

World War II. After I was injured, it took 9 hours to get to a field hospital where they performed military trauma surgery and over 3 months before I made it back to the United States. I spent 11 months in a hospital that was essentially a converted hotel in Atlantic City waiting for my final surgery and another 9 months in a rehabilitation facility in Battle Creek, MI. All told, it was almost 2 years from the time I was injured until I was able to return home to Hawaii.

Today, military personnel injured on the battlefield can be transported from theatre to a military hospital in Europe in a matter of hours. Depending on the extent of the wounds, they can be flown back to the United States within days. The rapid, sophisticated treatment on the battlefield and expedited transfer to safety are two of the most striking differences between military medicine today and World War II.

The story of Private Jessica Lynch is an excellent example. Following her rescue from the Iraqi hospital, Army medics, Air Force aeromedical evacuation troops and Special Operations forces transported her thousands of miles, used three different aircraft, and provided care during her entire journey, until she reached the safety of an Army hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. This was all accomplished in fewer than 15 hours. This same approach has saved the lives of many other courageous, young heroes.

What remains a mystery is how to treat the unexpected. Many deaths are the result of disease or non-battle injuries. In March 2004, there were 595 evacuations from Iraq for disease or other non-battlefield injuries. The Army Medical Department has deployed special teams with expertise in areas such as leishmaniasis, pneumonia, mental health and environmental surveillance to respond to these types of injuries. Having their critical assessments and recommendations while our troops are still in theatre will hopefully enable the command to decrease these illnesses.

The good news is that we have already improved our rates on this front. In the Civil War, twice as many people died of disease than of battle wounds. In World War I, about 56,000 U.S. soldiers died of disease, 14,000 during World War II, but only 930 during the Vietnam War. And we continue to make progress.

Press reports have highlighted the suicide rates of our troops serving overseas, but little acknowledgement has surfaced on how the military is addressing this concern. In July 2003, the Army sent a team of mental health experts to study the issues facing our troops in Iraq. This team was assembled to assess the increase in suicides in Operation Iraqi Freedom, evaluate the patient flow of mental health patients from theater, and analyze the stress-related issues Soldiers experience in combat.

This was the first time a mental health assessment was ever conducted

with soldiers in combat. I cannot stress the importance of the collection and analysis of this data and its potential to help the military address these issues at the earliest stages.

We have also learned a great deal about providing better protection to our forces. We are now experiencing less than half of the theatre evacuations for chest and abdomen wounds than was seen during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam because of body armor.

The 1991 Gulf War was the first major conflict in which all U.S. troops were provided body armor. At that time, the vests were made of Kevlar. They were capable of stopping shell and grenade fragments, but were a heavy 25 pounds to carry. The lighter interceptor body armor now used in Afghanistan and Iraq weighs only sixteen pounds and stops grenade fragments, 9mm slugs, and some rifle ammunition. The efforts placed in these advancements have paid off and should continue with renewed commitment.

But while these advances have drastically improved our casualty rates, injuries to the limbs are increasing. Historically, 3 percent of those wounded in action required some amputation. Today that rate has jumped to 6 percent in Iraq. This requires our attention. We must focus on technology to reverse this trend.

These are just a few of the advances in medical technology and treatment that are responsible for saving the lives of our military.

As we think about today's improvements, we should remember the men and women that served before this conflict. Nearly half a million men were permanently disabled by wounds during the Civil War. Their sacrifices led others to develop improvements in orthopedic surgery and the design of prosthetic limbs. It is important that we recognize these sacrifices and contributions and continue our commitment to further advances.

It is said that my generation was the greatest generation. But I have spent a great deal of time visiting our military personnel and must say that this generation is surpassing us by far. These men and women in uniform display the courage, strength, and devotion of our armed forces.

I thank the Chair for allowing me to recognize the men and women of our military and to pay particular attention to lesser known positive data coming from the Global War on Terrorism.

