

the forces of the south, most prominently the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement. But some of the elements of the Darfur crisis are, unfortunately, quite familiar. We have seen obstacles thrown up to humanitarian access, we have seen the near-total abdication of responsibility for the basic security and well-being of Sudanese civilians, and we see government-backed militias employed to keep some of the dirtiest of the dirty working at some token distance from officials.

On December 16, 2003, the State Department issued a statement expressing "deep concern" about the humanitarian and security situation in Darfur. The statement indicated that:

the United States calls on the Government of Sudan to take concrete steps to control the militia groups it has armed, to avoid attacks against civilians and to fully facilitate the efforts of the international humanitarian community to respond to civilian needs.

But it then contained this final sentence:

The fighting in Darfur is not linked to the ongoing peace talks between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Kenya.

I am among many observers who fear that this sentence was interpreted in Khartoum as a signal that the disincentives articulated by the U.S. in the context of the peace talks will not be applied because of abuses in Darfur.

I urge the administration to insist that the Civilian Protection Monitoring Team be permitted to investigate alleged attacks on civilians throughout the country, including attacks in Darfur. The Government of Sudan should have no formal or informal veto power over this team's investigations. The team was established as a confidence-building measure, and it was agreed to by all parties. But to suggest that the Government of Sudan should be able to pick and choose areas in which the team is permitted to conduct its inquiries undermines confidence.

I do respect the fact that delicate diplomacy is ongoing, and I want to be able to celebrate a lasting end to Sudan's north-south civil war as much as any Member of this body. But none of that changes the fact that what is happening in Darfur is inexcusable, it is undermining the Naivasha peace process, and it is casting a pall over the future of Sudan at a time when light had finally begun to shine on that long-suffering country. It is time to stop expressing quiet concern, and to start treating this crisis with the urgency it deserves.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in conjunction with the March celebration of Women's History Month, I rise today to salute a number of women who have dedicated themselves to the fight against global AIDS and HIV.

This year the theme of Women's History Month is "Women Inspiring Hope

and Possibility." It may seem that phrase is too broad—and a month is too short—to fully recognize or appreciate the many and varied accomplishments of women throughout the years. From the medical professional who administers compassion along with her care, to the educator who inspires her pupils and allows them to achieve, to the mother who installs in her children feelings of worth and value, women foster hope and opportunity in their everyday actions.

While traditionally this month is used to commemorate women from the past, it seems fitting that we take some time to look at modern-day heroines. Today, the women we honor are busy ensuring that HIV/AIDS will soon be relegated to a chapter in history—a terrible and sorrowful chapter but history nonetheless.

There are 42 million people throughout the world living with HIV/AIDS. We saw more than 3 million AIDS-related deaths in 2003. Each year, AIDS deaths claim more than the entire population of Chicago. Life expectancy has dropped below 40 years of age in 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. AIDS has already erased 15 years of progress in the worse affected countries. Despite our efforts to date, this epidemic continues its deadly spread across the globe.

More than 30 million HIV/AIDS sufferers are located in sub-Saharan Africa or Southeast Asia, where more than 60 percent of those infected are women. At especially high risk are teenage girls, who frequently marry older men at a very young age, and have little control over their destiny. This, in turn, puts the next generation of children in a position of susceptibility, as each year about 120,000 HIV-positive women become pregnant.

As Americans, it is sometimes hard to see that the AIDS epidemic is not just across the ocean, it is in every part of this world. It is in our own backyard and poses a threat from every direction. Once a person has seen its devastation face to face, he or she will never be the same.

Three years ago, I went to Africa and saw it myself. I saw it in Uganda, where I sat on a porch with mothers who were HIV-positive. They were gathering scrapbooks, photos, notes, and little memorabilia of their lives to leave to their children who were in the yard playing, children who had been orphaned already, or who, having lost one parent, were about to lose their second parent.

I saw it as I traveled through Botswana and South Africa. A senior governmental official confided to me that whenever she travels from her busy capital to her home district, she loads up a large van with coffins and tents, and spends her time helping her constituents, one after another, bury their loved ones and grieve for their dead. She attends funerals, not parades. She gives away coffins, not bumper stickers. There are the politics of Africa in the era of AIDS.

