

the country, we also honor those nurses who are themselves veterans. They are soldiers of a different, yet equally brave, stripe and they are certainly heroes to the wounded troops they help to bring home. I hope my Senate colleagues will join me in recognizing and thanking America's nurses, military and civilian, for the incredible, indispensable, and courageous work they do.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. I commend the 20,000 registered nurses working in Nebraska as we celebrate National Nurses Week. From May 6–12, we recognize the diverse ways in which registered nurses, the largest health care profession, are working to improve health care. From bedside nursing in hospitals and long-term care facilities to the halls of research institutions, State legislatures, and Congress, the depth and breadth of the nursing profession is meeting the expanding health care needs of American society.

I also urge more Nebraskans to consider nursing as a career. Although nursing is one of the most noble professions, more nurses are desperately needed. The Department of Health and Human Services predicts that the number of nursing vacancies nationwide will rise from its current total of 126,000 to 275,000 in 2010. The shortage of nurses in Nebraska is also reaching epidemic proportions, with one in 10 nursing positions unfilled.

My colleagues and I want to provide more educational opportunities for people who want to become nurses. In response to the national nursing shortage, the Nurse Reinvestment Act of 2002 was signed into law in August 2002. The Nurse Reinvestment Act provides scholarships to nursing students who agree to provide 2 years of service in a health care facility with a critical nursing shortage. It also allows for the canceling of up to 85 percent of a student's graduate studies loans if they later teach at a school of nursing. The act also provides grants to improve nurse education, practice, and retention as well as a program for training and education in geriatric care that will enable nurses to better serve the growing population of older Americans. State and national public service announcements will promote nursing and raise awareness of the financial assistance that is available.

A loan forgiveness program is also available. The Nurse Education Loan Repayment Program will pay 60 percent, or up to \$30,000, of an RN's student loan balance in exchange for 2 years of service. If an eligible participant elects to stay for another year, an additional 25 percent of the loan, or up to \$7500, will be repaid.

Nebraska also has a loan forgiveness program for nursing students. A limited amount of \$1,000 loans are awarded each year. The loan is forgiven if the graduate practices nursing in Nebraska for at least 1 year following graduation.

Again, I commend the work of Nebraska's nurses and send my best wishes during National Nurses Week.

FLORIDA VETERANS MOBILE SERVICE CENTER COMES TO THE HILL

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, I am enormously proud that on Tuesday, the Florida Veterans Mobile Service Center came to Capitol Hill as part of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Annual Membership Meeting and Conference.

The Florida Veterans Mobile Service Center is a 40-foot van equipped with two exam rooms, as well as facilities for dental care. The Center travels the State of Florida providing care to homeless veterans who live in rural encampments. The unit offers homeless veterans immediate assistance of food and clothing, health screening and assessment, VA benefit determination and counseling, as well as assessment of housing, mental health, substance abuse, employment, educational and vocational needs. That the Center is mobile, allows its team—comprised of staff from Volunteers of America and Department of Veterans Affairs—to go where their assistance is most needed.

This community service provider offers homeless veterans a unique way to receive quality care while still ensuring their sense of dignity and respect. I take pride in the fact that my State offers this initiative, effective source of help to our Nation's veterans. We all owe those who risked their lives defending this country a debt of gratitude, and I am so thankful to the Center's hardworking, compassionate team for doing their part in paying that debt.

I especially want to point out the dedication of Scott Martin, who drove more than 900 miles to bring the Florida Veterans Mobile Service Center from Tampa, FL, to Washington, DC. I also would like to thank Kathryn Spearman, president and CEO of Volunteers of America of Florida, Ray Tuller, chief financial officer of Volunteers of America of Florida, and Ed Quill, director of external affairs for Volunteers of America of Florida, all of whom joined Scott here in Washington.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARLENE PERLING

• Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask that the following article recognizing the generosity of Marlene Perling toward Zachary Wood and his family be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Duluth News Tribune, May 8, 2003]
A STRANGER . . . A BOY . . . A GIFT; A WIDOW'S OFFER TO THE FAMILY OF A DISABLED 10-YEAR-OLD FULFILLS HER WISH AND ZACHARY WOOD'S DREAM

(By Chuck Frederick)

INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINN.—Fourth-grader Zachary Wood and his family are still numb, perhaps from pinching themselves so much.

Two weeks ago, Zachary's dad, Terry Wood, was raking the yard when a neighbor dropped by, wondering if the family was interested in a used van with a wheelchair lift. Zachary has spina bifida and has used a wheelchair since he was a toddler. A new van with a lift was definitely in the family's future—perhaps next year, Terry Wood thought, when their current car was paid off.

