

a stop to playing politics with Haitian lives, and it is time to respond to the unfolding crisis in Haiti. I urge the administration to withhold, to lift the embargo, on the dollars.

For those who have supported the IDB year in and year out, it has been terribly disappointing to me that they have continued to acquiesce in the demands of the Bush administration to deny the disbursements of these dollars. I hope they will take the action of saying they have waited long enough and they will provide the assistance needed to the Haitian people.

We are about to leave for a month and the situation is growing worse. I ask my colleague to take a look at the David Gonzalez article in the New York Times yesterday. This is a snapshot of what is going on in the country and what desperately poor people are suffering as a result of the lack of support. They would suffer anyway. I am not suggesting this will solve all their problems. It is hard to believe we are holding up the funds—seeing how these people live, how these children are being raised, only a few miles off our shore, when we could make a little bit of a difference. We could also strengthen the very institutions we are complaining so strongly about if we provided that kind of help.

#### VETERANS HEALTH CARE NETWORK

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I regret to come to the floor today with a concern that I find absolutely extraordinary—even shocking.

This is a memorandum which represents an extraordinary broken promise to the veterans of our country. I want to share it with my colleagues who I think would share with me a sense of outrage over what is contained in this memorandum.

This is a memorandum from Laura Miller, Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health for Operations and Management, which she circulated on July 18. It orders the directors of the Veterans Health Care Network in the country to end their veterans outreach activities.

Let me read from the memorandum. It says specifically:

In this environment, marketing the VA services with such activities as health fairs, and veteran open houses to invite new veterans to the facilities, or enrollment displays at VSO meetings are inappropriate. Therefore, I am directing each network director to ensure that no marketing activities to enroll new veterans occur within your networks.

In other words, the promise made to veterans and their families that these services will be available to them—and many of them don't know exactly what all the services are—that is why we put into place the outreach efforts in order to guarantee that people aren't denied those services which they might have forthcoming. Those services are not

now going to be provided. They are not going to be reaching out to veterans to make them aware of them. I find that absolutely extraordinary.

There are approximately 70 million people who are potentially eligible for VA benefits and services because they are veterans and family members or survivors of veterans. They stand to lose those benefits because the VA is simply going to hide or retreat from reaching out in the way that all of us here in Congress specifically codified and put into law that they do.

I know the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is a Vietnam veteran and is a distinguished, decorated veteran. I absolutely can't believe that he knows this went out. I can't believe that it went out under his order, particularly when you compare it to his own statement on the VA Web site. There is a statement by the Secretary that says:

Our goal is to provide excellence in patient care, veterans' benefits and customer satisfaction. We have reformed our department internally and are striving for high-quality, prompt and seamless service to veterans.

With respect to "prompt," in this memo the Deputy Under Secretary says:

The most recent enrollment shows a 13.5 percent increase in users this year compared to the same time last year, and a 15 percent increase in enrollment while expenditures rose 7.8 percent. Against the outcome of this situation is a waiting list for patients to be seen in many clinics across the country and general waiting times that exceed VHA's standard of 30 days. Moreover, actuarial projections indicate a widening gap in the demand versus resource availability.

"Demand versus resource availability"—those of us from New England sat with the Secretary several months ago and made it clear to the Secretary that there is an increasing crisis in our VA system because of the lack of resources.

The "greatest generation" veterans—those of World War II—are now demanding services of the VA in greater numbers than before. Our military efforts these days are increasing the awareness and the need of many people who served for those services. Yet here we are being told we have demand that is exceeding the resources.

The resources don't have to be exceeded. That is a matter of budgeting priority of this administration. There are many areas where it is obvious that the administration has decided it is more important to put money, rather than for the veterans, and in order to keep the promise to the veterans of the country.

In today's Greenfield Recorder in Massachusetts, a VA spokesperson said the reason the VA has cut these services is "because right now we can't give them the kind of care that they deserve."

That is an extraordinary statement in the face of the current situation

with troops in Afghanistan and other parts of the world, with the increasing demand of our military and with potential operations in Iraq that are the subject of hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today.

