

to fine Microsoft for purported anti-competitive conduct and injuries in the United States, the European Commission is directly challenging the adequacy of the United States' own antitrust laws, including the settlement that Microsoft and U.S. authorities reached in the U.S. proceedings. In fact, the obligations proposed to be imposed on Microsoft by the Commission are precisely the type that the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Department of Justice rejected as undermining consumer welfare.

It is incumbent on the Departments of State and Justice to stand up not only for an important American company but more importantly for legitimate U.S. jurisdiction over alleged anticompetitive behavior in the United States. The U.S. and the EU are signatories to a 1991 comity agreement on antitrust issues which requires that one government defer to the other if the principal issues being investigated involve companies of one of the parties. Here, the EU is investigating a U.S. company based on complaints from other U.S. companies. If the U.S. Government does not make a clear and strong statement objecting to the EU's extraterritorial approach, we will lose influence and credibility for years to come to the detriment of all U.S. industry, as well as to U.S. consumers.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF VETERANS UPWARD BOUND

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to take this opportunity to commend the Veterans Upward Bound Program and all those associated with it on its 25th anniversary.

Hundreds of students at the University of Massachusetts have benefited from the program and gone on to earn bachelors, masters, and doctorate degrees. These veterans are using the same enthusiasm and drive that made them exemplary members of our Armed Forces, and are now vital forces for positive change in their communities.

For many years, the TRIO programs have been available to help more young men and women in our society to understand that college is within their reach. The Veterans Upward Bound Program does the same for veterans. It provides a bridge to help those who have served our country so well make the transition into college. Veterans learn how to use the benefits available from the Veterans Administration and from veterans' associations and State and local veterans programs to obtain the information and skills they need to qualify for college. Every year, nearly 5,000 veterans are served by this impressive program and go on to college.

Many of us share a strong commitment to the belief that each of us can make a difference in improving the world around us, and all of us must try.

Enabling veterans to continue their education is in the best tradition of our country.

These are very difficult days in our history. As our service men and women return to civilian life, education can often have an essential and prominent role in their futures, and in the Nation's future too. Veterans Upward Bound programs are an important part of a nationwide grassroots effort to enable our veterans to improve their own lives and continue to keep our Nation strong in many different ways.

The talented professionals who carry out these programs so well deserve our gratitude. On this special anniversary, I commend them for all they do so well to make college a reality for our veterans.●

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII WAHINE SOCCER PLAYER NATASHA KAI

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, It is with great pride that I rise to recognize Natasha Kai of Kahuku, HI, for her extraordinary athletic achievements. As a forward for the University of Hawaii Rainbow Wahine soccer team, Natasha was recently named to the 2004 Women's Under 21 National Soccer team. This achievement marks the first time any female athlete from the State of Hawaii has acquired a position on this prestigious, nationally recognized team. After attending two training camps within the last month, Natasha competed amongst 40 of the country's top female athletes to earn a coveted spot on the national team.

The national team is currently in China and competing in a tournament with the hopes of making it to the 2004 Nordic Cup, the premier tournament to be held in Iceland later this summer. A few days ago, the national team secured its first exhibition match win triumphing over the Shanghai SVA team. Natasha made her international debut during that match and scored the first goal within the first three minutes of play. The national team is off to a successful start and has two more exhibition matches before they return home.

I am doubly proud that Natasha hails from Kahuku High School, which is one of the schools where I first entered the classroom as a teacher. As a multi-talented athlete at Kahuku, Natasha received four varsity letters each in soccer and track, as well as two in volleyball, and one each in basketball and cross country. Natasha was a two-time Oahu Interscholastic Association (OIA) All-Star soccer player, as well as a 2001 All-State player of the year. During her senior season, she led the Red Raider soccer team to a OIA division title win, a first for the school. Natasha earned State track and field honors in the 110 meter hurdles, high jump, and long jump, and was the two-time record holder and State champion in the 300 meter hurdles. In 2001, as a volleyball player she was voted to the OIA-East first team. Basketball accom-

plishments include being named to the OIA First-team and State Second-team that same year. In addition to her success on the field, Natasha also excelled in the classroom and was an honor student. As one of the most highly recruited female athletes in the State, Natasha decided to stay and pursue her athletic endeavors at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

