

and assigned to the Office of Special Investigations/Counterintelligence. When the war ended, Major Rexroad was selected to head one of the debriefing and interview teams for some 500 Air Force prisoners of war following their release from the North Korean prison camps. This experience reinforced Mike Rexroad's appreciation of military medicine's critical requirements for continuity and leadership. From 1955 through 1976, Mike Rexroad served as a professional staff member on Capitol Hill; he first served on the staff of Senator Dennis Chavez of New Mexico who was the chairman of the Subcommittee for the Department of Defense. Next he was selected by Senator John C. Stennis of Mississippi to serve as the senior staff member for the Subcommittee on Military Construction; and, continued to serve in that capacity for Senator Alan Bible of Nevada. From 1965 to 1976, he was appointed by Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, Majority Leader of the Senate and chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Construction, to serve as the senior staff member for the subcommittee.

Following his service in both World War II and the Korean War, his review of the medical capabilities during the Vietnam War for the U.S. Senate, and 20 years as a senior member of Senate Committee Staffs, Mike Rexroad became dedicated to preserving the lessons learned in military medicine; he concurred with Congressman F. Edward Hebert's philosophy that America needed an academic home for military medicine. In the early 1970s, Rexroad prepared documentation and memoranda for presentation to the Senate Appropriations Committee to justify the establishment of USUHS and the need for continuity and leadership in military medicine. Following the passage of Public Law 92-426, the Uniformed Services Health Professions Revitalization Act of 1972, the senior administration of USUHS worked directly with Mike Rexroad to coordinate the construction requirements for USUHS.

In 1977, when closure threatened USUHS, the now-retired Mike Rexroad again volunteered to raise Congressional support for the University. At that time, no funding had been appropriated for USUHS. On March 21, 1977 due to Rexroad's intervention, the Chairman of the Select Committee on Aging, Congressman Claude Pepper, testified on behalf of USUHS and strongly endorsed the continuation of the University; the Members of the House of Representatives voted to retain USUHS with a vote of 264 to 142. The Honorable David Packard, first chairman of the USUHS Board of Regents, succinctly described Mike Rexroad's vital role in two letters to Rexroad dated July 12, 1976 and May 10, 1977: "It is no exaggeration to say that without your assistance USUHS could and would not have been established (1976). Without your help, it is questionable whether the school would have continued to enjoy the support of the

Congress (1977)." From 1993 through 1997, Rexroad was once more called upon to raise congressional support for the University. In May of 1996, the Members of the House of Representatives once more voted on the retention of USUHS. This time, with the tremendous support and coordination of the military retired associations, the vote to retain USUHS was 343 to 82. By November of 1997, the Secretary of Defense determined that USUHS should remain open; on December 11, 2000, the Honorable William S. Cohen, the Secretary of Defense, awarded the Joint Meritorious Unit Award to the University; and, on March 22, 2001, the Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, wrote the following to the Chair of the USUHS Board of Regents:

The Department takes great pride in the fact that the USUHS graduates have become the backbone for our Military Health System. The training they receive in combat and peacetime medicine is essential to providing superior force health protection and improving the quality of life for our service members, retirees, and families. All of us in the Office of the Secretary of Defense place great emphasis on the retention of quality physicians in the military. The USUHS ensures those goals are met." In addition, the Association of American Medical Colleges Reporter pointed out in the December issues of both 1998 and 2001, that USUHS is the one medical school where students have been, and continue to be, trained in the medical response to weapons of mass destruction (WMD). "Today, while the other medical schools are in the process of initiating programs and training in WMD, USUHS has been providing such education since its first School of Medicine (SOM) Class of 1980; 3,265 SOM graduates and 157 advanced practice nurses have now had this training. The USUHS SOM graduates currently represent 22 percent of the physicians on active duty in the Military Health System; thus ensuring continuity and leadership for military medicine.

During his many years of support for USUHS, Mike Rexroad constantly acted upon his personal knowledge of what can go wrong when continuity and leadership are not ensured for military medicine. USUHS became a part of his overall commitment to the preservation of the hard-won knowledge of the battlefield, the absolute priorities of preventive medicine, the tremendous achievements of uniformed research, and the need for an academic home for military medicine. At the USUHS Commencement Exercises on May 15, 1998, Mike Rexroad received the Doctor of Medical Humanities, *Honoris Causa*; the honorary degree recognized his unflinching, consistent, and dynamic advocacy for USUHS and military medicine. Through his 87th year, there was no request from his military medical family for which he did not volunteer his time and effort; he played an essential role in making continuity and leadership a reality for military medicine.