Under Secretary Miller's memorandum notes that enrollment has increased by some 15 percent. So the budget ought to reflect that. The budget ought to reflect that we need to keep the promise to our veterans. The fact is, almost every single budgeting effort in the last few years has been inadequate for the VA. The VA has consistently received less funding than necessary facing this growing demand.

In the fiscal year 2002 budget, there was initially an \$80 million shortfall for veterans medical care in New England alone. And although this region has confronted the most severe shortages, the situation throughout the country has been similarly bleak.

This year, and in previous years, colleagues in the Senate have fought to try to up that amount of money. Last week, Congress passed a supplemental with some additional \$417 million, but the fact is, the increase in this year's spending is not adequate to meet the demand. It is critical that we provide veterans services to nearly 5 million veterans in 2003.

It is almost so obvious that it should go without saying, but I hope this is going to be reversed immediately. I hope the administration is going to keep America's promise to our veterans. And I hope they will plus up that budget sufficiently to meet the demand and to keep faith with the promise made already to the past several generations of veterans and the promise that is today being made to the next generation of veterans.

I yield the floor.

MAJ. GEN. WILLIE B. NANCE, JR.,  
U.S. ARMY

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, very soon one of our Nation's finest soldiers will retire from active duty after more than three decades of dedicated service to our country. Major General Willie B. Nance, Jr., will retire from the United States Army on November 1, 2002, after serving for 34 years. During his distinguished career, General Nance served in a remarkable range of roles, from buck private to two-star general, from foot soldier to the manger of one of the most sophisticated weapon systems our nation has ever built. General Nance, I am proud to say, is a native of Mississippi, and I believe it appropriate that the Senate take note of his distinguished career as his retirement approaches.

General Nance entered the Army in 1968 as a member of the Mississippi All-Volunteer Company, a group of 200 Mississippi volunteers who enlisted at the same time under an Army volunteer enlistment campaign. Having proven himself early as a soldier, he was recruited directly from Basic Training

into Officer Candidate School, from which he graduated as the honor graduate in 1969.

Commissioned into the Infantry as a second lieutenant, General Nance's early assignments included duties as a rifle company platoon leader, reconnaissance platoon leader, and battalion assistant operations officer in Korea. He also served twice as an instructor at the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, GA. As a young captain, General Nance was a communications officer, battalion adjutant, and company commander in the 3rd Armored Division in Germany. Between these assignments, he completed Airborne training and was an honor graduate from the demanding Ranger course.

After 13 years of infantry service, General Nance was assigned to the Army Acquisition Corps. In repeated assignments to acquisition leadership positions, he developed expertise in every area of acquisition management. After serving as an Assistant Product Manager for three years, he became the Executive Officer to the Commanding General of the Department of the Army Research and Development Command, Europe. As a lieutenant colonel, he managed the Bradley Fighting Vehicle TOW missile subsystem. As a colonel, he managed both the Army Tactical Missile System and the Brilliant Anti-Tank munition programs. Between command assignments, General Nance taught acquisition strategy as a professor at the Defense System Management College.

In his first assignment as a general, General Nance served for two years as the Deputy Commander of the U.S. Army Space and Strategic Defense Command. In this position, he oversaw with efficiency, innovation, and compassion a significant reorganization and reduction of the technical element of the command.

From 1996 to 1998, General Nance served as the Army's Program Executive Officer for Tactical Missiles. In this position, he was responsible not only for managing many complex missile programs costing several billion dollars annually, but also for creating a strategic vision that would guide all army tactical missile programs through the Army's transformation process.

In 1998, General Nance undertook perhaps his most challenging professional task when he became Program Director and Program Executive Officer for National Missile Defense, and he took that post at a particularly difficult time. He inherited a program that had for years received inadequate funding, and although the missile threat to our nation continued to grow, there were still sharp disagreements among political leaders about how to respond to this threat. Every aspect of the program was under intense scrutiny by the administration, the Congress, and the media. General Nance directed a team of government and contract workers that stretched from Ala-

bama to Alaska, from Massachusetts to the Marshall Islands, and from Colorado to California to Hawaii. Under these difficult conditions, General Nance not only put the National Missile Defense program on sound footing, he guided it to dramatic successes. In October 1999, his team—on its first attempt—achieved the first successful intercept of a reentry vehicle in space by a missile defense kill vehicle. That feat has since been repeated three times. It now seems almost routine. But there is nothing routine about such complex technical accomplishments, nor the extraordinary leadership that made them possible.

