

Cairo and the Suez Canal, President Roosevelt thus could accommodate the somewhat distraught Churchill's request for 300 of the new Sherman tanks to bolster the defenses in Northeast Africa, ultimately leading to the victory at El Alamein. The Battle of the Atlantic gradually turned with the steady improvement in antisubmarine warfare, thereby helping to ease the shipping shortage. By the fall, Operation Torch, the landings in North Africa, initiated offensive operations that ultimately led to the destruction of Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps. The invasion of Sicily soon followed, succeeded by the invasion of Italy and eventually the landings in Normandy.

Had these events not taken place or been much delayed, it is possible the Soviet Union would not have survived. But if it had, and succeeded in its march westward, the face of postwar Europe would have been vastly different. Soviet forces would have deployed farther to the west. Germany likely would have been occupied in its entirety. The West's foothold in Europe would have shrunk, perhaps dramatically. The ability of France and Italy to survive communist pressures, precarious as it was in 1947, would have been much reduced. In brief, it was Midway, a battle in the distant Pacific, that shaped the face of postwar Europe.

Despite its crucial historic role, Midway gets scarcely more attention in our history books than the War of 1812 naval battles on Lake Champlain or Lake Erie—let alone the scant attention Europeans have paid to it. Let us reflect on a few other notable battles that turned the tide of history.

In 480, B.C., Athens had fallen to the Persian army, but Athens had in a sense survived in the form of its 200 naval vessels that Athens, prodded by Themistocles, an early apostle of naval construction, had created. On 28 September in the straits of Salamis, before the very eyes of the Emperor Xerxes, the combined Greek naval force delivered a devastating blow, sinking some 200 Persian ships, with the loss of only 40 of their own. Xerxes, as Herodotus describes, had wanted to rule Europe as well as Asia. Fearing an attack on its bridges over the Hellespont, the Persian army largely withdrew. Greek (and European) civilization had been preserved. Indeed, begging pardon for a lapse from political correctness, Europe had been saved from Oriental Despotism. It was a naval battle that decided the fate of a civilization, a turning point in history.

Each year, the English-speaking world celebrates Trafalgar. Yet, it is not clear that even in the absence of victory England would not have survived. Midway, at a minimum, was the most decisive naval victory since Trafalgar, and perhaps the most strategically decisive victory since Salamis.

What of the crucial battles here in the United States? The Revolutionary War Battle of Yorktown is, of course, celebrated appropriately. Yet, after the Battle of the Capes, Yorktown was but the frosting on the cake, an almost inevitable triumph. The Battle of Saratoga, by contrast, is seen rightly as the turning point of the Revolution.

One is no doubt obliged to speak also of the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg. Yet, while Gettysburg may have been the high-water mark of the Confederacy, the outcome of the war was never much in doubt. Just recall the remarks of that military logistician, Rhett Butler, at the beginning of *Gone With the Wind*, when he rebukes some Southern hot-heads by pointing to the overwhelming industrial domination of the North.

They why, if Midway had such world-historic strategic significance, has it received so much less attention than it deserves? A recent documentary supposedly detailing the Pacific War, produced by Steven Spielberg

and Stephen Ambrose, moves smoothly from Pearl Harbor to island hopping in the western Pacific, with scarcely a mention of Midway. How could such a momentous victory come to be overshadowed? There are, I believe, three prominent reasons.

First, the Europeans are quite naturally even more Eurocentric than we are. For them, the crucial battle for the European theater had to begin the European theater itself and not some remote spot in the Pacific. There is still little sense in Europe of what a vast enterprise the war in the Pacific was. El Alamein continues to be celebrated in the United Kingdom. Similarly, the Battle of the Bulge is celebrated annually here. But the outcomes of both those battles were almost foreordained by the balance of forces.

Moreover, the most prominent, indeed almost the canonical, history of World War II was written by Winston Churchill himself. And where would Churchill look? Not to some purely American engagement in the distant Pacific. Midway is mentioned only in Churchill's six-volume history, with no indication of how it shaped the outcome in Europe.

Second, Midway always has lain in the shadow of D-Day, which occurred 2 years later, but which has an anniversary that coincides with Midway in the calendar year. D-day, which was truly touch-and-go, deserves all the attention it has received. But it should not come at the detriment of Midway itself. For without Midway, there would have been no D-Day on 6 June 1944, with all that that implies about the condition of postwar Europe.

Third, it is also in a sense the fault of the U.S. Navy itself. The Navy (take no offense) is both too shy in blowing its own horn and too complacent. Naming a carrier after a battle, for example, is considered so high an honor that nothing more needs to be said.