The neighbor leaned in.
"You really should take a look at this van," he said. "I think you can get a really good deal."

So Terry Wood hoisted Zachary, 10, into the family car as his wife, Tammy, and 15-year-old daughter, Jenna, hopped in. They motored to nearby Rainy Lake. It was a nice van—full-size Ford, motorized lift, low miles and no rust.

"I'm supposed to show you the pontoon boat and house, too," said the Woods' neighbor, a cousin of the home's owner.

"Uh, sure," said the Woods, a bit puzzled. But they decided not to pass up a chance to check out a beautiful lakefront property.

The boat and the house were, like the van, equipped with ramps and sturdy, level surfaces that made it easy for Zachary to get around. He wheeled across wide decks with breathtaking lake vistas. Inside, he rolled under knotty pine ceilings. The house even had an elevator.

"It's fantastic. Thanks for the tour," Terry Wood said. He started to ask about the van and its price, but the neighbor interrupted.

"Now, couldn't you kids just picture yourself living here?" he asked.

"Yeah, right, in our dreams," said Terry Wood, an International Falls police officer for 13 years.

"Maybe if we win the lottery," said Tammy Wood, who works at Rainy Lake Community College.

The both laughed, but sometimes dreams come true.

SUMMERS ON THE LAKE

David Perling was born in International Falls and grew up in Iowa. When he was 15, he and some buddies were goofing around on a wagon, throwing hay at each other. Perling weaved to the side to avoid an attack, but lost his balance and crashed to the ground. The wagon rolled over him twice, paralyzing him.

He went on to become an electrical engineer. Six years ago, he and his wife decided they wanted to spend summers back in his hometown and on Rainy Lake. His late uncle's place was available. It would be perfect for escaping the triple-digit heat in Arizona, where David and Marlene Perling lived for more than three decades.

They lived at Rainy Lake for six straight summers. It was their place. The sun rises over Canada. The loons call.

They planned to return this summer, too. But in January, David Perling suffered a stroke and died. He was 61.

A Rainy Lake neighbor called Marlene Perling in the spring about buying the lakefront place. She didn't know what to say.

"I can never put a price on this house. To me it's just priceless," she said. "But I also know that I could never come up without David. I cried a ton of tears. I knew I just couldn't sell this place."

She prayed for an answer. And then it came to her.

"I decided I wanted to give it to a family who could benefit from it, who could enjoy it as much as David and I enjoyed it those six years," she said. "That's what I decided I wanted to do. It was all a very sudden thing, but it's also the right thing."

Marlene Perling's cousin Dorlyn Desens of International Falls heard of her intentions. He immediately thought of the nice family living across the street. How many times had he seen the father lift the little boy from his wheelchair to place him in the car? How much longer could his back tolerate the strain?

Desens spotted Terry Wood outside raking. He went over to chat.

DREAM BECOMES REAL

At the lake house two weeks ago, Desens put Terry and Tammy Wood on the phone with his cousin.

"How do you like the van?" Marlene Perling asked.

"The rest of the conversation is a blur to me," Terry Wood said Tuesday. He agreed it went something like this:

The Woods: "Very nice. But we're not sure we can buy it right now. We're still paying off our car and we just built a house." Their house in town is 2½ years old.

Perling: "Well then, just take it."

The Woods: "What do you mean? Just take the van?"

Perling: "Take it all. The house. The boat. The van. It's all free. I just want you to enjoy it. Please enjoy it."

"That's when our knees started shaking and Tammy started crying," Terry Wood said. "It's a pretty incredible story, huh? We're still floating."

"I know it's meant to be," Perling said. "God orchestrated this whole thing. He took me step by step. He led me to this family. I asked God to show me a family who could benefit from this. They are all that and more."

ZACHARY CAN'T WAIT

Zachary is most eager to go fishing with his grandfather. The boy has had 29 surgeries since birth. His spinal cord never developed completely. He suffers respiratory problems, and his vocal cords are paralyzed.

His prognosis is good, however; he's expected to lead a full life, his parents said.

But he has never been able to get in a boat with his grandfather until now.

On Monday, Marlene Perling and the Woods gathered in a lawyer's office in International Falls. She signed over the deed. She even decided to leave behind all the leather and woodsy moose-motif furniture. It was too much of a hassle to take back to Arizona, she said; the moving company wanted more than \$7,000.

The Woods plan to move into their new home after school lets out. With the place fully furnished, they plan to keep only their most cherished possessions.

The rest?

