

career. Private McDavid's service and bravery was recognized with the award of a European-African Theatre Ribbon with four Bronze Battle Stars, a Bronze Star Medal, and a Purple Heart.

Arles's father, Eugene Greene, began his career with the U.S. Army in July 1944. The oldest of 12 children, he enlisted at 18 years old with the Hancock County Draft Board. He served with the U.S. Army infantry, 2nd Division, 9th Regiment that assisted in the liberation of Nazi concentration camps in the spring of 1945. Greene and his unit liberated the death camps at Dachau. He remembers finding only 25 people alive at the sub-camp where he shot a lock off a prison gate setting them free. Those prisoners rushed to drink the milk of Holstein cattle pastured nearby.

Eugene met General Patton shortly before his death. He says of Patton, "He was over there to get a job done, and that's what he did." Eugene Greene returned with many memories of the war. Most of these he buried in the fields of his Tennessee farm, but some lived on—the faith he had in his fellow soldiers, in his family, and in God.

I have had a lot to say about the importance of teaching American history and civics to help our children grow up understanding what it means to be an American. The teacher in me thinks of this tribute as an assignment. I hope when we gather around our holiday tables this season we pause to take stock, like Arles did, to answer what our own families have contributed to America's history and to answering the question of what it means to be an American.

Thank you for allowing me to honor my friend Arles Greene and his family.

TRIBUTE TO MS. GLORIA MARTIN

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I honor Ms. Gloria Martin, a legal assistant to the Battalion Commander, 1st Battalion, 210th Aviation Regiment, Fort Rucker, AL. Ms. Martin was hired at Fort Rucker in January of 1980. She has 24 years of exemplary and dedicated service to the United States Army and Fort Rucker.

This morning, the Army will honor Ms. Martin with the Army Outstanding Employee of the Year with a Disability Award. Later today, Ms. Martin will be honored by the Department of Defense as the Army's recipient of the DoD Outstanding Disabled Employee of the Year Award. Ms. Martin will also be honored with the Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

Ms. Martin was born on August 13, 1955, to Paul and Mallie Martin in Opp, AL. Ms. Martin has five brothers and sisters, including her twin sister Gladys. While Gladys was born healthy, Gloria suffered from serious abnormalities that she has battled her entire life. The debilitating effects of scoliosis, neurofibromatosis and osteoporosis required a series of major back surgeries, the first when Gloria was 5 years old

making her childhood very difficult. Through all the surgeries and many months of recovery and therapy, Gloria showed great courage and strength by working extremely hard to complete her school work to remain with her peers. She completed elementary school on time, and she also completed high school on time. She went on to complete a business course as a member of the Dean's List at Douglas MacArthur Technical College and worked two jobs before being hired at Fort Rucker.

Gloria faced another major back surgery in 1992 and, despite complications that required a prolonged absence, she returned to her job at Fort Rucker with the same fierce determination and strength of will that had made her such a popular and respected colleague with so many of her fellow employees. A back injury in 2000 that left her with a compression fracture in her middle back did not deter Gloria from continuing to perform her duties from home as best she could. But Gloria returned to work at Fort Rucker with the help of a walker and cane even though she was in constant, often severe, pain.

Gloria Martin's tenacious and courageous service to the Army and Fort Rucker is being very rightly rewarded. She has a wonderfully supportive family, and she also loves her church, the First Assembly of God in Kinston, AL. She has held many leadership positions in her church and participates in community service activities. In a recent Army Flier article, Ms. Martin put her experience in perspective when she said, "I think it's made me a stronger person because I grew up going to the Hospital and to doctor appointments a lot. I feel like it has strengthened my faith because when you have a disability, you have to depend more on God. My faith gives me confidence in my abilities. It gives me the strength to get up in the morning. I know that my faith in God and His care has enabled me to keep working."

Gloria Martin is a very special lady, and I am very proud to join the Army and Department of Defense in honoring her tremendous accomplishments and extraordinary service to our military. She is a role model for us all. She is an example for so many others with disabilities and a true testament to what faith and personal courage can accomplish. She has touched many lives, and I thank her today for her service.

KEITH KIDD

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, over the Thanksgiving weekend, I received a letter from a State Department employee from Dallas, Keith Kidd, who left his previous job to serve in Afghanistan in 2003 and then in Iraq early this year. As a representative from the U.S. Embassy to Iraq, he worked with military and civilian leaders from the Western Al Anbar Province. I want to share his Thanksgiving

message to his friends and family because he represents the best of America and his letter reflects the positive spirit that is so representative of our country. He has volunteered for the mission to stabilize Iraq and help the Iraqi people have the freedom and democracy that every human being deserves. I hope this letter makes every American proud of the thousands of U.S. men and women, both military and civilian, serving bravely overseas during the holidays.

