

superb care, not only to fellow Americans who have been wounded on the battlefield but also to nearly 300 wounded Iraqi soldiers, as well as civilians. On the hospital ship *Comfort* in the northern Arabian Gulf, we are treating 75 Iraqi prisoners of war.

Yesterday, the Pentagon quoted one doctor who said:

We do not differentiate between patients, whether they are friends or foes.

I cannot imagine a more powerful statement about the compassion of our men and our women in uniform and our country.

On Monday, GEN Tommy Franks paid a visit to the 101st Airborne in Najaf. He awarded Bronze Stars to two 1st Brigade soldiers: SGT James Ward of the 1st Battalion and SGT Lucas Goddard of the 3rd Battalion. PFC Miguel Pena of the 2nd Battalion will also receive a Bronze Star at a future date.

In closing, General Franks said in a brief speech during the ceremony something that really captures, I believe, the feelings of all Americans when he said:

There's something real special to stand with these two young noncommissioned officers back here—and stand with these heroes.

He continues:

What I meant when I said stand with "these heroes" is I meant all of you.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TALENT). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 11:30 a.m., with the first 30 minutes to be equally divided between the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and the Democratic leader, or their designees, with the remaining time to be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I yield such time that the Senator from Tennessee may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a unanimous consent request?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Of course.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the Senator from Tennessee, the Senator from Georgia be recognized and I be recognized immediately following the Senator from Georgia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that

after Mr. LEVIN, the senior Senator from Michigan, speaks, the junior Senator from Michigan be recognized.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. That will be up until the 15 minutes for their side, and with that I agree to the unanimous consent request. There is another Senator coming for our 15-minute period.

Ms. STABENOW. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Tennessee.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Texas.

The majority leader mentioned the 101st Airborne Division in his remarks. Both he and I feel a special pride in that division because it sits on the border of Tennessee and Kentucky. The majority leader was there 10 days ago with the families over a weekend, and I was there over the past weekend with the Secretary of the Army at a luncheon in honor of the families there.

I suppose this must be said of every part of our military today, but no one can go to Fort Campbell without being enormously impressed with every single military person one meets, especially the family members. Among those was Holly Petraeus, who is the wife of the commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division.

We talked about a great many things on Saturday. We talked about the bravery of the men and women from the 101st and from the Army Special Forces Divisions who have been in Iraq even longer. We talked about the number of Tennessee reservists, American reservists, and National Guard men and women who have been deployed since 9/11.

If I remember correctly, the Secretary of the Army estimated that nearly two-thirds of all of our reservists and National Guard men and women have been activated in one form or another since 9/11. We owe them enormous gratitude.

We talked about one other thing at Fort Campbell last Saturday, and that was the debt we owe to our allies because we are not in Iraq alone. We talk about the coalition of the willing. So today, I rise not just to talk about our brave men and women at Fort Campbell, about whom I will have more to say later this week, but I want to express our appreciation for and salute our allies in the military action in Iraq.

Many of our colleagues have noted the leadership of Great Britain and Prime Minister Blair, and rightfully so. Great Britain has long been a great ally of this country, and we are deeply grateful for that. But another ally has contributed significantly to military resources in this effort, a country we sometimes might overlook. That country is Australia.

Although their military is not as large as Great Britain, their contribution is significant and they deserve our thanks. Australia has long been a friend and ally to the United States. Not only did they send troops to support us in the 1991 war in the Persian Gulf, they also joined us in military action in Korea and in Vietnam. Australians share our values of democracy and a pioneering spirit. Australia also shares our history of being a former British colony with a strong independent streak. The British may be our ancestors, but the Australians are our first cousins.

Today, Australia is standing with us again. In fact, they have committed more troops to our current efforts in Iraq than they did 12 years ago in 1991. Australia's commitment includes: 14 F-18 jet fighters, 3 C-130 transport aircraft, three naval vessels, one transport and two frigates, CH-47 troop-lift helicopters and accompanying troops, and a Special Forces task group of 500 troops.

In total, Australia has committed about 2,000 army, air force, and naval personnel—their second largest military deployment since Vietnam. And they have been very active.