"Give it away," Tammy Wood said.●

OREGON HEALTH CARE HERO

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to salute Oregonian Laure Trickel, a coronary care nurse who is saving the lives of Oregon teenagers through her Heart Ready High Schools Program. Because Laure saw an impending health threat in Oregon schools, envisioned a solution and made every effort to implement her plan, she is an Oregon "Health Care Hero."

Over the past few years, Oregonians have seen several cardiac events threaten the lives of Oregon teenagers during school-sponsored sporting events. Tragically, we have lost more than one treasured teen to an unexpected heart attack on the fields and courts of our schools.

Two cardiac events occurred at Ashland High School in Laure Trickel's southern Oregon hometown. As a coronary care nurse, Laure quickly saw that high schools were simply not prepared to deal with these events, where time is of the essence and technology is critical to saving lives. In Laure's own words, "Although a high school could be as prepared as possible for a person with a weapon of violence, it was not at all prepared for the number one killer of Americans: heart disease and sudden cardiac arrest."

In response, Laure created the Heart Ready High Schools Program, asking local hospitals to donate automated external defibrillators, AED, to local high schools. She also asked the hospitals to provide training for staff and students, to ensure that the school would be ready to effectively respond in an emergency should another tragedy occur.

After the first donation by Ashland Community Hospital, several other Oregon hospitals caught Laure's vision and decided to help. I join the parents of students at Ashland, Crater, Eagle Point, Butte Falls, and Prospect high schools in thanking Ashland Community Hospital, Rogue Valley Medical Center, the Children's Miracle Network, Providence, and Medford Medical Center for making these lifesaving devices and training available. Since that time, Merle West Medical Center and the KMSB Foundation have provided similar equipment and skill training to three Klamath Falls high schools, spreading this critical program further across our State.

These are difficult financial times for both schools and hospitals, and I applaud these community hospitals for responding to this great need with their time and limited funds. Many Oregon students will owe their lives to the quick emergency treatment they will receive should a cardiac event occur.

Most of all, I am grateful to Laure Trickel for finding a way to prevent needless death among Oregon students. Making a difference requires vision, great courage, a willingness to ask for help, and following through. Laure has done all these things, and we owe her our great thanks. She is a true "Health Care Hero" for Oregon.●

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVLON RUN/WALK FOR WOMEN IN LOS ANGELES

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the efforts of the more than 60,000 men, women, and children who will be meeting at the

Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum at Exposition Park on Saturday, May 10, 2003, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Revlon Run/Walk and to raise funds for women's cancers. The largest 5K event in the Nation, the Revlon Run/Walk, presented by the Entertainment Industry Foundation, EFT, and cochaired by Ellen Barkin, Ronald O. Perelman and Lilly Tartikoff, will raise funds to target research that will contribute to the development of important new therapies, such as Herceptin to treat breast cancer, the first in the wave of new targeted cancer treatments.

To date, the Revlon Run/Walk in Los Angeles and New York has raised more than \$27 million since its beginning in Los Angeles a decade ago. The Revlon Run/Walk in Los Angeles will be hosted by Debra Messing and Billy Crystal along with Revlon spokespersons Karen Duffy and Jaime King.

The Los Angeles area beneficiaries for 2003 include: The Revlon/UCLA Women's Cancer Research Program, National Women's Cancer Research Alliance (NWCRA), the Wellness Community, WIN Against Breast Cancer, USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and Hospital Ovarian & Breast Cancer Program, the UCLA Digital Mammography Program, T.H.E., The Help Everyone, Clinic, Inc., Los Angeles Breast Cancer Alliance, John Wayne Cancer Institute, Breast Cancer Research Program, Women of Color Breast Cancer Survivors Support Program, Team Survivor Los Angeles, Providence Saint Joseph Foundation, Art of Healing—Women's Health, Gilda Radner Ovarian and Breast Cancer Detection Program at Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Asian Pacific Health Care Venture, Inc. (ACPHCV), and weSpark.

Today, 1 in 27 American women will die of breast cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, every 2.5 minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer, every 13 minutes a woman dies of breast cancer, and this year alone 54,100 women will lose their lives to breast and ovarian cancer. For a woman with ovarian cancer today, there is still no method of early detection.

In my home State of California, the American Cancer Society is predicting this year that more than 26,300 women will be diagnosed with breast and other women cancers and more than 5,500 grandmothers, mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, cousins, and friends will die.

The facts serve as a reminder that there is still so much to be done. Mammograms are a proven method of early detection. Unfortunately a large portion of women are not getting screened.

The continuing fight requires many levels of commitment and I want to congratulate all those individuals involved in this worthwhile event as they celebrate both Mother's Day and the 10-year anniversary of the Revlon Run/Walk. The thousands running in Los