

country address all aspects of the past soberly, respectfully, honestly and with justice.●

#### TRANSITION TO DIGITAL TELEVISION

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to direct my colleagues attention to the technological changes and developments going on in the television industry. Many people have said that the transition from analog to digital television broadcasts is the biggest innovation in TV since color television. Having seen a digital broadcast, it is as if you are watching the program or sporting event in person. I believe consumers will want to bring this technology into their homes.

I do not believe that we have yet discovered the full use of digital broadcast signals, but I do know that it has the potential to change the way people interact with their TVs. Imagine being able to participate in realtime with a game show on television or being able to "chat" with other viewers from around the country during a show. DTV may provide the platform for a more interactive television experience.

I am particularly interested to see how these technologies can be employed to allow local stations to better serve local communities. For the past half-century, local broadcasters have provided valuable services to their local communities. When disasters strike, important, life saving information is often disseminated over the airwaves. Local stations also keep residents informed of community political issues, thereby engaging citizens in the local democratic process.

Since its inception, the broadcasting industry has been founded on two important concepts: the idea of localism and the idea that broadcasting should be free, and over-the-air. I am proud to say that a number of Georgia stations are working to ensure that they continue to serve local communities with free, over the air signals in the digital era.

In my state, we have digital television stations up and broadcasting in four communities. In Atlanta seven stations have digital signals on the air: WAGA, WATL, WGCL, WPXA, WSB, WTBS, and WXIA. In Savannah WTOG is on the air in digital; in Augusta WFXG and WRDW-TV are broadcasting in digital, and in Columbus, WLTZ and WXTX are serving Georgia viewers with digital television. These Georgia broadcasters have taken the next step in television, and for that I commend them. The transition to digital can be expensive, particularly for smaller stations.

To broadcast in digital, these businesses have invested in new transmission equipment and, in some cases, new broadcast towers. If they choose to produce their own digital content, like digital local news, they must invest in digital cameras and editing equipment. Finally, once their digital signal is on-

the-air, the stations must pay the bills to transmit two signals simultaneously to ensure viewers can receive both a digital and analog broadcast.

Despite the expenses, these Georgia stations have recognized that digital television is the future. I am confident that their investment in digital television will pay off and I commend them for leading the digital television charge.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THE CARDINAL CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I thank and honor the Cardinal Chapter of the American Red Cross of Henderson, Kentucky for the selfless and tireless work they performed in aiding the victims of the April 28th tornado which tore through Webster County, Kentucky.

Early Sunday on the morning of April 28th, an F3 classified tornado, with winds up to 200 miles per hour, violently forced its way through Providence, KY hitting at least 114 homes, completely destroying 32. In the end, 26 people were taken to the hospital. In just a few moments, Mother Nature had struck a blow against this normally quiet and peaceful town. People were left without homes and without adequate clothing and food supplies. They were also left without a sense of hope. However, this empty and lonely feeling would be short-lived. Volunteers from the Cardinal Chapter of the American Red Cross of Henderson, KY arrived on the scene just a few hours after the tornado passed through Providence.

Once on the scene, these volunteers wasted no time in setting up two shelters in Providence, providing victims with a roof, a hot meal, and a shoulder to cry on. They also sent food trucks to the nearby town of Irvington once they found out its residents were still without electricity hours after the storm had passed. Without the immediate assistance of the American Red Cross, many would have been left hungry without a home or clothing.

I ask that my fellow colleagues join me in thanking these men and women for their unwavering dedication and commitment to their fellow citizens. They willingly gave up their time and left their families in order to be there physically and emotionally for people they have never met before. I believe we all can learn something from their exemplary behavior. Sometimes it takes the worst to bring out the best, and I think this was the case on April 28.●

#### HONORING SOUTH CAROLINA'S DEBORAH CHAMBERS

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to an outstanding resident of South Carolina, Deborah A. Chambers. Ms. Chambers will soon complete her year as national presi-

dent of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, AANA. I am pleased one of our state's own was tapped as the 2001-2002 president of this prestigious organization.

