

surrounding counties. He interacts with legislators about the importance of providing proper job training to persons with disabilities. He offers his expertise when someone seeks a wheelchair ramp or assistive technology to accommodate a physical need.

Mr. Johnston brings the invaluable insight to his work of someone who has lived the life of the people he seeks to help. He himself has a physical disability, although no one would consider him limited in any way.

Those familiar with his work admire his compassion and persistence. He is able to navigate the layers of government agencies that sometimes appear impenetrable to those who need services.

Another impressive element of Mr. Johnston's advocacy work is that it is his second career. In the early 1990s, he retired after 38 years of running his own shoe repair business and devoted himself to his current vocation.

The Humboldt Independent newspaper called Mr. Johnston "a man on the move." The description is accurate. He moves government agencies, legislators and his community to respond to the needs of persons with disabilities. At age 64, Mr. Johnston is the youngest of the Iowans I have honored during Older Americans Month. I wish him many more years of his priceless work.

FRED AND FERN ROBB

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the Fairfield Ledger of Fairfield, IA, printed a photo of a newly married couple earlier this month. The groom is wearing a stylish suit and a wide smile. The equally resplendent bride has eyes only for her new husband.

The couple is picture-perfect, just like any other couple starting a new life together. Unlike any other couple, the groom in this case is age 102.

The Rev. Fred Robb of Washington, Iowa, married Fern Claxton, 25 years younger, at the Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Iowa, on April 9, 1999. The couple renewed an old friendship at the Rev. Robb's 100th birthday celebration in 1996. Among other meetings, they shared in the 100th birthday celebration of the minister's brother, Milt Robb, in January.

The Rev. Robb is one of more than 750 centenarians in Iowa. I don't know for a fact, but I'd bet many of them approach aging with the same positive spirit as the Rev. Robb.

I run into a lot of older Iowans who don't impose unnatural limits on themselves because of their age. They don't stop doing what's important to them just because the calendar reflects a certain milestone. These individuals are ageless, not due to the years they have lived but in their approach to life. One of my favorite examples of an ageless Iowan is a 92-year-old woman who was in a hurry because she said she had to deliver meals to the "old people."

During Older Americans Month, I want to congratulate Fred and Fern Robb on their ageless spirit and wish them a happy life together. By defying

the conventional wisdom that newlyweds must be young, the Robbs advance the theme of Older Americans Month: "Honor the Past, Imagine the Future: Toward a Society for All Ages."

#### BIRDS THAT DON'T FLY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to draw the Senate's attention to a growing embarrassment in our efforts to support counter-drug programs in Mexico. The story would be funny if it weren't so serious and had not been going on for so long.

In 1996, the Department of Defense began the process of giving 73 surplus UH-1H helicopters—Hueys—to Mexico to assist in counter smuggling operations. The President approved this transfer in September and the helicopters began arriving in December.

The main justification at the time for this contribution was to stop major air smuggling into Mexico. The Colombian and Mexican drug cartels were flying large quantities of drugs into Mexico in private airplanes. Sometimes these were multiple flights, sometimes single ones. Usually they were twin-engine propeller-driven aircraft, but occasionally they were larger, commercial-sized cargo jets. Earlier in the 1990's, the U.S. State Department had instituted a program with Mexico's Attorney General of developing a helicopter-based interdiction force. One can only assume that DoD sought to engage Mexico's military in a similar way. Somewhere along the way, however, something went wrong.

Here's one for the books. We have a civilian State Department program with the civilian Attorney General's office in Mexico operating an air force that works. And we have the U.S. military operating a program with the Mexican military to operate an air force that doesn't work.

It not only doesn't work, it does not have a purpose, so far as I can tell. I have asked the GAO to look at this issue twice, and they have had a problem in identifying a purpose or results.

I have asked the Defense Department and it seems to be stumped as well. The Mexican Government is puzzled. We ought to be dumbfounded.

Today, none of the 70-plus helicopters is flying. No one can tell me when they might be flying. No one seems to know how many might fly if they ever do. No one seems to know what they are to do if they do fly. It is unclear how they will be maintained. Or how much it will cost. Or who is going to pay. Since no one knows the answer to any of these questions, no one can tell me how many helicopters might be needed. Is 70 too many? No one knows. Is this any way to run a airline?