As a forward on the soccer field, Natasha is known for her explosive speed and skill when evading defenders and scoring goals. During her freshman year with the UH Wahine Rainbow soccer team, she started 16 of the 17 games she appeared in and broke eight school records. Natasha was named the 2002 Western Athletic Conference (WAC) freshman of the year and WAC player of the year, and captured all-WAC first team honors. As a 2002 UH Scholar athlete, she was also selected for the Soccer Buzz freshman All-West region first team and All-American third team. The freshman scored two hat tricks against Tulsa and Boise State during conference play and was named WAC Offensive Player of the Week three times. Last season as a sophomore, Natasha led the Nation in scoring with 29 goals and again received her second WAC player of the year and All-American honors. With the help of this skilled athlete, UH won a record 13 matches and secured its first conference title in 2003.

The athletic accolades of Natasha speak volumes of her character, love of the sport of soccer, and dedication to the game. I am confident that all the people of Hawaii, particularly her family and friends, take great pride in her great accomplishments. I wish Natasha and her teammates the best of luck while competing in the tournament and a safe journey home. Win or lose, I extend the support of the country and especially the support of all Hawaii. I thank Natasha for serving as a role model and for reminding us all that through hard work and determination, even what seems like a distant dream can be realized.●

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK.

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

In 1981, a 9-1-1 public safety dispatcher from the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, in my home State of California, first had the idea to designate one week each year to honor the work of public safety telecommunicators. In 1991, Congress issued a formal proclamation acknowledging National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. In 1994, National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week became a permanent, federally designated week, observed annually during the second week of April.

I commend our Nation's public safety telecommunicators, usually the first and most critical contact our Nation's

citizens have when they need emergency services. Over 500,000 9-1-1 calls are made every day across the country. Telecommunicators provide the best emergency assistance they can to each of the callers. People depend on the skill, expertise and commitment of telecommunicators who help save lives by responding to emergency calls, dispatching emergency professionals and equipment and providing support to citizens in distress. Telecommunicators also serve as the vital link for our police officers, sheriffs and firefighters by providing them with information and insuring their safety.

Public safety telecommunicators have a tremendous responsibility to remain calm while handling stressful situations. Amid panic and fear from a caller, public safety telecommunicators obtain the necessary information, make critical decisions and quickly dispatch the assistance that saves lives and property. Although they may be anonymous to callers, each of these men and women deserve praise and recognition for their hard work, not only during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week but every day.

I am proud of the heroic work of public safety telecommunicators, and I offer my sincerest thanks for their compassion and professionalism.●

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN M. RICH, M.D.

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Dr. Norman M. Rich, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery, F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences—USUHS. This week, on March 26, 2004, Dr. Rich will mark the end of his 44-year career in Federal service.

Dr. Rich's Federal career began in the U.S. Army where he served for 20 years as a career officer and physician from 1960 through 1980. As a military surgeon with academic interests in the management of injured patients and vascular surgery, he earned international recognition; his military awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Award and Vietnam Medals.

Dr. Rich was appointed as the Founding Chairman of the USUHS School of Medicine's Department of Surgery in August of 1977 and held that position until October of 2002. For the past 16 months, he has continued to serve as an advisor and mentor to the Acting Department Chairman.

As Founding Chairman, Dr. Rich was faced with the difficult task of establishing a Department of Surgery at a university where the campus had not yet been constructed. From the outset, Dr. Rich and his considerable reputation gave credibility to the newly established Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and enabled the recruitment of a competent faculty for its new Department of Surgery. He

utilized his collaborative relationships, both nationally and internationally, to strengthen his department's curricula and lectures and thereby provided a military and academically unique environment for the over 3,400 USUHS medical school graduates and thousands more future uniformed medical students.