His letter reads as follows:

Greetings from Ramadi.

As Thanksgiving draws near, I found it fitting to tally my blessings. As it turns out, I have oodles of them.

I'm thankful that I'm alive. All of the attempts on my life have failed. I realize I'm wrecking some poor terrorist's batting average, but that's just tough. I'm thankful for the guys on my Personal Security Detail who help ensure those attempts keep failing. I'm thankful for my health. The dust storms are bad for my eyes, nose, throat and lungs so I cry, sneeze and cough but it could be much worse. Much worse.

I'm thankful for the Dining Facility. The grub is not all that good but it sure beats MREs. The food is usually warm. Sometimes it's even hot. We often go weeks without fresh vegetables, but we enjoy them when we have them. I'm thankful for Coke. I'm not a coffee consumer so that crimson-colored can of carbonated cola contains the caffeine I crave when I work to the wee hours all week.

I'm thankful for the military postal system. It eventually delivers the dusty, bashed, mangled boxes that contain the vital vittles, the essential sundries and the other simple pleasures of home that folks have sent my way.

I'm thankful for fall. It has been over a month since the mercury was measured in triple digits. I'm thankful for cool evenings. I'm thankful for full moons, bright stars and desert sunsets. I'm thankful that I get to see that big orange orb drop below the horizon every day. The only thing worse than having a bad day is not making it to the end.

I'm thankful for the shipping container that acts as my desert abode. It's modest but it's higher class than the plywood box I called home in Afghanistan. I'm thankful for showers. Standing under a gentle cascade of water with a bar of soap in hand is far superior to baby-wipe style bathing.

I'm thankful for electricity. It powers the window unit air conditioner that keeps me from melting and the computer that makes it possible for me to communicate with you. Sometimes we don't have any of these things but it's nice when we do.

I'm thankful for armored cars. They have saved my life more than once. I'm thankful for ballistic vests. They protect me from flying projectiles when I'm in town. I'm thankful for sandbags. They protect me from flying projectiles when I'm at home. I'm thankful for Mylar. It's a plastic coating on my windows that prevents the glass from shattering into thousands of pieces when flying projectiles break through it. I'm thankful for dumb luck. I suspect it has saved my life more times than I will ever know. I'm thankful I was not in my tin home when the rocket exploded over it and blew a 3" x 5" hole in the roof right over my desk and chair where I would ordinarily have been sitting. (No sandbags or Mylar on the roof—a deficiency we have oft noted.) I'm thankful for Mother Nature's sense of humor. I had not seen rain in six months but it rained that night.

I'm thankful for the soldiers and marines who fight our enemies on the ground and I'm

thankful for the airmen and the sailors who fight them from the sky and sea. I'm thankful there are people who would give their lives so that others can live in freedom.

I'm thankful for you. It is wonderful to have friends and family back home who care for me and pray for me.

I'm thankful for God above. I am here by His design and I will only come home by his grace.

All in all, not bad. Not bad at all.

TRIBUTE TO CAROL SALISBURY

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, on this occasion I pay tribute to a dear friend and employee, Carol Salisbury. Carol joined my office in January of 1991, when I was first elected to Congress from the Fourth Congressional District. One of my original staffers, Carol has served my office and the people of Colorado for 14 years, and she has done so with grace and conviction. She will be leaving my office in January 2005.

Carol began her career working out of my Fort Collins congressional office, and later, the Senate offices in Greeley and Loveland. As area director, she managed the office and provided dedicated service on a variety of issues, including housing and healthcare. Carol was instrumental in establishing the Fall River Visitor Center at Rocky Mountain National Park, the acquisition of Cherokee Park by the Forest Service, and many other smaller objects that have greatly benefitted our public lands and will lead to greater enjoyment by the public. She was passionate about historic preservation and worked tirelessly on behalf of many worthwhile interests, including the historic Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad in Southern California. Her presence on Team Allard will be missed and I know the Northern Colorado community will miss her as well. Carol was a hard working and earnest friend and employee.

My wife, Joan, joins me in thanking her for dedication and loyalty. We both wish her and her husband Jack the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MARTI MORGAN

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I express my appreciation and gratitude to Marti Morgan for her dedicated service and contributions to my office and to the people of Colorado. Marti will be leaving my office on January 5, 2005. As the 108th Congress concludes, a career that began during the 102d Congress comes to a successful and resounding conclusion.