CONFIRMATION OF PAUL STEVEN DIAMOND AND LAWRENCE F. STENGEL AS UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGES FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I am pleased to submit this statement related to the Senate's unanimous confirmation of the nominations yesterday of Paul Steven Diamond and Lawrence

F. Stengel as United States District Judges for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania after only a brief opportunity to speak on their behalf. First, I want to thank the President for their nominations and congratulate them and their families and to thank them for their willingness to serve Pennsylvania and our country.

Paul Diamond attended Hunter College-City University of New York and Columbia University where he graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1974. He received his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1977. He served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office from 1977-1980. Paul Diamond then served as a law clerk on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to former Justice Bruce W. Kauffman, who now serves as a Federal judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He returned to the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office until 1983. From 1983 until 1991 he was an associate and then a partner at Dilworth, Paxson, Kalish & Kauffmann in Philadelphia. Paul Diamond was an Adjunct Professor at Temple University School of Law from 1990-1992. From 1992 until the present he has been a partner at Obermayer Rebmann Maxmann & Hippel in Philadelphia.

Paul Diamond has written a book, Federal Grand Jury Practice and Procedure, and several articles on issues related to grand juries. He has extensive experience in general civil and criminal law practice areas and will be an excellent addition to the Federal bench.

I also want to extend my congratulations to Judge Lawrence F. Stengel who has served as a Common Pleas Judge in Lancaster County since 1990. Judge Stengel received a B.A. from St. Joseph's College and his J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. His service on the Court was preceded by 10 years of legal practice, where he focused primarily on civil litigation matters as an associate at Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, PC, and in private practice as a sole practitioner. He has also served as an adjunct professor at Franklin & Marshall College and Millersville University.

He has also served his community prior to legal practice as an English and Social Studies teacher at Lancaster Catholic High School. Judge Stengel was also a board member of Leadership Lancaster which assists young leaders with getting connected with community organizations. He has also served as a Guardian Ad-litem for abused children. As President of the Lancaster Bar Association, Judge Stengel formed a diversity task force to investigate ways to increase the number of minority attorneys practicing in Lancaster County and appointed a committee for the creation of the Lancaster Bar Association Foundation—a foundation whose primary purpose is to raise funds for enhancing the

delivery of services to underprivileged clients. I am pleased that he will be serving on the Federal bench. I want to thank my colleagues for their support for these nominations and again congratulate them and their families.

SADIE BROWER NEAKOK

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, in November of 2003, I was honored to join with the Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS, in speaking on the Senate floor about the need for a national museum honoring the contributions of women in American history.

Senator COLLINS and I took turns addressing the accomplishments of pioneering women from our respective States, who were breaking through glass ceilings long before society acknowledged that they even existed.

One of the women I discussed was Sadie Brower Neakok, an Inupiaq Eskimo woman, from Barrow on Alaska's North Slope. Sadie has the distinction of being the first woman to serve as a magistrate in the State of Alaska. Four years before the United States passed its landmark civil rights act, an Eskimo woman was sitting on the bench in the State of Alaska.

But her life was remarkable in so many other respects. For one thing, she was appointed in 1960, a year after Alaska was admitted to statehood and long before women, not to mention Alaska Native women, came to realize that a career in the law was even an option. She continued in that role for nearly 2 decades.

Second, she was not trained as a lawyer. She was trained as an educator at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Yet when Sadie took the bench everyone knew she meant business. You should know that in the early days, the bench was Sadie's kitchen table.

She was tough on offenders, but equally tough on Government officials when asked to enforce unjust laws and regulations.

Ignoring the neutrality and detachment our society expects from its judicial officers, Sadie took a great risk when in May, 1961 she challenged an arbitrary game regulation which permitted duck hunting only after the ducks had already flown south.

After one subsistence hunter was arrested for violating the law, she quietly organized the rest of the community to violate the same law. Nearly 150 people came forth bearing ducks and demanded to be arrested.

The game warden could not keep up with the violators. There was not sufficient space in the jail to house them all. Sadie refused to charge them. In response to the community emergency, the regulation was changed.

Reflecting on this well known episode of civil disobedience, the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women in 1983 noted, "It was, perhaps, judicial activism at an awkward peak, but it brought necessary change for the people of Barrow."

Finally, Sadie was already an accomplished teacher, a public health worker and a social worker before taking the bench. She was working on her fourth career before many women embarked on their first job outside the home.