Most recently, as I traveled to India and Bangladesh, I witnessed the plight of the rural, female AIDS sufferer, and I saw those who were working to help her. I firmly believe that the future of India lies in the hands of its women.

When you meet the victims of AIDS, when you see their courage, and see what little it takes to fight this AIDS epidemic successfully, as they have in Uganda and a few other countries, you realize that our leadership and our commitment at this moment in history can make such a difference.

Two women, Dr. Helene Gayle and Dr. Amy Pollack, head organizations dedicated to providing that leadership and to preventing the spread of the disease through multifaceted intervention and family planning.

Dr. Gayle, who cochairs the Global HIV Prevention Working Group for the Gates Foundation, previously worked for the Centers for Disease Control, CDC. There, she initiated HIV-prevention programs built around U.S. communities, as well as the CDC's global AIDS initiative. It is her belief that a comprehensive approach that includes prevention services, such as STD treatment, behavioral risk reduction, and voluntary HIV testing, along with HIV treatment and care for affected populations, is the cornerstone of stemming the AIDS pandemic. Wielding the influence of the Gates Foundation name and funding, she is in a unique position to ensure implementation of these methods, and she has done so with great success.

Dr. Pollack's EngenderHealth organization was a 2002 United Nations Population Award laureate. Through her trips to Africa, Dr. Pollack, has borne witness to EngenderHealth's unique family planning initiatives, concentrating on the gap between the desire for contraception and access to it. With a goal of reducing the number of HIV-infected children and orphans, EngenderHealth assists clinics to close this gap.

I salute the vision of Dr. Gayle and Dr. Pollack and commend them for their dedication and perseverance.

As Americans become more aware of the pandemic proportions of this disease, especially in Africa and South Asia, increasing numbers of women are working for AIDS awareness, treatment and prevention.

Sixteen years ago, three American women whose lives had been touched by this horrific disease sat around a kitchen table in Santa Monica, CA. Recognizing that there was a huge gap in understanding how infected children were affected by HIV/AIDS, they cofounded an organization to fund research for pediatric AIDS.

Today, that organization, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, is the premier not-for-profit in its field. Although Elizabeth Glaser, who cofounded the organization with Susan DeLaurentis and Susie Zeegan, passed away in 1994, her dream—and her name—live on through the foundation.

Today we honor the legacy of Elizabeth Glaser and the work of these three women.

I said at the outset of these remarks that it is traditional to honor the great historical contributions of women in connection with Women's History Month. The thousands of women working to find a cure, to help those who are suffering, or to cope with this disease in their own lives are surely making a lasting and positive impact on the history of the world.

Mr. President, today I have paid tribute to just a few of these women. My only regret is that I cannot give much deserved thanks and recognition to all the women who have dealt with, or are dealing with, HIV/AIDS in their own lives, in their communities and around the world. In celebrating Women's History Month, we say to them: Thank you. Thank you for your commitment, your compassion, and your courage. Thank you for leading us into a better future.

MICHAEL A. HUGHES

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today, I express my gratitude to a member of my staff, Michael A. Hughes, who will be returning to his regular job as a senior inspector in the U.S. Marshals Service after tomorrow. Mike has worked in my office for the past 15 months as a legislative fellow, and my staff and I have been extremely fortunate to have Mike's help. We will miss him.

Mike is a New Jersey native who was born in Jersey City. He graduated from Montclair University with a degree in political science and criminal justice in 1990. After college, he joined the U.S. Marshals Service—America's oldest federal law enforcement agency—as a deputy marshal and quickly distinguished himself as an outstanding law enforcement official. For instance, Mike was tasked with the responsibility of accompanying crime boss John Gotti to and from his 1992 trial, and then escorting Gotti to the maximum security facility for federal prisoners in Marion, Illinois, after his conviction and sentencing. Mike was also responsible for protecting high-ranking foreign dignitaries who visited the United Nations headquarters in Manhattan.

Mike conducted several criminal and civil investigations and soon became an inspector in the U.S. Marshals Service's Witness Security Program. Later, he became a senior inspector. Never in the 30-year history of the Witness Security Program has a cooperative participant or his or her family been discovered or harmed. We can attribute much of that recent success to Mike's dedication and professionalism.