Brigadier General Vorley (Mike) Rexroad USAF, (Retired), was an extremely gifted, resourceful, and dedicated American. The citizens of our Nation have immeasurably benefitted by his splendid record of accomplishments and commitment to military

medicine. I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife, Ruth Cutlip Rexroad, formerly of New Mexico; his son, Michael David Rexroad, a state prosecuting attorney in Howard County, Maryland; his daughter-in-law, Linda; and, his two grandchildren, Michael and Laurie, on their great loss.

THE GREAT LAKES LEGACY ACT

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I want to thank all of my colleagues in the Senate, Senator DEWINE, Senator STABENOW, Senator VOINOVICH, Senator CLINTON, Senator DURBIN, Senator DAYTON, and Senator WELLSTONE, as well as Representative VERN EHLERS for their leadership in passing the Great Lakes Legacy Act which is now on its way to the President. I want to thank Chairman JEFFORDS and the Environment and Public Works Committee. I also want to thank the Lake Michigan Federation, Sierra Club, the Northeast-Midwest Institute, the Great Lakes Commission, and the Council of Great Lakes Industry for their contributions to the successes of this bill.

I am particularly pleased that H.R. 1070 includes several of the legislative improvements contained in my companion legislation, S. 2544. As a result of the Senate amendments, H.R. 1070 now authorizes the Great Lakes National Program Office to carry out a public information program to provide information about the contaminated sediments and activities to cleanup the site. The Great Lakes National Program Office is reauthorized and may receive up to \$25 million per year which is \$14 million higher than the expired authorization. H.R. 1070 also responds to the GAO report released in May by requiring the EPA to submit a report to Congress on the actions, time periods, and resources which are necessary to fulfill the duties of the EPA relating to oversight of Remedial Action Plans at Areas of Concern. Lastly, the legislation has the flexibility to allow both cash and in-kind contributions to be used to meet the non-Federal cost-share requirement.

The Great Lakes Legacy Act is needed to address a problem that has been plaguing the Great Lakes for many decades. The region's industrial past unfortunately created a legacy of contaminated sediments, PCBs, heavy metals and other toxic substances in the lakes and tributaries that feed into the Great Lakes.

These pollutants, which are degrading the health of both humans and wildlife, settled at the bottom of the tributaries and harbors where they were dumped and contaminated the sediment or material on the bottom. Contaminated sediment is a major environmental problem in our region, and it is critical that some of these concentrated deposits of contaminated sediment be addressed now, because the longer we wait to cleanup the contamination, the longer we will see fish advisories in the Great Lakes. Cleanup delays also mean a greater likelihood that the sediment will be transported into the open waters of the Great

Lakes where cleanup is virtually impossible.

We have taken steps under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to limit the amount of toxic pollutants entering the Great Lakes ecosystem, and some progress has been made in removing contaminated sediments from our regional waters. Based on information that was gathered in 1999 by the EPA, over 1.7 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment have been removed or treated at a cost of over \$300 million at the 32 Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes.

However, the General Accounting Office and others have reported that cleanup progress has been slow. With this legislation, EPA can aggressively deal with contaminants that were deposited into the sediments decades ago.

This bill authorizes up to \$50 million per year to EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office in order to cleanup contaminated Areas of Concern. This includes monitoring and evaluating sites, cleaning up contaminated sediment or preventing further contamination. Projects identified in a Remedial Action Plan would be given priority for this funding. The EPA is required to submit to Congress a report on the actions, time and resources necessary to fulfill the duties of the EPA relating to oversight of Remedial Action Plans at Areas of Concern. Under this legislation, funding will be made available for innovative research to improve our cleanup technology. Additionally, this legislation allows EPA to give money to local groups, States, or tribal groups for outreach and education efforts.

Again, I am very pleased that the Congress has taken this critical step for the Great Lakes, and I look forward to the President signing this legislation.

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, I am pleased to join my colleague from Michigan and fellow Great Lakes Task Force Co-Chair, Senator LEVIN, in announcing that the Great Lakes Legacy has passed Congress. This legislation is vital in our efforts to address the slow progress in restoring the Areas of Concern, AOC, throughout the Great Lakes.

In 1987, the United States and Canada made a commitment under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to cleanup AOCs, but as the General Accounting Office and others have reported, cleanup has been slow. The EPA reported in 1999 that over 1.7 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment have been removed or treated at 32 Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes, all at a cost of over \$300 million. However, none of the 26 AOCs that are entirely in the United States have been restored to their beneficial use, approximately half of the sites have abandoned the remedial action planning process agreed to under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, and the EPA does not know how long cleanup will take nor how expensive cleanup will be.