The AANA represents 28,000 practicing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists. They administer more than 65 percent of the anesthetics given to patients each year in the United States. They provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and are the sole anesthesia provider in over two-thirds of rural hospitals.

Debbie has been a nurse anesthetist since 1981. She received both her anesthesia training and master's degree at the Medical University of South Carolina, in Charleston. She has been a solo practitioner since 1993 at the Microsurgery Center in Anderson, as well as in both the Greenville Memorial Medical Center and the Saint Francis Bon Secours Hospital System in Greenville. She also was the Clinical Coordinator at the Medical University of South Carolina School of Nurse Anesthesia at Greenville Memorial Medical Center from 1988-2000. Even with her demanding schedule, she has continued to be active on pharmaceutical advisory panels to advance the practice of anesthesia.

Debbie has held various leadership positions in the AANA, and has used her experience and knowledge to help others. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Deborah Chambers.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THE THIRD RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, I rise today in recognition of the dauntless history, honor, and tradition of the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, U.S. Marines, whose lineage traces back nearly 60 years of valiant service to our great Nation.

The contribution of the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion is embodied in the sign placed on top of the Battalion Mess Hall at Camp Reasoner which reads: "We Lead the Division—Where the Division Goes We've Been!"

While enjoying brief periods of respite, it was formed in September 1942. It was sent immediately to the Pacific Theater and participated in World War II campaigns at Bougainville, Solomon Island, Guam, and Iwo Jima. It was reactivated in March 1952 and deployed to Camp Gifu, Japan and later to Camp Hauge, Okinawa. Being reactivated again in April 1958, it was assigned to the 3rd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force. During Vietnam the unit was highly decorated with four Medals of Honor, 13 Navy Crosses, 86 Silver Stars, and many Purple Hearts awarded to Marines and Sailors. Additionally, the unit itself was awarded President Unit Citations, the Navy Unit Commendation, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, and earned other praise and recognition, as well.

While the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion has existed under different designations, its adherence to whatever

mission assigned is without question. We cannot take lightly their meritorious service to our Nation. Nor, can we ever forget their admirable and routinely valiant actions both individually and collectively. They were not only pivotal to a successful combat effort, but to establishing and maintaining the legacy for which the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion may be justifiably proud.

I join in expressing the respect, admiration, and grateful appreciation of our nation as members of the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion Association gather for their reunion next month in Arlington, VA.●

#### FDA CONSOLIDATION AT WHITE OAK

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to continue to work for full funding of the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, consolidation and improvement at White Oak, MD in fiscal year 2003. I strongly believe that ensuring the safety of America's food and drug supply is a matter of national security. Yesterday, Senator HATCH and I offered then withdrew an amendment that we hoped would have provided the funding needed for this project which is vital to ensure the safety of America's food and drug supply. We are told that the our amendment would have increased the cost of the homeland security supplemental appropriations bill. However, we have been assured that Senators DORGAN and CAMPBELL, the chair and ranking members of the Treasury General Government Appropriations Subcommittee, are committed to looking at trying to help to continue to find a way to fund the FDA consolidation at White Oak as a part of the fiscal year 2003 appropriations process.

Why is completing this project vital? FDA's mission is to review and regulate more than \$1 trillion worth of products, many of which are vital to human health. FDA cannot fulfill its mission because FDA has to work in obsolete facilities that are not equipped to handle today's advanced laboratory and administrative functions. Currently, over 6,000 FDA employees are scattered among 40 different buildings at 20 different locations in the Greater Washington, D.C. area. These facilities are being consolidated into one integrated facility at the former U.S. Naval Surface Weapons Center. Not only will the consolidation greatly improve FDA's operating efficiencies, but timely construction of the new facilities also will save approximately \$32 million per year in commercial lease costs. We need consolidate FDA on one campus, just like the NIH and the CDC, in order for the FDA to take its place alongside these institutions as a world class health and food research and safety facility.

What is FDA's role in national security? The recent anthrax attacks on U.S. citizens have heightened FDA's

critical role in ensuring the safety of our food and drug supplies. Indeed, the FDA is on the front lines of this effort and must have proper, modern facilities to enable them to best perform their mission. The consolidation will provide state-of-the-art laboratories and facilities for that mission.

