

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR
DEMOCRACY

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, we will soon be debating the Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary appropriations bill on the floor of the Senate. The State Department title of the bill includes no funding for the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) which I hope will be reversed by the Senate when we debate this appropriations bill.

For the information of my colleagues, I ask that a letter from National Security Advisor Samuel R. Berger to Senator BOB GRAHAM be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, July 19, 1999.

Hon. Bob Graham,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR BOB: Thank you for writing concerning the Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations Bill and the lack of funding for the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). I share your concern over the inadequacies of the bill.

The Senate appropriations bill as reported from Committee is fraught with a range of serious problems. And, the decision to eliminate funding for the NED is one of many factors which render the legislation unacceptable. For this reason, the President's senior advisors would recommend that the legislation be vetoed if it were enacted in its current form.

Our position on the NED is clear. The NED is at the core of the vision we share for a world that is more free and more democratic. Indeed, it was President Reagan's initiative to establish the NED, a decision and a vision that has had a powerful impact on our nation's efforts to expand democracy and human rights. And to its credit, the NED conducts its critically important activities with annual funding that amounts to only a small fraction of our nation's international affairs budget. From supporting election monitoring in Indonesia, to promoting independent media in the Balkans, the NED represents and promotes the most fundamental of American values throughout the world.

Thank you again for your letter on this important matter. Please know that the President remains one of the strongest champions of the Endowment, and appreciates your continuing support of the NED.

Sincerely,

SAMUEL R. BERGER,
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs.●

Mr. LUGAR. The letter states the Administration's unequivocal support for the National Endowment for Democracy and articulates the strong positive contribution the NED makes to our national interest.

MAX SOLIS—1999 CONNECTICUT
SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF
THE YEAR

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, once again this year, the Small Business Administration held its annual Small Business Week. The SBA hosts this event to recognize the many accomplishments of this country's small businessmen-

women. Today, I am pleased to pay a special tribute to the achievements of Max Solis, Chairman and CEO of BST Systems, Inc., who was named Connecticut's 1999 Small Business Person of the Year.

Having received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the City College of New York and a Masters of Business Administration from New York University, Max Solis went on to found BST Systems, Inc. in 1983. BST Systems, Inc., located in Plainfield, Connecticut, is a small minority-owned business that employs approximately 68 people. BST focuses on engineering-oriented, high-technology business and specializes in manufacturing and testing high-energy silver zinc cells, specialty cells and complete batteries, as well as electronic support equipment for NASA, the Department of Defense, and various commercial applications.

In addition to this most recent honor, BST Systems also received NASA's 1994 Minority Subcontractor of the Year Award and NASA's Commitment to Excellence Award in both 1995 and 1997. Just this past May, BST Systems was the recipient of the George M. Low Award, NASA's highest honor for excellence and quality and recognition of its significant contributions to the advancement of our nation's space program.

Mr. President, I am so very pleased to have the opportunity to highlight the success of Max Solis and BST Systems, Inc. Small business entrepreneurs like Max Solis and his employees keep this country on the cutting edge of innovation and advanced technology. And as we enter a new century, small businesses like BST will be integral to ensuring continued American leadership in these critical areas. I congratulate Max Solis and BST Systems, Inc. on being honored by the Small Business Administration for their outstanding efforts, and I wish them much success as they, and other small businesses, continue to provide valuable products and services to people across the country and, indeed, throughout the world.●

TRIBUTE TO RAY LACKEY

• Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Alex "Ray" Lackey for his recent appointment as the Eighth Command Sergeant Major of the Army Reserve.

Ray has been serving as supervisor of customer services at the Bowling Green post office for almost 20 years, and now embarks on a three-year tour of duty at the Pentagon. Ray has served in numerous capacities in the U.S. military for more than 28 years, with his most recent assignment as Command Sergeant Major for the 100th Division in Louisville. Ray's supervisors have commended him for his ability to maintain a professional balance between his demanding positions in both the U.S. Postal Service and the Department of the Army.

Ray's experience in military service is broad, including service as Squad Leader with the 82nd Airborne Division, Drill Sergeant at Fort Knox, Platoon Sergeant with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, Battalion Operations Sergeant, First Sergeant, and Commandant of the 100th Division Drill Sergeant School. In 1982, he received the distinction of U.S. Army Reserve Drill Sergeant of the year.

Ray has been decorated with an impressive number of awards and honors over the years, including being awarded the Meritorious Service Medal five times, the Army Commendation Medal two times, the Good Conduct Medal twice, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal five times, and the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, the Non-commissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon with numeral four, the Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon. He has also earned the Expert Infantryman Badge and the Parachutist Badge.