Dr. Rich can take pride in having developed an academically sound curriculum, recruiting competent faculty with military unique expertise, meeting the initial and on-going accreditation requirements for the School of Medicine, and creating a sound national and global reputation for the university. His efforts have aided the School of Medicine in attaining full accreditation and he has helped shape USUHS graduates into what the Secretary of Defense has dubbed "the backbone of the Military Health System." Indeed, his efforts are reflected in the continued success of USUHS and its graduates and in the continued health of the millions of uniformed personnel and their families who have benefited from his extraordinary expertise.

During the course of his career, Dr. Rich has published over 300 manuscripts and authored or co-authored five books. Among these is the internationally recognized "Vascular Trauma." He has served on 10 editorial boards, including the major peer-reviewed journals focusing upon his specialty. His recent awards include: the 2003 National Safety Council Surgeons' Award for Distinguished Service in Safety presented by the American College of Surgeons, the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, and the National Safety Council; recognition as a Citizen & Apothecary of London in 2001; and, the J.E. Wallace Sterling Lifetime Alumni Achievement Award from the Stanford Medical Alumni Association.

Our Nation can be proud of Dr. Rich's long and distinguished career of service and I am pleased to join with his family, friends and colleagues in expressing appreciation for the significant contributions he has made to the health of the uniformed services and that of all citizens. I certainly wish him continued success and happiness in the years to come.●

SIEGLINDE KURZ

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I would like to commend Mrs. Sieglinde Kurz on her outstanding career as a public servant. Mrs. Kurz received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Fontbonne College, in St. Louis, MO in 1961 and her Masters Degree in Health Care Management from Northwestern University, in Evanston, IL in 1976.

I have worked with Mrs. Kurz on numerous occasions and I have always been impressed by her consummate professionalism. Her selfless attitude and intense work ethic have consistently led her to do great things within the field of veterans' health care.

Mrs. Kurz began her career with the Department of Veterans Affairs in November 1965 as a research chemist in renal hypertension research at the St. Louis VA Medical Center.

During her illustrious government career, Mrs. Kurz was the administrative assistant to the Associate Director in Hines, IL; Associate Director of the VA Medical Center in Tomah, WI; Associate Deputy Regional Director for the Northeastern Region in Albany, NY; Associate Director of the VA Medical Center in Marion, IL; Director of Construction Project Coordination and Budget at VA Headquarters in Washington, DC; and Director of the VA Medical Center in Marion, IL. She left the Marion VA Medical Center to accept the position of Director at the St. Louis VA Medical Center.

Mrs. Kurz served as the Director of the St. Louis VA for 5 years and 8 months, a term spanning from May 1998 thru January 2004. The St. Louis VA is one of the largest and most complex facilities in the nation and it has steadily improved under her guidance.

Mrs. Kurz provided leadership for this dual division hospital by facilitating care for more than 36,000 veterans annually. The primary service area of metropolitan St. Louis includes 9 counties in Missouri and 14 counties in West Central Illinois. During her tenure in St. Louis she led a care team of 1900 full time employee equivalents.

Mrs. Kurz's stellar career includes a number of achievements.

As a leader in the field of health care management she served as a mentor for executive career field director trainees and VHA Health Care management trainees. She also achieved the status of diplomat in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Mrs. Kurz was listed as one of the top female directors in the Missouri Hospital Association Newsletter, Summer 2003 Edition, and in Who's Who Among Top Executives in 1998-1999. In 1999, during her tenure as Director of the St. Louis VA Medical Center, she was recognized with the Vice-Presidential "Hammer and Scissors" award for her efforts in piloting the first Department of Veterans Affairs Canteen Integration.

During her time at the St. Louis VA, Mrs. Kurz worked tirelessly to improve veterans' access to care and she opened three new health clinics. She also supported her employees by providing educational opportunities for mid-level managers through programs such as mini-MBA. She promoted an open policy that allowed staff at all levels to communicate through employee and supervisory forums.

After 37 years of government service, Mrs. Kurz retired on January 31, 2004, having devoted countless hours to the welfare of American Veterans. On behalf of all veterans in the St. Louis area, I would like to thank her for her tireless efforts and wish her well in her retirement.●