Midway may be the victim of intraservice politics or more exactly, intertribal fights. If one glorifies what was so dramatically a carrier victory, it might be interpreted to the detriment of the surface Navy and/or the submarine force. So tact required a relatively discreet silence. Thus, regarding the crucial significance of Midway in world history, more than the submarine force has been the "Silent Service."

Our British allies perennially have demonstrated a masterly touch in displaying, not to say marketing, their armed forces and their accomplishments. Go to London. See the centrality of Trafalgar Square in the city. Observe that obelisk for Admiral Horatio Nelson towering over the Square. It all provides a setting and reinforcement for the annual celebration of the naval battle itself. By contrast, Farragut Square in Washington is a very dim competitor. And where, pray tell, is Midway? It is, of course, the Midway, a part of Chicago, named after the 1893 World's Fair—or a nearby airport, a transition point halfway across the United States.

Now hear this! It is time to go forth and proselytize and underscore the world-historic role of Midway. The battle and its veterans deserve no less.

THE VETERANS BENEFITS ENHANCEMENTS ACT OF 2003

Mr. SPECTER. I have sought recognition today to explain briefly the provisions of S. 1132, the proposed Veterans Benefits Enhancements Act of 2003. This legislation, which was approved by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs on September 30, 2003, incorporates provisions drawn from 13 different bills that were considered by the

Committee on Veterans' Affairs over the course of the first session. S. 1132, as so amended, is a lengthy bill—almost 50 pages—and so I will not endeavor in this statement to explain in detail each and every provision of the bill. Rather, I will discuss the highlights in this statement, and refer my colleagues to the committee report that accompanied approval of the bill for a more extended explanation of the bill.

The starting point for S. 1132, as reported, was S. 1132, the proposed "Veterans' Survivors Benefits Enhancements Act of 2003," which I introduced on May 22, 2003. That bill, as its title indicates, focused on the needs of the surviving families of veterans who were gravely injured or killed in war. It contained provisions to increase widows' and orphans' educational assistance benefits, and to increase dependency and indemnity compensation (so-called "DIC") benefits—benefits provided to the widows and surviving children of service members whose deaths are service related—in cases where the widow has at home at least one dependent child. The bill, as introduced, would have also extended eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery to all surviving spouses of veterans, including a group now denied eligibility—service members' widows who are remarried at the time of their deaths. And finally, S. 1132, as introduced, would have extended benefits now provided to spina bifida-afflicted children of Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange to the children of veterans who served in another area where Agent Orange was widely used in 1967–1969, the Korean demilitarized zone, and who are afflicted with the same birth defect.

I am pleased that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs approved all but one of these provisions; one provision—the proposed increase in DIC benefits for widows with dependent children—was, unfortunately, too costly to proceed with at this time. I am pleased, as well that at mark up, the committee's members approved the addition of a number of other measures which were drawn from other bills that had been referred to the committee for consideration. Among those provisions are the following:

Provisions derived from bills introduced by Senators MURRAY (S. 517), CRAIG (S. 1239), and GRAHAM of Florida (S. 1281) to improve medical care and compensation benefits afforded to former prisoners of war;

Provisions derived from administration-requested legislation (S. 1213) to increase benefits afforded to Filipinos who fought alongside U.S. troops in World War II;

Provisions derived from administration-requested legislation (S. 1133) to improve the VA's educational assistance, life insurance, and State cemetery grant programs; and

Provisions derived from a bill introduced by Committee Ranking Member,

BOB GRAHAM, (S. 1281) to authorize further funding and oversight of the Department of Defense and Institute of Medicine activities to identify the causes of, and treatments for, injuries related to exposures to Agent Orange, radiation, and other environmental dangers by service members.

The bill also contains various measures to assure that, despite the enactment of the significant improvements contained within the bill, the bill will nonetheless be in compliance with Budget Enforcement Act strictures against the enactment of "mandatory account" spending measures without accompanying "pay-go" offsets.

S. 1132, as amended, is good legislation that is supported, on a bipartisan basis, by all of the members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Further, its key provisions are supported by VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi and by the major veterans' service organizations. I ask that the Senate approve it.

NOMINATION FOR THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the nomination of Mr. Stuart Ishimaru to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the Department of Labor was approved today by the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, and I look forward to prompt confirmation of this qualified nominee by the full Senate.

Mr. Ishimaru brings a distinguished legal background and a demonstrated commitment to public service to the position.

For 10 years he served as counsel to the House Judiciary and Armed Services Committees and was a counsel and deputy assistant Attorney General in the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division under Attorney General Janet Reno.