What is the status of the project? Congress has already appropriated \$146 million for the first phases of this vital project, fiscal year 2000, \$35 million; fiscal year 2001, \$92.1 million; fiscal year 2002, \$19.06 million. Construction has started on phase I, the laboratory for FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. However, approximately \$450 million is still needed to complete this vital project.

Why is full funding important? This project has already been delayed due to funding cutbacks. If the General Services Administration's fiscal year 2003 construction request for FDA consolidations is not fully funded, completion of the consolidation will be delayed even further. These delays will add considerably to the overall cost of the project due to inflation and other factors. For example, scheduled to be constructed in phase III is the Center for Devices and Radiological Health, CDRH. The CDRH laboratories are badly in need of improvements, but FDA has been holding off such work in anticipation of building new laboratories as part of the consolidation. Further delay, we are advised, would likely necessitate FDA's spending several million dollars renovating the existing CDRH laboratories. These would be non-recoverable costs.

What is the next step? We hope that your colleagues will agree that, from the perspectives of public safety and fiscal responsibility, we can not afford to delay the timely completion of this project. We hope that our colleagues will support full funding for FDA consolidation in fiscal year 2003. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues, Senators HATCH, DORGAN, and CAMPBELL toward completing this project which will provide better security of two of the most essential daily needs of all Americans, our food and drugs.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JIM MAYER

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a man whose leadership is only surpassed in value to me by his friendship. Twenty-five years ago, Mr. Jim Mayer played an important role in the creation of an innovative pilot program called "Leadership VA."

The program is designed to identify 70 leaders in the Department of Veterans Affairs each year, and to provide an enrichment of their career development through an intense leadership training experience. In its 25 years of existence, Leadership VA has laid a foundation for a network of VA leaders who share a deep commitment to the Department of Veterans Affairs and to

public service in its broadest sense. Today, 63 percent of all Central Office Senior Executive Service members have completed the program, as have 73 percent of all field leaders.

This success, though, did not happen by chance. Rather, it is a tribute to the hard work and forward thinking of Jim Mayer. Jim began his VA career as Special Assistant for Vietnam Veterans Affairs to Administrator Richard L. Roudebush in 1974, six years after beginning his service in the U.S. Army as an infantry man in the 25th Division in Vietnam.

Jim joined the Leadership VA staff as its Executive Director in April of 1998, but his relationship with LVA goes back to his time on the first Selection Committee in 1978.

Throughout his years at the VA, Jim has spent countless hours working on behalf of veterans, striving to better conditions by improving the VA from within, but his accomplishments are not limited to his time at the VA. He is a recipient of numerous awards including: 1977, VA Meritorious Service; 1981, VA Exceptional Service; 1991, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Outstanding Volunteer; and, 1993, George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge for work as a volunteer with Desert Shield/Desert Storm injured at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

For as long as I have known him, Jim Mayer has exemplified the term "public servant." He is a selfless individual who has always thought of his country before thinking about himself. In this day and age, few people live that type of life, but, as President Theodore Roosevelt said, "The test of our worth is the value of our service."

I would like to thank Jim for his service, his dedication, and, above all else, for his friendship. He is an inspiration and a great American.●

#### CHAPLAIN TONY FIRMAN RETIRES FROM FLANDREAU INDIAN SCHOOL

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor Chaplain Tony Firman on the occasion of his retirement as Chaplain at the Flandreau Indian School in Flandreau, SD.

Chaplain Firman has completed 35 years as Chaplain at Flandreau Indian School. After receiving his training at Blue Cloud Abbey in Marvin, South Dakota, Tony served at Flandreau Indian School as Student Coordinator of Religious Activities, a boys counselor, and as a religious liaison between the students, staff and administration, area churches and the Flandreau community.

He was selected as Flandreau Indian School Chaplain by representatives from the Association of Christian Churches, which is made up of representatives from each of the following denominations: United Presbyterian Church, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church, Lutheran