country, while Japanese-American sharing of rooms in dormitories ensures intimate cross-cultural links.

Following its tradition of consistently hosting outstanding Japanese and American students, this year's conference will focus on "Exploring Our Roles in the Emerging Asia-Pacific Community." Students will explore issues in culture, trade, philosophy, science, diplomacy, history, and politics in an attempt to understand the fundamental changes forming Japanese-American relations on the verge of the 21st century. Because 1996's Conference took place in the United States, the Japanese cities of Tokyo and Kyoto will host next year's JASC from July 20 to August 19.

In accordance with JASC's standard practice, this year's participants were chosen by the organization's American

and Japanese student executive committees consisting of students from each country elected by their peers. Although the respective Japanese and American Executive Committees receive guidance and financial assistance from the Boards of Directors of JASC in Washington and the International Education Center in Tokyo, students in the two committees independently plan and manage the conferences.

Mr. President, JASC represents an effective and efficient means to address the intellectual deficit in Japan-United States relations. Although roughly 43,000 Japanese students are currently enrolled in American universities, less than 2,000 Americans are studying at institutions of higher learning in Japan. This gap must be reduced because we have as much to learn from the Japanese as they do from us. Therefore, I want to commend the Japan-America Student Conference for long dedication to improving ties between Japan and the United States.●

RETIREMENT OF LINDA COLLINS HERTZ

● Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, it is my privilege today to recognize the retirement of Linda Collins Hertz, a Federal prosecutor from Florida and a native of Georgia.

A graduate of Shorter College in Rome, GA, Ms. Hertz received her law degree from the University of Miami cum laude in 1973. After 6 years as an assistant attorney general for the State of Florida, she joined the U.S. attorney's office in the Southern District of Florida. In her 15-year tenure as the chief of the appellate division in that U.S. Attorney's Office, Ms. Hertz has overseen the filing of in excess of 3,000 briefs in the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. I have been told by her former colleagues that the judges of that court frequently comment that the briefs filed under Ms. Hertz' supervision can be counted upon to reflect the highest standards of appellate advocacy, and bear the mark of her commitment to candor, forthrightness and vigorous, but always fair, argument. Ms. Hertz' efforts to ensure that the positions of the United States are argued in a manner consistent with the highest ethical standards serve as a testament to her own high standards. Her coworkers further advise me that Ms. Hertz has consistently provided support to other assistant U.S. attorneys in south Florida and elsewhere, and her counsel is regularly sought on matters of great import and complexity. Ms. Hertz has been recognized by her colleagues and the Department of Justice for her extraordinary work through numerous awards like the Justice Department's John Marshall Award for the Handling of Appeals, and the U.S. Attorney's Vince Antle Award.

In sum, Mr. President, based on the record and based on the testimony of those who know her best I believe Linda Collins Hertz of Rome, GA, and

Miami, FL, deserves our gratitude for her dedication and service on behalf of the citizens of Florida and our Nation.●

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, in the waning days of any Congress, the full range of emotions are not far from the surface in each one of us. We feel the thrill of success as we see our legislative initiatives become law and the disappointment of knowing that some of our priorities must await a new year. As I leave the Senate after thirty years of service, I leave next year's challenges to others.

Among the bills that did not become law this year is S.1897, a bill to revitalize the National Institutes of Health. This bill is the fine work of my friend and colleague Senator NANCY KASSEBAUM. Once the Senate passed the bill last Thursday, Senator KASSEBAUM worked tirelessly to try to achieve an agreement with the House to pass the bill. Unfortunately, an accommodation could not be reached and as a result, many fine legislative provisions that would dramatically improve the work of the NIH, fall to the wayside this year. This is all the more frustrating given the fact that the House hasn't held one hearing on NIH this year and essentially stopped the bill because they hadn't had a chance to give input.

Mr. President, I have a passion for medical research. It provides the sole hope for an improved quality of life for so many who suffer. Congress has recognized the importance of biomedical research by providing a 6.5-percent increase for the National Institutes of Health this year. We provided a 5.7-percent increase last year—all told an increase of 12.2 percent over a 2 year period. I can think of few domestic discretionary programs which have received this kind of attention in this Congress and none with greater merit. In terms of return on our Federal investment, there is no program which brings greater return in terms of improving quality of life in this country.

I have four pieces of my own legislation attached to S. 1897, all of which I believe will be enacted over time. While not accomplished on my watch, I am hopeful that others in the Senate will take on these initiatives and insure their passage. Senate bill 184 codifies the Office for Rare Disease Research at the NIH. This office has been created in the appropriations process to coordinate the research on over 5,000 rare diseases—diseases that affect only a small portion of the population and frequently have no research project or registry. I have been attempting for 2 years to have the office codified in law and while the Senate has passed this bill twice, it has not become law.