Through these positions he has helped enforce the great civil rights laws we have enacted over the last 50 years, from protections for the elderly, to protections for people with disabilities, to protection from discrimination in the workplace. And he has done so with a sense of fairness, compassion, and integrity that has earned him wide respect. I know he will continue his excellent work by enforcing our Nation's employment laws at the EEOC.

I urge my colleagues to support this well qualified nominee to the EEOC.

THE NATION'S HOSPITALS

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, hospitals in the United States have enormous responsibility. The Nation's hospitals care for patients, perform surgeries, train interns, research cures to diseases, and provide millions of dollars annually for the uninsured. Their services improve Americans' health and lives and better our communities. I laud their service to Colorado and the Nation.

Recently Solucient, a company that provides health care data to improve health care results, published its list of the Nation's 100 top hospitals. Four of Solucient's designees are Colorado hospitals: Saint Joseph Hospital in Denver, Rose Medical Center in Denver, Swedish Medical Center in Englewood, and Lutheran Medical Center in Wheat Ridge. Solucient determines its selection of top hospitals according to hospitals' consistent and superior quality care, financial performance, and efficient delivery of care. According to Solucient, the Top 100 hospitals treat more, and sicker, patients with better survival rates and fewer complications.

I am pleased to acknowledge Solucient's selection of Colorado hospitals for its quality service, dedication, and commitment to providing quality health care for Colorado, the Nation, and the world. First, Solucient has recognized Saint Joe's Hospital in Denver in its studies of orthopedic and intensive care units. According to the hospital, Saint Joe delivers more babies than any other Colorado hospital, serves more patients in gastroenterology, general surgery, pulmonology, cardiac care, nephrology and rheumatology than any other acute care hospital in the Denver metropolitan area, and for the past 5 years the hospital has cared for more cardiology and open heart surgery patients than any other acute care hospital in the metro area.

Second, Exempla Lutheran Medical Center specializes in cardiology, oncology, orthopedic services, and women's health care. Lutheran Medical also provides special care to the community through its community clinics, special programs and services for the elderly, and hospice care. In addition, Lutheran Medical Center's Emergency Department has the second highest patient load in the Denver metropolitan area.

Third, with a mission of commitment to patients, Rose Medical Center in Denver asserts a reputation for high quality health care and quality customer service. Rose Medical Center specializes in women's health services, general surgery, internal medicine, pediatric care, and emergency services. Rose Medical Center also partners with philanthropic organizations to help offer services to the Colorado community. Further, Rose Medical Center is the official health care provider for the Denver Nuggets professional basketball team and the Colorado Avalanche professional hockey team.

Fourth, Solucient recognized a teaching hospital in Englewood, Colorado, Swedish Medical Center, which has six "Centers of Excellence:" the Colorado Neurological Institute, adult & pediatric trauma services, advanced radiology capabilities, cardiology services, cancer treatment services, and women's and children's services. In addition, Swedish is a Level I Trauma Center and is a leading referral center for neurotrauma. Swedish also offers services for the elderly, emergency medical

service education, and has a Family Medicine Residency Program.

I am pleased these Colorado hospitals have been recognized as leaders in quality, efficiency, and financial responsibility in institutional health care. I laud their work and am expectant for their continued high quality of care and progress for Colorado and the Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING DR. MARTHA RHODES ROBERTS

• Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a fine humanitarian and Floridian, Dr. Martha Rhodes Roberts, who is retiring on October 31. Throughout her 34-year career with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Dr. Martha Rhodes Roberts has contributed to Florida's agriculture food safety industry as a scientific authority, industry counselor, strategist, and partner in the endeavors of Florida agricultural producers. She has become an expert on minimizing food contamination for consumers, by helping to develop safer standards in food processing. Dr. Rhodes Roberts' dedication to safe food practices has enriched the lives of Floridians and Americans.

Since beginning her career with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as a microbiologist in the Food Laboratory in 1968, Dr. Roberts has been a tireless advocate to ensure the food Americans eat is safe and abundant while at the same time helping the agricultural community to minimize their impacts on the environment. In addition to these achievements, she has the distinction of serving as the first female Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture for a State agency in the country. During her tenure at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Dr. Roberts was instrumental in Florida's food safety program becoming one of the preeminent State food safety programs in the country. She also has overseen the divisions of pesticides, fertilizers, seeds, agricultural water policy, soil and water conservation, animal feeds, aquaculture and dairy and animal industries during her long career with the department.

Dr. Roberts has served on several Federal advisory groups for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and she has served as president of the Association of Food and Drug Officials, comprised of all States, FDA and USDA. She was instrumental in organizing the Conference for Food Protection, a national body to set food safety standards for all States. Dr. Roberts is a member of the Institute of Food Technologists' Science Advisory Board, which provides scientific review and analysis of issues in food safety, food processing