Marti began working in my office nearly 13 years ago, in January 1992. Working out of my northern Colorado office, located first in Fort Collins and Greeley and then in Loveland, Marti has been an excellent employee and a true constituent representative. Her work and expertise in the areas of natural resources, water, and endangered species, among others, will be truly missed. Through her tireless work, she has helped me protect and improve na-

tional treasures like the Rocky Mountain National Park. Having served as my academy nominations coordinator, Marti has assisted thousands of Colorado's best and brightest youth in their aspirations to become the future leaders of our military and our nation.

My wife, Joan, joins me in expressing our thanks for Marti's many years of hard work, and in wishing her the best for whatever venture she may pursue in the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NEW JERSEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute and to recognize a New Jersey organization celebrating its tenth anniversary, the New Jersey Community Development Corporation, NJCDC. I wish to take a moment now to honor NJCDC for the important work it is doing in the State of New Jersey and the accomplishments it has achieved over the past decade.

The work of the NJCDC has helped make the dreams of New Jersey residents become a reality for over a decade now. The NJCDC provides hope for a rewarding future through urban revitalization efforts, financial support, education initiatives, and the creation of jobs. The work done by NJCDC has directly transformed the lives of many, especially in the city of Paterson, where I was born.

In honor of the accomplishments of this organization, I ask that a proclamation honoring the tenth anniversary of the NJCDC be printed in the RECORD.

The proclamation follows.

Whereas, the New Jersey Community Development Corporation is a non-profit community development and social service agency based in the City of Paterson, New Jersey; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Community Development Corporation and its dedicated staff empowers individuals to transform their lives and offers a variety of programs and services to assist economically disadvantaged individuals, at-risk youth, and people with disabilities; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Community Development Corporation helps create jobs, support affordable housing, generate educational initiatives, and support men, women, and children of the community; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Community Development Corporation has contributed to the revitalization of the City of Paterson and the Great Falls Historic District, helping to ensure a vibrant future for the City and its residents; and

Whereas, now as the New Jersey Community Development Corporation prepares to celebrate its 10th Anniversary, we congratulate the staff and volunteers on this milestone.

Therefore, in presenting this citation to the New Jersey Community Development Corporation, I, Frank R. Lautenberg, United States Senator, State of New Jersey, on behalf of the People of the State of New Jersey hereby congratulate the New Jersey Community Development Corporation on its contributions to the community, the City of Paterson, and the State of New Jersey. •

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARIE PRINGLE

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mrs. Marie Pringle who is retiring this month from the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA. Mrs. Pringle's retirement is well deserved after serving more than 30 years for the Federal Government, including over 20 years in the VA's Office of Budget. Mrs. Pringle epitomizes the best of public service in terms of her dedication, commitment, hard work, and professionalism.

Mrs. Pringle began her Federal service in 1972 with the Department of Army as a clerk typist. She then moved on to the Department of Energy in 1978 to work as a budget analyst. After a 2-year period in the private sector, Mrs. Pringle returned to the Federal Government working for the VA's Office of Budget. At the VA, Mrs. Pringle worked diligently in analyzing the budgetary activities of the Department whose budget has grown to some \$68 billion.

As chairman of the VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, my staff and I have found Mrs. Pringle to be an invaluable resource for reliable and timely data that was critical in helping me make decisions impacting the millions of veterans who depend on the VA. Further, Mrs. Pringle provided my subcommittee with technical expertise that helped us develop our appropriations bills.

Mrs. Pringle's departure is a great loss to the Department and my subcommittee and she will be missed. I commend Mrs. Pringle for her outstanding public service to the American Taxpayer and the millions of our veterans. I wish Mrs. Pringle and her husband Darian all the best. •

HARRISON LIM

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize Harrison Lim, the founder and executive director of Charity Cultural Services, who is retiring after 21 years of dedicated service to the community.

Mr. Lim emigrated from China to San Francisco over 30 years ago. Upon his arrival in America, he struggled with the difficulties of learning a new language and assimilating into a new culture. As he worked hard to establish himself in his new country, Mr. Lim noticed that there were other immigrants who faced similar situations. Seeing the struggles of immigrants, Mr. Lim dedicated his life to making sure that new immigrants had resources available to them to ease the transition of immigration.

To achieve this goal, Mr. Lim founded and established Charity Cultural Services Center, CCSC, in 1983. Located in the heart of San Francisco's Chinatown, CCSC aimed to provide essential services to new Asian American immigrants and their families. Today, CCSC successfully assists over 4,000 people