Australia's Special Forces have seen combat in what their commander describes as "shoot and scoot" missions. They have destroyed installations behind enemy lines and provided important reconnaissance information.

An Australian diving team has been instrumental in clearing underwater mines at the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr, making it possible for the arrival of humanitarian aid.

Their ships aided in the capture of an Iraqi vessel that was trying to lay more mines in the Gulf.

And their F-18 fighter aircraft have joined ours in air strikes on enemy military targets.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard told his Parliament on March 18:

We have supported the Americans position on this issue because we share their concerns and we share their worries about the future if Iraq is left unattended to.

Alliances are two-way processes and, when we are in agreement, we should not leave it to the United States to do all of the heavy lifting just because they are the world's superpower.

Now that is a true friend. Australia may not have the largest military in the world, but that won't stop them from sending what they can to help our brave men and women fighting in Iraq. They do not want to leave us to do all the "heavy lifting." And, as I noted earlier, their help has been real and significant.

Australia, led by Prime Minister Howard, has taken a courageous stand by supporting us in this war and committing so many of its troops. They are a true friend and ally of the United States, and I know we are all grateful for their help and support.

If I may say, in 1987, after I left the Tennessee Governor's office, my family

and I moved to Australia. We lived in Sydney for 6 months. We did that to get to know each other as a family even better, after so many years in politics. It gave us a chance to know our first cousins in Australia and to see our country at home in an even different way.

In 1992, when I served in President Bush's Cabinet, the President asked then-Secretary of Defense CHENEY and me to go to Australia to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea. I have been reminded many times that our Australian friends remember that the United States of America stood with them during World War II, and they stand with us today. That is why on last Saturday, at Fort Campbell, we were not only talking about the bravery of American men and women and about our own National Guardsmen and reservists, we were talking about how much we respect and appreciate the support our fighting men and women have received from our allies overseas, especially from the brave men and women in Australia.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, I rise this morning to share with my colleagues the story of one of my Georgia constituents. It begins with a brave young 3rd Infantry soldier named Diego Rincon.

Diego was a native of Colombia and he came to the United States in 1989 with his family when he was 5 years old. He enjoyed a life of freedom and safety that might never have been possible in Colombia.

Diego was extremely loyal to the country that welcomed him. And after the September 11 attacks, he decided it was time to repay his adopted Nation.

Upon graduation from Salem High School in Conyers, GA, Diego enlisted in the Army. He became a member of the "Rock of the Marne," Fort Stewart's 3rd Infantry Division.

Sadly, PFC Rincon was killed March 29 in Iraq by a suicide bomber at a military checkpoint. Diego was 19 years old. Three other members of his 1st Brigade were also killed.

In late February, Diego wrote his final letter home to his mother just as his brigade was getting ready to move out. I would like to read just a couple of paragraphs from that letter:

So I guess the time has finally come for us to see what we are made of, who will crack when the stress level rises and who will be calm all the way through it. Only time will tell.

I try not to think of what may happen in the future, but I can't stand seeing it in my eyes. There's going to be murders, funerals and tears rolling down everybody's eyes.

But the only thing I can say is, keep my head up and try to keep the faith and pray for better days. All this will pass. I believe God has a path for me.

Whether I make it or not, it's all part of the plan. It can't be changed, only completed.

This 19-year-old young man, was wise beyond his years. Diego joined the

Army for the noblest of reasons. He fought and died in Iraq while defending our Nation's freedom.

And after his death, when I talked with his family, they asked one last request of the Government in return for their son's life—to be able to bury him this Thursday as a U.S. citizen.

I am very pleased and proud to announce today that, with the help of the INS, PFC Diego Rincon has been awarded U.S. citizenship. Tomorrow, this brave soldier will be buried in Georgia as a citizen of this great country.

But there are thousands of noncitizens fighting in our military right now. So I, along with my fellow Senator from Georgia, Mr. CHAMBLISS, have introduced legislation calling for citizenship to be granted immediately to any soldier who fights in our armed services and dies in combat.

For those among our troops who are not citizens and who die on the battlefield, I believe the least we can do is to honor them with posthumous citizenship. I believe it should be done automatically by the Government, with no delay and no burden on the families.