As is evidenced by the lengthy list of Ray's achievements and honors, he has served his State and his country well. It is also clear that the Department of the Army has great confidence in Ray's experience, and it seems only fitting that someone with his expertise and seasoned skills will be working in such a significant capacity at the Pentagon. My colleagues and I extend our gratitude for Ray's willingness to continue serving the country in this new post, and wish him the best in his next stage of service.●

TELEHEALTH

• Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, this past month, Major General Nancy Adams, Commander of the Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, HI participated in the Congressional Ad Hoc Steering Committee on Telehealth Demonstration and Briefing. I have been pleased to work closely with General Adams for a number of years, including during her earlier tenure as Chief, United States Army Nurse Corps.

I am extraordinarily pleased to have her selected to command Tripler. She is the first female commander of our facility and the first two-star nurse in the history of the United States Army.

Mr. President, I ask that her opening remarks be printed in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

REMARKS OF MG NANCY R. ADAMS, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AT THE CONGRESSIONAL AD HOC STEERING COMMITTEE ON TELEHEALTH DEMONSTRATION AND BRIEFING ON "INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR HEALTHCARE: GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA WORKING TOGETHER", 23 JUNE 1999

Good Morning and aloha from Hawaii. I am Major General Nancy Adams. I am privileged to offer the opening remarks on the accomplishments and challenges the Department of Defense (DOD) is addressing in information technologies for healthcare.

In my current assignment as the Commanding General, Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii, and the United States Army Pacific Command Surgeon, I am somewhat in awe at being designated as the DOD spokesman. However, I am very pleased to have the opportunity because telemedicine and telehealth initiatives are vital to the mission of my medical center. To say that I am the DOD spokesperson does exaggerate my accountability with the Department. So to be safe, I should at this point go with the standard disclaimer, which says my information does not necessarily reflect the views of the Department or the Secretary of Defense.

I am most pleased to be participating in the congressional Ad Hoc Committee on Telehealth forum. This event acknowledges the vision and support congressional representatives have offered to enhance the applications of information technology to healthcare in general with special emphasis on clinical practice.

Within the Department of Defense, and most particularly in the Pacific, there are significant distances, time zone disparities, and geographic boundaries that present challenges to the delivery of patient care. In the Pacific, a variety of both public and private sector agencies are involved in health care services, with the overall goal to transcend time, distance, and structural barriers to provide quality healthcare to Department of Defense beneficiaries. Because of our global role, it is incumbent that the Department of Defense work collaboratively to afford responsive health care services, and this challenge can only be addressed with innovative technology and telecommunication solutions. Hence, I would like to illustrate a few examples from my Hawaii experience, on how the linkage between information, knowledge, and technologies have enhanced access to health care services and improved the quality of care rendered.

Tripler Army Medical Center is the only Department of Defense tertiary care medical treatment facility in the Pacific. Tripler serves the health care needs of more than 750,000 active-duty military, their families, military retirees, retiree families and other Pacific island beneficiaries. Using the systems developed through Department of Defense, such as the Composite Health Care System II, or CHCSII, Corporate Executive Information System or CEIS, AKAMAI, and the Pacific Medical Network or PACMEDNET, have enabled us to improve the quality of care and access to health services for our beneficiaries.

Healthcare information systems and telehealth applications within the Department of Defense strive to accomplish the following 5 goals: Keep Active Duty forces on the job; Reduce the Military Health System skill mix and size in staffing model; Increase productivity of the direct care component; Enhance and measure health and fitness of beneficiaries, and lastly, Promote and measure customer satisfaction with Information Technology.

The healthcare information management initiatives within the Department of Defense focus on research and the value of information and telehealth applications along with implementation of automation support to enhance patient care delivery. I can attest that information management support provided by systems such as the CHCSII, CEIS, and the telehealth support from Akamai and PACMEDNET, have provided significant readiness and humanitarian implications for regional care in the Pacific. Being responsible for delivery of healthcare to a region as big as the Pacific—which encompasses 70 countries and 14 time zones—requires me to use and support the development of technology tools. These technology tools and

clinical capability offer tremendous opportunities for reuse by other federal agencies, as well as transferability to private sector agencies.