This is not to say that Sadie ignored the home. She was the mother of 13 children and cared for numerous foster children. In fact, she is regarded as the mother of all Barrow, which today has a population of about 4,500 people. She was a renowned seamstress, capable of making virtually anything from cloth or fur. Her life makes the aspiration shared by many women of "having it all" seem like a cliché.

I have the sad duty of informing the Senate that Sadie Brower Neakok passed away last Sunday at the age of 88. When asked once what the best part of her work was, Sadie replied, "gaining the respect of my people." Today in Barrow, AK, which remains an Eskimo community where people still speak their Native language, the community will turn out to demonstrate the depth of that respect.

If there were a National Women's History Museum, young women everywhere would know Sadie's name and be able to take inspiration from her story. Until then it will take a bit more effort for people to learn more about this remarkable woman.

Fortunately, Sadie's story is not lost to history. It is preserved for eternity in recorded oral histories and in the book "Sadie Brower Neakok—An Inupiaq Woman" by Margaret Blackman.

It was a privilege to honor the life of Sadie Brower Neakok on the Senate floor last November. Today we extend our sympathy to Sadie's family and to all of the Inupiaq people of the North Slope on the loss of a respected Elder and a great leader.

HALT THE ASSAULT BUS TOUR

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this week, the Million Mom March entered the tenth week of its "Halt the Assault" bus tour. The bus tour is traveling across America in a pink RV and making stops in nearly every major metropolitan area in the country. Their message is simple. They are asking Congress and President Bush to act now to reauthorize the assault weapons ban. They are in Illinois this week and they will be in my home State of Michigan at the beginning of August. I hope folks in each State will join them to help convey their important message.

In addition to banning 19 specific weapons, the ban makes it illegal to "manufacture, transfer, or possess a semiautomatic" firearm that can accept a detachable magazine and has more than one of several specific military features, such as folding/telescoping stocks, protruding pistol grips, bayonet mounts, threaded muzzles or flash suppressors, barrel shrouds, or grenade launchers. These weapons are dangerous and they should not be on America's streets.

The ban was designed to reduce the criminal use of military-style semiautomatic firearms, and it has done just that. According to statistics reported by the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, from 1990 to 1994, assault weapons named in the ban constituted 4.82 percent of guns traced in criminal investigations. However, since the ban's enactment, these assault weapons have made up only 1.61 percent of the crime-related guns traced.

According to the Brady Campaign, throughout the 1980s, law enforcement officials reported that assault weapons were the "weapons of choice" for drug traffickers, gangs, terrorists, and paramilitary extremist groups. In response, our Nation's first responders asked Congress and President Bush to limit access to such weapons so that our streets and communities might be safer.

In order to keep these deadly, military-style weapons out of our communities, America's moms are joining gun safety groups and the law enforcement community in urging us to extend this critical gun safety law that is about to expire. Without action, firearms like UZIs, AK-47s, and other semiautomatic assault weapons could begin to find their way back onto our streets again.

Unfortunately, despite Senate passage of a bipartisan amendment that would have reauthorized the ban, it appears that this important gun safety law will be allowed to expire on September 13, 2004. The House Republican leadership opposes reauthorizing the law and President Bush, though he has said he supports it, has done little to help keep the law alive. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in thanking America's moms for their efforts in the battle to reauthorize the assault weapons ban.

NOMINATION OF JOHN C. DANFORTH

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I offer my strong support for John C. Danforth's nomination to be Representative of the United States to the United Nations.

Jack Danforth's career in public service dates back to 1969, when he became Missouri's Attorney General. He served in that position until 1976. He went on to serve three distinguished terms in the United States Senate, where he was chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee.

Since retiring from the Senate in 1995, Presidents of both political parties have called upon Jack to tackle complex problems. In 1999, then-Attorney General Janet Reno appointed him as a special counsel to investigate the 1993 deaths of 80 Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas. In 2001, President Bush appointed him as a special envoy to Sudan to help achieve peace between long-warring factions in that country. His service in Sudan reflects his varied talents and great capacity for diplomatic accomplishments.