Under our bill, the families of these brave soldiers would not have to fill out any forms or make any phone calls. This citizenship would apply only to the deceased soldier, and it would not make the soldier's family eligible for any extra benefit or any special treatment. It is simply a final gesture of thanks and gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice these immigrant soldiers have made for their adopted country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair wishes to announce there are 2 minutes 49 seconds remaining on the Republican side and 6 minutes 14 seconds on the Democratic side.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, we have moved into morning business, is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. LEVIN. I wonder if there would be any objection to adding 10 minutes to this period of time, given the number of speakers we have on the floor. I would not want to do that without the leadership knowing about it. I wonder if somebody could check to see if there would be any objection to our adding 10 minutes to this particular period.

Mr. President, one of my greatest pleasures and privileges of serving on the Armed Services Committee has been the close working contact I have had with the men and women who make up America's Armed Forces. They truly represent the best our Nation has to offer. Whenever I visit them, no matter where they are stationed or deployed, I come away proud and impressed by their courage, their professionalism and their commitment.

Across the country, Americans have rallied, volunteered, and sent donations to show their support for our

military members serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. This generosity of heart has been apparent in every corner of my home State of Michigan.

Michigan has a long tradition of giving its all in support of young Americans waging a war overseas. Over 60 years ago, Michigan's automotive factories were the heart of the "Arsenal of Democracy", which helped to bring an Allied victory in World War II. As President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said at that time, Americans at home were a crucial component of the war: "We must apply ourselves to our task with the same resolution, the same sense of urgency, the same spirit of patriotism and sacrifice" as those serving on the front lines.

And Michiganders have always stepped up to that challenge, giving of their time, their resources, their energy, and their love in support of our troops. Since the war in Iraq began, in countless ways, Michiganders have sought to express their thanks to our service members.

There are currently over 3,400 Michiganders from National Guard and Reserve units who have been activated, in addition to many active duty service members for Michigan serving in support of ongoing military operations. In February, I traveled to Kuwait, Qatar, and other places in the region and had the honor of meeting with a group of about 20 Marines from Michigan at Camp Commando. These dedicated, professional men and women were highly motivated, well prepared, and their morale was high. They are remarkable representatives of America and the values we stand for.

To show our gratitude for their work, thousands have rallied across Michigan in support of the troops. At the Capitol in Lansing, at Centennial Park in Holland, at Calder Plaza in Grand Rapids, at Veterans Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, and St. Mary's Park in Monroe—among many other locales—groups have gathered to voice support for the troops and wish them a quick, safe return home.

In Jackson, people lined the streets for a parade to send off members of a local Army Reserve unit mobilized to active duty. A parade was held in Houghton, where uniformed men and women displayed their colors for the troops, and a similar event in support of the service members is planned in Cheboygan. Bowen Holliday Post 35 of the American Legion in Traverse City is giving out Blue Star Service Banners to military families as a visual reminder of sons and daughters serving the country.

And Rudyard, Michigan—a town of 1,315 in the Upper Peninsula—has seen more than ten percent of its population mobilized on active military duty.

Although the Defense Department prohibits sending care packages to "any servicemember" due to security concerns and transportation constraints, Michigan residents have found many ways to provide service people with a piece of home.

Girl Scouts in the Upper Peninsula are conducting a campaign called "Cookies From Home." The scouts are collecting donations from U.P. residents, and the money will be used to buy boxes of Girl Scout cookies which they will send to the troops. Last year, Girl Scouts in the Upper Peninsula sent 2,076 boxes of cookies to Bosnia and Saudi Arabia as part of the campaign.

Students at Ishpeming High School in the U.P. have started a letter writing campaign to Ishpeming graduates who are now serving in the military overseas. The Gogebic County Sheriff's Department is participating in Operation Adopt-A-Family, which is intended to help people who need assistance as the result of the deployment of a spouse or parent. Many groups—including the Milan Area Chamber of Commerce—have "adopted" soldiers, sending them correspondence, thoughts and prayers. Two Jackson, Michigan, men have teamed up to write "Heroes Piano," a song supporting the troops.