The NIH bill also includes S.684, the Morris K. Udall Parkinson's Research Assistance and Education Act of 1995. Mr. President, this bill has over 62 co-

sponsors in the Senate and over 100 in the House. It establishes Parkinson's Disease research centers across this country and signals the NIH that Congress is not satisfied with the \$30 million that NIH currently spends on this disease—my bill calls for an \$80 million investment to cure this disease. I would like to compliment that Parkinson's community, and particularly Joan Samuelson of the Parkinson's Action Network, for the work they did to propel this bill forward. The Parkinson's community has my deepest respect for their advocacy.

The bill also includes S. 1251, a bill that Senator HARKIN and I have long championed to establish a National Fund for Health Research. The version included in Senator KASSEBAUM's bill established the shell of the fund, and left the financing mechanism to a future Congress. My preference is a tobacco tax and a Federal income tax kickoff, but a range of options exist. The important point is that a trust fund recognizes the fact that the appropriations process will never yield adequate resources to fund the promise of scientific research which exists today. We need to do more and the American public, in opinion poll after opinion poll, has indicated they support us doing so.

Finally, the NIH bill includes a new initiative of mine, the Clinical Research Enhancement Act, S. 1534. This bill will increase funding for clinical research, improve training for persons planning clinical research careers, and modify the focus of the NIH to make it more receptive to clinical research proposals.

There is no question that NIH needs more resources to fund all research. However, as we seek to find these funds, we must also look within NIH to ensure that the environment is supportive for clinical research applications. A recent report from the Institute of Medicine presents some alarming trends: the number of young investigators applying for grants dropped by 54 percent between 1985 and 1993, the number of federally funded grants awarded to persons under the age of 36 has decreased 70 percent in this period, and at the same time, young investigators are racking up average debt loads of \$63,000. If not rectified, these trends will result in a stunning lack of human infrastructure to deliver a knowledge base that has applicability to or utility for the benefit of patients. It is not an understatement to assert that clinical research is in a state of crisis. Such a crisis may lead to a serious deficiency of clinical expertise, a paucity of effective clinical interventions, an increase in human suffering, and ultimately, an increase in the cost of medical care.

All of these initiatives deserve our support. I am pleased that the Senate has endorsed them and I hope that the new Congress will begin where we ended this year and include these provisions as a starting point on the new version of the NIH revitalization bill.

Before I conclude Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD a report by Washington Fax of a hearing that I chaired with Senator COHEN on September 26, 1996. This was a significant hearing and I hope my colleagues will take the opportunity to review its content.

The report follows:

EXTRAORDINARY HEARING GRIPS SENATORS, WITNESSES, AND OBSERVERS

No one noticed when, but at some point ego and arrogance got up and left the Senate hearing room.

It may have been when the witnesses began to talk:

Gen. Norman Schwartzkopf, relating a sad commentary on the American male acting like an ostrich when it comes to prostrate cancer and other maladies;

Joan Samuelson, a 46-year-old lawyer diagnosed with Parkinson's disease nine years ago, relating how almost immediately things dear to her—playing the piano, running, backpacking—were taken from her, and then essential functions began to be stripped away;

Rod Carew, a Baseball Hall of Famer introducing us to his daughter, Michelle, via video tape—recalling her smile in the final days of her 18-year life.

And then there was Travis Roy of Yarmouth, ME, a 21-year-old quadriplegic who recalled his life's dream lasting 20 seconds on the hockey ice, and now he must wants to hug his mother and his girlfriend.

Then, at first haltingly, almost embarrassingly, the room began to fill with emotion—honest straight-from-the-heart emotion, rising from the experience of one human being listening to another and hearing.

The scene was a special joint hearing Thursday by the Senate Committees on Appropriations and Aging called to gather testimony on the benefits of biomedical research and the human cost of injury and disease.

As the first panel of witnesses spoke, the hubbub and noise of self-importance and pressing tasks, always a part of a congressional hearing, slowly stopped. The audience breathed ever so lightly; the door from the room stood unused.

Distances began to disappear. None remained between the dias, where Sens. Connie Mack, R-FL; Robert Bennett, R-UT; Conrad Burns, R-MT; William Cohen, R-ME; Mark Hatfield, R-OR; David Pryor, D-AR; John Glenn, D-OH; and Herb Kohl, D-WI, were seated, and the witness table.

The trappings of a hearing were dropped. It was like sitting around a supper table, where friends who know each other warts and all open themselves, trusting their companions to share thoughts, to understand, to help, to reach out and touch where it hurts.

Carew, Samuelson and Roy with great dignity opened their souls, because they want to help stop the pain—not only theirs—but the pain of others too. Hatfield and Cohen, the good hosts, allowed the mood to reign.

At one point, Mack, at Hatfield's gentle nudge, began to speak, but knowing he couldn't trust his voice, sat quietly waiting. There was no embarrassment for him, only great feelings of empathy. The wave of emotion passed, and he talked of the death from cancer of the brother he loved so much. There was a path of empathy from Mack to Carew.

Pryor spoke up. "Talking about one's personal hurts is hard," he said frankly. But he went on to relate how his son, a lawyer, thought he had injured an Achilles tendon playing racket ball. When the surgeon got inside my son's leg, they discovered a rare