I cannot seem to get a straightforward answer from the Administration about what the plan for these helicopters is. As one U.S. embassy official noted to my staff last year, what to do with and about the helicopters is a

muddle. It is a muddle all right; but it is one of our making.

When plans were first announced about putting these helicopters in Mexico, I began asking about the need for radars. Mexico lacks any sustained radar coverage of its southern approaches. If you are planning an air interdiction program, it would seem logical to include a plan for developing the eyes needed to make the program work. The response I got from both U.S. and Mexican officials to questions about radars was a deafening silence. Or vague promises. I kept asking. Finally, after about six months, the U.S. and Mexican Administrations informed me that no radars were necessary. And why? Because there was no longer a major air trafficking threat; it was mostly maritime. And when did we know there was no longer a major air threat? In 1995. And when did we give Mexico the helicopters? In 1996. So far as I can tell, we gave Mexico a capability to deal with a problem that both countries knew we no longer faced. Today the threat is mostly maritime. So why helicopters?

Well, having taken that on board, the next question is, what are we going to have the helicopters do? It turns out that the best idea is to have them ferry troops around to chop poppies or marijuana. But this is mostly in the mountains and the helos aren't very capable in the mountains. And how many helos are needed? It turns out there is no very clear answer. But before we got very far down that road, a problem was discovered that grounded all Hueys in 1998. This necessitated a worldwide assessment of the air worthiness of the equipment. Although this was eventually done, the Mexican military refused to fly the helicopters until they had more assurances that there were no air safety questions. They also wanted more resources to fly the equipment. So nothing was done and the helos sit.

As it happens, Hueys are old, Vietnam War-vintage aircraft. They are still serviceable, but they are aging and need a lot of care and feeding. It is also harder to get spare parts for them.

And being old, they are sometimes cranky. We gave Mexico 73 of these birds in the spirit of cooperation. So, today, the helos in Mexico have been on the ground becoming very expensive museum-quality memorials to the United States-Mexican partnership. While they sit, the air crews' qualifications for flying the equipment is in doubt. So even if we could get the birds up tomorrow, it is not clear that the air crews are qualified to fly them. And we still aren't sure what they are supposed to do if we did. We are not even sure at this point if the Mexicans still want the helos.

It is in this environment that I have asked the Department of Defense to provide me and Congress with a plan. Since no one in the past two to three years seems to have a clue about what we are doing, I think it is reasonable and prudent to have a plan on the

record. This is not rocket science. But so far, I have not had much luck. Now, you would think that there would already be a plan.

Given the importance of our drug co-operation with Mexico it would not be unreasonable to expect one. We have bilateral agreements. We have binational strategies. We have joint measures of effectiveness. We have had "high-level contact group" meetings at great public expense to both countries. But apparently we have no plan. We have had recently several Administration visits to Mexico and more discussions. But there is no plan. The administration cannot seem to tell the difference between "talking" and a "plan."

I, for one, do not think that this is a situation we can accept any longer. After three years of asking, one has to begin to wonder just what it is we think we are doing. I have not mentioned the C-26 airplanes that we gave to Mexico and other countries for which there appears to be just as much lack of thinking. That is for another time. But there is one more piece to the helicopter story.

As of last week, a new problem has developed and all Hueys are grounded again. This doesn't affect the helicopters in Mexico since they weren't flying anyway, but it leaves us even more in doubt. The result is an embarrassment for both countries.

I yield the floor.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 9:04 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 27, 1999, at 9:30 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate May 26, 1999:

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

A. PETER BURLEIGH, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU.

##### UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

ALBERTO J. MORA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2000. (REAPPOINTMENT)

##### FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE:

CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR

KAREN AGUILAR, OF CALIFORNIA  
WILLIAM BACH, OF VIRGINIA  
JEFFERSON TRAVIS BROWN, OF NEW JERSEY  
JANEY D. COLE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
RENATE ZIMMERMAN COLESHILL, OF FLORIDA  
JULIE GIANELLONI CONNOR, OF LOUISIANA  
ROSEMARY F. CROCKETT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DOUGLAS A. DAVIDSON, OF VIRGINIA  
ROSEMARY ANNE DICARLO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