A group of Wayne schoolchildren is showing their support by making a special video in appreciation of U.S. service members. Similarly, but on a larger scale, the ABC television station in Detroit is traveling around town with a camera for a project called "To Our Troops," in which they provide residents with an opportunity to send a message directly to the men and women in the battlefield.

Unfortunately, war is a dangerous business and it grieves me to report that four Michigan service members have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country in Operation Iraqi Freedom: Marine Major Kevin G. Nave of Union Lake, Army Sergeant Todd J. Robbins of Pentwater, Army Sergeant Michael F. Pedersen of Flint, and Private First Class Brandon Sloan of Fraser. I want to close my remarks this morning by paying tribute to their sacrifice and the sacrifice of their families. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families as they cope with their loss. They should know that a grateful Nation will never forget their loved one and the sacrifice they have made.

On behalf of all of the people of Michigan, I say thank you to all the men and women of our armed forces who are carrying out the dangerous mission of disarming Saddam Hussein and his regime. May God speed you home.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Texas.

First, for the purpose of the information of the Democratic leadership, there are 17 seconds remaining on the Democratic side.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the junior Senator from Michigan be allowed 5 minutes extra. I am going to withhold, and then my colleague from North Carolina will follow Senator STABENOW

because there is a very important speech and a timetable for the Senator from North Carolina. I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Michigan be recognized for 5 minutes, after which the Senator from North Carolina be recognized for 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise to commend my colleague from Michigan for his comments and rise to support and join him in praising our men and women in uniform who are putting their futures on hold and their lives on the line to defend our Nation and protect and advance freedom around the world.

The military action is going very well. We expect no less from our men and women in uniform; they are highly prepared and trained and dedicated.

Already many of these dedicated men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Across the Nation last week we rejoiced at the dramatic rescue of Army PFC Jessica Lynch.

Sadly, among the bodies found in or near the hospital where Lynch was held was the body of Private Brandon Sloan of Fraser, MI—one of Lynch's comrades in the 507th Ordnance Maintenance Company that was ambushed by the Iraqis on March 23.

Others from Michigan who have given their lives in Iraq are: Marine MAJ Kevin Nave of White Lake Township, Army SGT Michael Pedersen of Flint, MI, and Army SGT Todd Robbins of Pentwater, MI.

And in the continuing operation in Afghanistan, Michigan mourns the loss of Air Force SrA Jason Plite of Grand Ledge who died in a helicopter accident as he flew on a mission to rescue two injured Afghan children.

Our hearts and prayers go out to the families of these men and the families of all the other men and women who, as Lincoln said, "gave the last measure of full devotion" for their country.

Our troops who wear the uniform of this Nation with such honor deserve to know they are held in honor here at home.

My father was in the Navy during World War II and my husband served in the Air Force during the first Gulf War. Both have told me how important it was for the morale of all those who served to know they had the support of their Nation.

Military officials tell me there are things Americans can do right here at home to let our troops overseas know they are in our thoughts and prayers—things that will make life a little better for people right in our hometowns as well.

I commend, as did Senator LEVIN, all who are reaching out to support our troops.

Unlike previous conflicts, the Defense Department is asking people not to send care packages or letters not ad-

dressed to specific military personnel. Since the anthrax attacks of October 2001, these kinds of mailings just pose too much of a security risk.

However, the military encourages individuals or groups to show their support for the troops abroad by showing support at home for our veterans and the families of current National Guard and Reserve personnel whose loved ones are deployed far away—and then sharing your efforts with our troops in Iraq.

For instance, my home State of Michigan is home to almost 875,000 veterans of conflicts going all the way back to World War I. Volunteers are always needed at veteran's hospitals and veteran's homes.

Volunteers are also needed to help family readiness groups that assist the families of the National Guard and Reserve personnel who have been deployed far from home.

From my home state of Michigan, the men and women of the 127th Air National Guard Wing in Selfridge, the 110th Fighter Wing in Battle Creek and the Combat Readiness Training Center in Alpena have been mobilized and deployed to bases around the world, including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, South West Asia, and Turkey.