As stated earlier, healthcare information technologies are an essential element of health care services within the Department of Defense because of the need to overcome the dispersion of beneficiaries over great distances. The telehealth possibilities are highly opportunistic and provide a window on the future. Our technology is a means of demonstrating US engagement in other nations by providing a telepresence in other than US military medical treatment facilities. Specific benefits healthcare technology has offered Tripler Army Medical Center and the Pacific include:

Ability to provide a health profile for a person that will facilitate decision making by a provider who doesn't have access to a complete medical record.

We can integrate patient administrative and clinical data between multiple and diverse healthcare systems.

The same network and technology that provides information for diagnosing and treating patients can also be utilized for teaching via distance learning techniques.

Use of the Internet and web-enabled solutions has fostered a sense of community amongst clinicians and consumers by enabling information sharing, education, and collegial relationships.

From my perspective as a military medical center commander and the Command Surgeon, healthcare information technologies contribute to the readiness and health care delivery mission. I mention this as a single mission because the role of military medicine is to stay trained and ready for contingency operations that directly support the US military. The business of health care in and of itself is not our focus. It is the link between readiness and health care delivery that makes military medicine vital to our nation. The linkage between readiness and health care is good business for the military.

Through the application of information systems and telehealth technologies, the quality of care and utilization of scarce medical resources are positively effected thereby improving both military readiness and health care delivery. Utilization of information systems and telehealth applications provides immediate access even when specialists are not on site. For example, Tripler will be interpreting echocardiograms from Yokoto, Japan and Guam. This can be life saving information if you are talking about the patient's need for surgery or the functioning of the heart after a heart attack. These technologies also project medical specialty expertise without deploying them from the medical center. This saves significant dollars by not taking the medical specialist away for a minimum of two days travel to do a day's work. In addition, for those clinicians who are forward deployed, this access to specialists decreases their professional isolation and improves their decision-making ability. In some cases there is the added benefit of eliminating the need to air-evac patients for definitive care and continuity of care is maintained at their home station.

Healthcare information technologies are good new stories for the Department of Defense but the potential is in its infancy. Only by working with our partners in other government agencies, industry, and academia, will we be able to maximize the investment in technology by increasing its utility and clinical efficacy. In closing, my goals for attending the congressional Ad Hoc Steering Committee on Telehealth Demonstration and Briefing are twofold:

To communicate the reality of the technological solutions currently available within

the Department of Defense to provide quality health care and improve access;

And second, to encourage networking among the congressional supporters, speakers, attendees, and exhibit presenters to further maximize our capabilities. As we share information and establish relationships with one another I am sure our collective efforts will produce more and better applications of the technology than what is already here. Ideas for future integration and information management technologies should be the most valuable outcome of today's activities. I hope most of you will be staying through the day and spending time in the exhibit area. Many of the leading edge health care technology companies have displays, as well as Department of Defense, Veterans Administration, and Indian Health Service enterprises. Individually as well as together we are all involved in re-engineering health care processes to incorporate emerging technologies!

I am very pleased to be sharing the podium with distinguished leaders from Congress, the military, government service, and industry. Those of us in the military know that it is only through the vision and support of Congressional representatives that the Department of Defense has progressed to our current level of sophistication in healthcare information technologies and telehealth. Ladies and Gentlemen, I challenge you to continue to exploit the capabilities in healthcare information technologies; to capitalize on the improvements it can offer the business practice of patient care, and to nurture the positive and sustained impact of technology on enterprise value. I encourage you to take advantage of the sense of community the Internet enables by sharing your ideas and solutions with fellow government, industry and academic colleagues.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. SYLVIO L. DUPUIS

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Sylvio L. Dupuis, Executive Director of McLane, Graf, Raulerson and Middleton Law Firm, for receiving Business NH Magazine's 1999 Business Leader of the Year Award. Dr. Dupuis received this honor due to his outstanding civic involvements coupled with his exemplary leadership in the business world.

Dr. Dupuis took the position of Executive Director in April of 1996. His philosophy of personalization—solving problems with an interview rather than a phone call or a memo—has given him and his law firm an excellent reputation. Under his capable and inspiring leadership, the firm grew from fifty lawyers to eighty. Dr. Dupuis will retire from the McLane Law Firm in June of 1999 but will continue to have an active role in community affairs. The McLane, Graf, Raulerson and Middleton Law Firm is sure to miss Sylvio's leadership.

Besides being one of the most talented and well-established businessmen in the state, Dr. Dupuis has countless other achievements in virtually every facet of New Hampshire life. He has been widely involved in areas ranging from health care to the arts. He is the former President and CEO of Catholic Medical Center, the former Commissioner of the Department of Insurance