RENEE M. EARLE, OF KENTUCKY  
CYNTHIA GRISSOM EFIRD, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
MARY ELLEN T. GILROY, OF NEW YORK  
MICHAEL G. HAHN, OF VIRGINIA  
SUSAN CRAIS HOVANEC, OF MARYLAND  
MARK THOMAS JACOBS, OF NEW YORK  
INEZ GREEN KERR, OF WASHINGTON  
L. W. KOENGETER, OF FLORIDA  
MARY ANNE KRUGER, OF VIRGINIA  
DUNCAN HAGER MACINNES, OF VIRGINIA  
DIANA MOXHAY, OF NEW YORK  
KIKI SKAGEN MUNSHI, OF CALIFORNIA  
ADRIENNE S. O'NEAL, OF MINNESOTA  
WILLIAM VAN RENSALIER PARKER, OF MARYLAND  
ELIZABETH B. PRYOR, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
BROOKS A. ROBINSON, OF CALIFORNIA  
RICHARD J. SCHMIERER, OF CONNECTICUT  
MICHAEL W. SEIDENSTRICKER, OF FLORIDA  
MARK A. TAPLIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ELIZABETH A. WHITAKER, OF NEW YORK  
JANET ELAINE WILGUS, OF TEXAS

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, AND FOR APPOINTMENT AS CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE, AS INDICATED:

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, AND CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

LAURIE M. KASSMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

##### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. THOMAS N. BURNETTE, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. BILLY K. SOLOMON

##### IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be lieutenant commander

RICHARD W. BAUER  
RONALD S. BUSH  
DEREK K. WEBSTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 628:

##### To be commander

ROBERT A. YOUREK

##### To be lieutenant commander

MICHAEL P. BURNS  
LORENZO D. BROWN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 628:

##### To be captain

DOUGLAS G. MACCREA  
MICHAEL L. FELMLY  
JAMES S. VACEK  
SUSAN E. JANNUZZI

##### To be commander

JEAN E. KREMLER  
RONNIE C. KING  
JOHN R. POMERVILLE

##### To be lieutenant commander

MLADEN K. VRANJICAN

##### CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

MARY SHEILA GALL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM OCTOBER 27, 1998. (REAPPOINTMENT)

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 26, 1999:

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KENT M. WIEDEMANN, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA.

##### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

LORRAINE PRATTE LEWIS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

##### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

IKRAM U. KHAN, OF NEVADA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 1, 1999.

IKRAM U. KHAN, OF NEVADA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 1, 2005.

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5046:

##### To be brigadier general

COL. JOSEPH COMPOSTO

THE ABOVE NOMINATIONS WERE APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEES' COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

##### THE JUDICIARY

HIRAM E. PUIG-LUGO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

STEPHEN H. GLICKMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

ERIC T. WASHINGTON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ROBERT R. BLACKMAN, JR.  
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM G. BOWDON III  
BRIG. GEN. JAMES T. CONWAY  
BRIG. GEN. ARNOLD FIELDS  
BRIG. GEN. JAN C. HULY  
BRIG. GEN. JERRY D. HUMBLE  
BRIG. GEN. PAUL M. LEE, JR.  
BRIG. GEN. HAROLD MASHBURN, JR.  
BRIG. GEN. GREGORY S. NEWBOLD  
BRIG. GEN. CLIFFORD L. STANLEY

##### IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. CRAIG R. QUIGLEY

##### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ROBERT A. HARDING

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. PAUL V. HESTER

##### IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

##### To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN B. COTTON  
REAR ADM. (LH) VERNON P. HARRISON  
REAR ADM. (LH) ROBERT C. MARLAY  
REAR ADM. (LH) STEVEN R. MORGAN  
REAR ADM. (LH) CLIFFORD J. STUREK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

##### To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN F. BRUNELLI  
REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN N. COSTAS  
REAR ADM. (LH) JOSEPH C. HARE  
REAR ADM. (LH) DANIEL L. KLOEPEL

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

##### To be brigadier general

COL. THOMAS J. NICHOLSON  
COL. DOUGLAS V. ODELL, JR.