Army National Guard and Reserve units from Owosso, Taylor, Grand Ledge, Grayling, Sault Ste. Marie, Midland, Pontiac, Three Rivers, Augusta, Selfridge, and Ypsilanti have been mobilized and are awaiting their deployment orders.

Many of these men and women leave families and well-paying jobs behind—creating hardships for themselves and their families just so they can serve their Nation.

Family readiness volunteers help families of Guard and Reserve units with everything from arranging for baby sitting and lawn care to staffing phone trees that keep families informed of the most recent developments regarding the deployment of their loved ones.

Once you have volunteered, military officials encourage you to go to a special website called www.operationdearabby.net.

There you can post a note to our troops letting them know what you and your neighbors are doing here at home to show your support as they serve abroad.

Military mail officials sort these messages so they can be delivered to soldiers who would be the most interested.

Mr. President, over the past 2 weeks our men and women in uniform have put on an amazing display of bravery and toughness. We have all seen the picture of our troops standing up against not just the enemy—but pounding sandstorms and blistering heat.

But something about the scene is very familiar—and very American. In fact, it is a scene as old as our Republic itself, as old as the brutal winter at Valley Forge in 1777.

Listen to the words of George Washington when he bid farewell to his troops when the war was finally over.

Against all odds, including that bitter winter and Valley Forge, these soldiers had won their freedom and created a new Nation.

It was almost with a sense of awe that Washington said to them:

The unparalleled perseverance of the Armies of the United States, through almost every possible suffering and discouragement, was little short of a standing miracle.

The spirit of that first American army lives on in our men and women in uniform today.

It is still little short of a standing miracle, it still inspires awe, and it commands us to do whatever we can do here at home to show our unwavering support.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BOB DOLE

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable accomplishments of a former Member of this body, a friend of many Senators, who delivered his first speech in this Chamber 34 years ago next week.

It was April 14, 1969, when the gentleman from Kansas, Senator Bob Dole, stood not far from here to address his Senate colleagues for the first time. He spoke eloquently about a group of Americans who were very close to his heart . . . Americans who, prior to his involvement, had largely been ignored.

It was a group of Americans he had joined exactly 24 years earlier, when on April 14, 1945, he was wounded in the hills of Italy as he led his men in battle. As a result of his wounds, Bob spent 39 months in various hospitals, and doctors operated on him eight times. Eventually, he was left without the use of his right arm.

So it was that Senator Bob Dole who rose on April 14, 1969, not just to speak as a U.S. Senator, but as one of the millions of Americans who have a disability.

Mr. President, at this time, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of the April 14th speech.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HANDICAPPED AMERICANS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, my remarks today concern an exceptional group which I joined on another April 14, twenty-four years ago, during World War II.

It is a minority group whose existence affects every person in our society and the very fiber of our Nation.

It is a group which no one joins by personal choice—a group whose requirements for membership are not based on age, sex, wealth, education, skin color, religious beliefs, political party, power, or prestige.

As a minority, it has always known exclusion—maybe not exclusion from the front of the bus, but perhaps from even climbing aboard it; maybe not exclusion from pur-

suage advanced education, but perhaps from experiencing any formal education; maybe not exclusion from day-to-day life itself, but perhaps from an adequate opportunity to develop and contribute to his or her fullest capacity.

It is a minority, yet a group to which at least one out of every five Americans belongs.

Mr. President, I speak today about 42 million citizens of our Nation who are physically, mentally, or emotionally handicapped.

WHO ARE THE HANDICAPPED?

Who are the handicapped?

They are persons—men, women, and children—who cannot achieve full physical, mental, and social potential because of disability.

Although some live in institutions, many more live in the community. Some are so severely disabled as to be homebound, or even bed-bound. Still others are able to take part in community activities when they have access and facilities.

They include amputees, paraplegics, polio victims. Causes of disability include arthritis, cardio-vascular diseases, multiple sclerosis, and muscular dystrophy.

While you may have good vision and hearing, many persons live each day with limited eyesight or hearing, or with none at all.

While you may enjoy full muscle strength and coordination in your legs, there are those who must rely on braces or crutches, or perhaps a walker or wheel chair.