The cleanup of these Areas of Concern is important both to human health, as well as the health of the ecosystem. With the legislation Congress recently passed, the EPA can aggressively deal with contaminants that were deposited into the sediments decades ago. Our bill authorizes up to \$50 million per year to the EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office to cleanup contaminated AOCs. This includes monitoring and evaluating sites, cleaning up contaminated sediment, or preventing further contamination.

Under our bill, the EPA will be required to submit to Congress a report on the actions, time, and resources necessary to fulfill the duties of the EPA relating to oversight of Remedial Action Plans at Areas of Concern. Furthermore, funding will be made available for innovative research to improve our cleanup technology. Additionally, this legislation allows EPA to give money to local organizations, States, or tribal groups for outreach and education efforts.

In closing, I want to thank Senators LEVIN, VOINOVICH, STABENOW, CLINTON, DURBIN, DAYTON, and WELLSTONE, as well as Representative VERN EHLERS and the other co-sponsors in the House for their leadership. I also wish to thank the Lake Michigan Federation, the Sierra Club, the Northeast-Midwest Institute, the Great Lakes Commission, and the Council of Great Lakes Industry for their contributions to drafting and passing this bill. It will have a lasting, positive impact on the future of our Great Lakes.

REMEDIATION ALTERNATIVES

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I want to thank my friend and chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee for his leadership on restoring some of the Nation's great waters. H.R. 1070, the Great Lakes Legacy Act, will allow the TPA to fund cleanup of contaminated sediments at Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes. Because this contamination poses a significant human health risk, it is important that before cleanup may begin at an Area of Concern using funds under this act, there must be consideration of remedial alternatives and their short and long-term effects on human health and the environment.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I agree with my colleague from Michigan, and the bill requires the EPA to review the short-term and long-term effects of the proposed cleanup strategy before the project may be carried out.

Mr. LEVIN. Is my colleague aware that the current Remedial Action Plan process and the PA's Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy both consider an evaluation of the health risks posed by contaminated sites and the cleanup alternatives and that many Remedial Action Plans already include such an evaluation of the health risks?

Mr. JEFFORDS. I am aware that the current Remedial Action Plan and other processes consider an evaluation

of the effects of cleanup alternatives and that many Remedial Action Plans already include such an evaluation. Additional evaluation is not required when the Remedial Action Plan has already evaluated the short and long term effects of remedial alternatives on human health and the environment.

Mr. LEVIN. Would my colleague agree that the evaluation that must be conducted under this bill is not meant to be a redundant task upon the EPA?

Mr. JEFFORDS. I agree.

BAKERS CREEK TRAGEDY

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, I have sought recognition today to honor the forty U.S. soldiers who tragically perished in Bakers Creek, Queensland, Australia on June 14, 1943. Their deaths came as a result of the crash of a B-17C Flying Fortress, which proved to be the worst aviation disaster of the Southwest Pacific theater during World War II. More soldiers died on that plane from my home State of Pennsylvania—six—than from any other State. These six were as follows: Pvt. James E. Finney; T/Sgt. Alfred H. Frezza; Sgt. Donald B. Kyper; Pfc. Frank S. Penska; Sgt. Anthony Rudnick; and Cpl. Raymond H. Smith.

I understand that members of the Bakers Creek Memorial Association, USA, based in Orrtanna, PA, have located the families of Pvt. Finney, T/Sgt. Frezza, and Sgt. Kyper. However, the Association continues to search for the relatives of Pfc. Penska, Sgt. Rudnick, and Cpl. Smith to notify them of the specifics surrounding their loved ones' deaths. Only recently has the Air Force officially recognized this tragedy.

The aircraft that crashed had been operated by the United States Army Air Force 46th Transport Carrier Squadron, 317th Troop Carrier Group, 5th Air Force Division. The plane was one of the many B-17 bomber aircraft that had been removed from combat status and converted into transport aircraft. Shortly after takeoff from the Mackay airport in Bakers Creek, the B-17 lost altitude, fell to the earth in a slow and steady bank, and crashed in a ball of flames. The forty lost onboard included six crew members and thirty-five soldiers returning to their posts after being on leave in Australia.

Next June will mark the 60th anniversary of the Bakers Creek crash. I understand that Major General, Retired, Robert H. Appleby, former Commander of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, plans to lead a contingent of victims' families to Australia in observance of the anniversary. I applaud the members of the Bakers Creek Memorial Association, USA, including General Appleby and Mr. Robert S. Cutler, for undertaking this and other initiatives which keep the memory of the fallen heroes of Bakers Creek alive and well.