In 2001, the Bush administration undertook a strategic review that opened the door to more capable missile defenses, and General Nance helped lead an intensive effort to develop and evaluate new approaches to defending the United States against missile attack. This effort resulted in a fundamental change in the nation's missile defense program. General Nance was selected to turn this new vision into reality when he became the first Program Executive Officer for the Ballistic Missile Defense System. In this role, he implemented the Secretary of Defense's guidance to create a single, integrated Ballistic Missile Defense System out of ten disparate missile defense programs already under way. That effort required a careful balancing of new concepts for missile defense with already ongoing technical work. Under General Nance's leadership in this, his final assignment, the missile defense program continued to make extraordinary progress toward protecting our nation and its armed forces, with the Ground-based Midcourse, Patriot PAC-3, and AEGIS missile defense systems all scoring successes in flight testing.

General Nance's vision of a single integrated missile defense system is becoming a reality today and it will be a lasting legacy of his service to our country. But his legacy goes far beyond even that important contribution. It extends to the soldiers he has touched throughout his career, to the example he has set, to the sacrifices he has made in long, distinguished, and selfless service to our nation.

I am very proud that General Nance is from Mississippi, and that his wife, Jonnie is also a Mississippian. We are very proud of both of them and we wish them much continued success and happiness together in the years ahead.

#### IRV KUPCINET: 90 YEARS OF A CHICAGO INSTITUTION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a Chicago institution and a good friend, Irv Kupcinet, on the occasion of his 90th birthday on July 31, and to pay tribute to his outstanding contributions to the veterans of the Chicago area. While best known for his work in journalism, Kup has also dedicated a major part of his life to serving his community's veterans.

Born in 1912, Irv grew up in Chicago. Early on, he had a job cleaning Pullman Co. railroad cars so that he could earn money to attend college. He went on to receive his journalism degree from the University of North Dakota in 1934. While in college, he was involved as both the director of athletic publicity and as the quarterback of the football team. So, during the week, he wrote about sports and on Saturday, he played them. Initially he was headed toward a future in football. He was even selected for the 1935 College All-Star football team, which led him to begin a short career in professional football with the Philadelphia Eagles.

However, a shoulder injury led him to a new path in life, as he shifted from sports player to sports writer. Kup began as a writer for the Chicago Times in 1935. Chicago readers have been enjoying the writings of "Kup" ever since. After all these years, Irv still writes "Kup's Column" in the Chicago Sun-Times today.

Additionally, Kup broadcast Chicago Bears games on the radio for 24 years with another Chicago icon, Jack Brickhouse. In 1959, he debuted his own local television talk show which ran for 27 years. He has been honored with the coveted Peabody Award and has won a total of 16 local Emmy awards for his show.

Irv has been inducted into two halls of fame—one for journalism and one for Chicago sports. And, he also is recognized in the Hall of Fame at the University of North Dakota and the National Jewish Hall of Fame. In 1986, the Wabash Avenue Bridge in Chicago officially became the Irv Kupcinet Bridge in honor of his 50 years with the Chicago Sun-Times.

One of the things that has always impressed me about Kup is that despite all of his endeavors in sports and in journalism, he always made time to give back to his community, to give back to Chicago. That is what truly puts Irv Kupcinet in a league of his own. He is the founder and the host of the annual Chicago Sun-Times Purple Heart Cruise for veterans, which began in 1945 and continues today.

At the end of World War II, Irv wanted to recognize the soldiers who risked their lives for their fellow Americans. He found a way to do so in conjunction with the Purple Heart veterans organization. The Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. is a Congressionally chartered national service organization for veterans that offers educational programs, outreach programs, computer training courses, and a long list of other programs aimed at serving our country's veterans. Illinois, alone, has over 860 Purple Heart veterans. With the Purple Heart and the Chicago Sun-Times, Irv has hosted this annual cruise. He said in his autobiography that his cruise "celebrates the veterans of all our wars, men and women who put their lives on the line so that the rest of us could live in peace and freedom." In a sense, this cruise is a reprise of the USO servicemen club, a one