It has been helpful to me over the past 15 months to have someone with Mike's extensive personal knowledge of guns and law enforcement issues. Since Mike has been a member of my staff, he has worked on S. 1805, the gun im-

munity bill; S. 1431, my bill to extend the assault weapons ban, and other 2nd Amendment issues. He has also made significant contributions on a number of criminal justice and homeland security matters. Mike is committed to promoting public policies that, if we were to adopt them, would make our country demonstrably safer.

On many occasions, I have remarked that when I moved to the public sector after 30 years in the private sector, I was struck by the dedication, professionalism, and competence of federal employees. I am tired of hearing public sector employees belittled and denigrated in some quarters. I have been impressed by the public servants I have met over the years, and Mike is no exception. He has performed his difficult—and often dangerous—duties with distinction. I think Mike is an outstanding role model for young adults interested in working in our government.

Mr. President, as I thank Mike for his tremendous service and wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank John "Jay" McNulty, who serves as chief of the Marshals Service's Office of Congressional Affairs. Jay made it possible for Mike to come and work for me, and I am grateful for that. I have been fortunate to have Mike on my staff; the Nation is fortunate to have him in the U.S. Marshals Service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ORGAN DONATION

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I take a moment to recognize the International Association for Organ Donation, IAOD. The IAOD strives to increase awareness of organ donation and transplantation, as well as bone marrow and tissue donation. This organization provides educational and outreach programs to the general public, with a focus on racial and ethnic minorities.

Each April, the International Association for Organ Donation celebrates National Donate Life Month. This year is especially important as it marks the 50th anniversary of the first successful liver transplant. In honor of this monumental occasion, the IAOD is sponsoring "50 Years of Sharing Life" to publicize the plight of those in need of an organ transplant.

Today in America, 83,000 patients are currently awaiting an organ transplant. Although there are 68 successful organ transplants each day, an additional 100 patients are added to the waiting list and sadly, 18 people die each day as they wait for this life-saving procedure. Tissue donations, such as bone marrow, are also in short supply. Nearly 3,000 people are searching the National Marrow Donor Program Registry at any one time and an addi-

tional 3,000 patients are added to the registry each month.

There is something we all can do to reduce these staggering statistics. Great strides could be made if the estimated 10,000 to 14,000 eligible Americans who die each year pledge to become organ donors. The IAOD is a driving force in sharing the message that life is a gift to share.

It is with great pleasure that I offer my sincerest appreciation and support to the International Association for Organ Donation as it celebrates the 50th anniversary of the first successful liver transplant. I give my thanks to the organization, its staff, and its partners as they work to fulfill their lifesaving mission.●

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER AND FLOM DELAWARE

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom Delaware. This organization is celebrating a quarter century of nationally renowned expertise in corporate mergers and acquisitions here in the First State. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom has built a reputation for providing integral service throughout the Nation and in Delaware. If this organization's first quarter century is any indication of what it will offer in the future, we have much to which to look forward.

Marshall Skadden, John Slate, and Les Arps founded the firm in New York City on April Fool's Day, 1948. After starting with just three lawyers, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom has grown to more than 1,700 lawyers in nine offices—seven in the United States, one in Tokyo, and one in London. Few, if any, law firms in America today are more highly regarded professionally or financially successful.

The firm's client list includes more than one-third of the Fortune 500 companies, 10 of the top 15 U.S. commercial banks, 23 of the top 25 U.S. investment banks and 7 of the top 10 Japanese banks doing business in the United States. The organization's more than 20 individual practice areas serve as visible proof of the successful philosophy: that the client's needs always come first; that they can and do commit a maximum effort to provide top quality advice and timely service to clients; and that the law firm can and should be run as a business, consistent with professional responsibilities.

It was 25 years ago, in May of 1979, that Rodman Ward, Jr. and Steven J. Rothschild agreed to open the Wilmington, DE, office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom, becoming the 46th and 47th partners in that firm. Skadden Delaware became the first major out-of-town law firm to open an office in the State of Delaware.