While you perform daily millions of tasks with your hands and arms, there are many who live with limited or total disability in theirs.

And in contrast to most people, thousands of adults and children suffer mental or emotional disorders which hinder their abilities to learn and apply what is learned and to cope adequately with their families, jobs, and communities.

Then there are those who are affected with combination or multiple handicaps.

NOT JUST THE HANDICAP

For our Nation's 42 million handicapped persons and their families, yesterday, today, and tomorrow are not filled with "everyday" kinds of problems which can be solved or soothed by "everyday" kinds of answers. Their daily challenge is: accepting and working with a disability so that the handicapped person can become as active and useful, as independent, secure, and dignified as his ability will allow.

Too many handicapped persons lead lives of loneliness and despair; too many feel and too many are cut off from our work-oriented society; too many cannot fill empty hours in a satisfying, constructive manner. The leisure most of us crave can and has become a curse to many of our Nation's handicapped.

Often when a handicapped person is able to work full or part time, there are few jobs or inadequate training programs in his locale. Although progress is being made, many employers are hesitant to hire a handicapped person, ignoring statistics that show he is often a better and more dependent worker.

The result is that abilities of a person are overlooked because of disabilities which may bear little or no true relation to the job at hand. The result to the taxpayer may be to support one more person at a cost of as much as \$3,500 per person a year. To the handicapped person himself, it means more dependency.

STATISTICS

Consider these statistics: Only one-third of America's blind and less than half of the paraplegics of working age are employed, while only a handful of about 200,000 persons

with cerebral palsy who are of working age are employed.

Beyond this, far too many handicapped persons and their families bear serious economic problems—despite token Government pensions and income tax deductions for a few, and other financial aids. I recall a portion of a letter received recently from the mother of a cerebral palsy child in a Midwestern urban area: "There are the never-ending surgeries, braces, orthopedic shoes, wheelchairs, walkers, standing tables, bath tables and so on . . . we parents follow up on every hopeful lead in clinics and with specialists; we go up and down paths blindly and always expensively . . . I have talked with four major insurance companies who do not insure or infrequently insure CP children . . . although our daughter is included in her father's group hospitalization plan, many families are not as fortunate. These are just a few of the problems, compounded by the fact we must try to adequately meet the needs of our other "normal" children. In many cases, some kind of financial assistance would enable us and others like us to provide for our children in our homes, avoiding overcrowding of already overcrowded facilities and further adding to the taxpayer's burden costs for complete care."

There are other problems—availability and access of health care personnel and facilities at the time and place the individual with handicaps needs them. In my own largely rural State of Kansas, many handicapped persons travel 300 miles or more to receive the basic health services they require.

Education presents difficulties for many parents of handicapped children. Although a child may be educable, there may be few, if any, opportunities in the community for him to receive an education. Private tutoring, if available, is often too expensive. Sadly to date, the Council for Exceptional Children estimates less than one-third of the Nation's children requiring special education are receiving it.

In rehabilitation, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare said recently 25 percent of America's disabled have not received rehabilitation services and do not know where to seek such help. They estimate that at least 5 million disabled persons may be eligible for assistance.

Other problems the handicapped person faces each day include availability and access of recreation and transportation facilities, architectural barriers in residences and other buildings, and many, many more.

STILL A PROMISING OUTLOOK

We in America are still far from the halfway point of assuring that every handicapped person can become as active and useful as his capacities will allow. The outlook for the handicapped person in 1969, however, is not altogether bleak. Unparalleled achievements in medicine, science, education, technology as well as in public attitudes have cemented a framework in which the handicapped person today has more opportunities available to him than ever before. Consider first what government is doing.

THE GOVERNMENT STORY

The story of what the Federal Government, hand in hand with State governments, is doing to help meet the needs of the handicapped is not one that draws the biggest and boldest headlines. Broadly, the story is a "good" one, consisting of achievements in financial assistance, rehabilitation, research, education, and training of the handicapped—a massive effort to help many disabled Americans live as normal, as full and rich lives as possible.

It is, in part, the story of a man who, at age 21, became a paraplegic after sustaining