

careful look at our voting systems. It means the argument for paper as an essential part of voting systems is becoming more and more convincing. It means we should watch and carefully assess the new standards for testing voting systems that will be employed for the first time in December. I hope these standards have a significant impact, that they catch the vulnerabilities of these systems.

I believe the bill I introduced in May will lead to great improvements in the technology and the processes of elections. The Ballot Integrity Act would immediately prohibit new purchases of paperless voting systems. By 2010, it would require a voter-verified paper record to be produced by all voting systems used in federal elections. It would ensure that laboratories that test voting systems would not be hand-picked by vendors. And it would bar wireless and internet components in voting systems. In addition, States would have to document which individuals have access to voting systems, and they would have to agree on ways to train poll workers on how to operate machinery. This approach deals with all elements of the voting process—and recognizes that good voting equipment cannot be secure without good procedures to protect the integrity of the vote.

While the debate rages over how California should respond to this new report, it is important to stick to the basics. Vote verification is the new consensus. More than half the States use paper records to preserve the vote count.

I know Americans are passionate about ensuring that their votes are counted. California has taken an important step—and uncovered some disturbing information. The Senate should support improving Federal elections by passing the Ballot Integrity Act.

RETIREMENT OF CONGRESSMAN RAY LAHOOD

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I rise today to extend my appreciation and best wishes to my good friend, RAY LAHOOD, who recently announced his intention to retire at the end of the 110th Congress.

His retirement next fall will mark the end of a long, successful career representing the 18th District of Illinois—first as a staffer for 12 years for then-minority leader Bob Michel and then as a distinguished member of Congress for seven terms.

Born in the district he has represented for over 13 years, RAY LAHOOD's constituents have always been his No. 1 priority. Long after RAY leaves office, Illinoisans from Peoria to Jacksonville will benefit from his attention to local infrastructure needs, whether it is the roads, hospitals or arts projects of central Illinois.

He has been a champion for economic development in rural communities, expanded use of alternative energy, and

conservation efforts along the Illinois River. RAY and I also worked together earlier this year to help our Nation's servicemembers and veterans by introducing the Lane Evans Mental Health and Benefits Act.

But beyond his many legislative accomplishments is the distinctive spirit that RAY brought to his job. His time in Washington has been marked by a willingness to speak the truth and work across party lines—traits that have earned him the highest respect and admiration from colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

For several years, RAY hosted bipartisan congressional retreats to bring Members of Congress together for an open dialogue about ways to solve the country's problems in a civil manner. At a time in which Congress is marked by ideological warfare and harsh personal rhetoric, RAY is always searching for ways to bridge the partisan divide and find commonsense solutions to the problems facing average Americans. He was—and is—the ideal successor to Bob Michel, the great statesman who mentored him.

On a personal note, I will always be grateful to him for joining me in opening my Springfield office in January 2005 shortly after I came to the Senate. That small gesture of bipartisanship meant a lot to a freshman Senator and is a reflection of RAY's decency.

The people of central Illinois will miss RAY LAHOOD's hard work on their behalf, and I will miss his friendship.

I thank RAY for his many years of service to Illinois and to his country, and I wish him and his family all the best as he embarks upon this next chapter in his life.

TRIBUTE TO UNCLE HAROLD

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, if one is going to boast on the Senate floor, I assume I can be forgiven for boasting about close relatives.

My story is about my Uncle Harold—Harold Bach to be exact.

I called Harold last week and asked him what he had been doing. He said he had just gotten back from Minnesota. I asked, "What were you doing there?" He said, "Well I was running in the Senior Olympics events."

I guess it is not too unusual to have someone tell you that they are engaged in some track and field events. But my uncle is 87 years old. I said, "Harold, what events did you enter?" He said, "I ran in the 50 meter, the 100 meter and the 200 meter." I asked, "How did you do?" Harold said, "I won three medals—a gold, a silver and a bronze."

It wasn't news to me to hear that my uncle was running.

At age 72 Harold went to the Prairie Rose Games in North Dakota and just as a lark he entered races for age 70 and above. He easily won all three races that he entered. Then he decided, you know—I must have a talent here. It appears I can run faster than people my age. So he started running in other

States. He ran in the Minnesota Senior Olympics, he ran in the South Dakota Senior Olympics, and then he was in Arizona and California.

He never stopped running. He has now won 100 medals in Senior Olympics events across the country. At age 87, I think he is still angling for more victories.

So I am announcing today that I am going to award my Uncle Harold a certificate, designating him as the oldest, fastest runner in our State's history. No, I have not done any research to demonstrate that, but I am sure it must be true. And besides, he's my uncle.

The message in having an 87-year-old uncle that runs the 100 meter dash in under 20 seconds is inspiring to me, and I hope, to everyone else. It is a message that if you don't know what you can't do, maybe you won't be surprised if you find out you can do it, even if others think it is improbable.

None of us should be limited by our notions of what is impossible. My Uncle Harold has described what is possible for him by trying—and succeeding. It is a lesson that many of us should learn over and over again. Defeat is not about trying and failing. Defeat is failing to try. And when my uncle determined that he was faster than anybody his age, he got himself a pair of running shoes and filled his car with gas. Fifteen years later he has won 100 track and field medals.

So, hats off to my Uncle Harold! His accomplishments in Senior Olympics events are impressive and inspiring.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING MISS ASHLEY SAGISI MOSER

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I congratulate Ashley Sagisi Moser, Miss Teen World United States, for her achievements in the 2007 Miss Teen World pageant. She placed first runner-up in the pageant and won the Miss Congeniality Award.

The pageant was hosted in Queensland, Australia, where representatives from 14 countries competed for the title of Miss Teen World 2007. In addition to winning the Miss Congeniality Award, Ashley placed in the top five in every category, which included Miss Talent, Miss Photogenic, Best Costume, and Best Swimsuit.

I am proud of Ashley's accomplishments, especially because she was one of the youngest contestants in this international pageant. Her stage presence and wit have allowed her to excel in pageants. She embodies the spirit of Aloha, which was noted by the judges and her fellow competitors. She represented the State of Hawaii and the United States very well.

I also want to acknowledge Ashley's impressive leadership qualities, which are evident through her involvement in one of the State's most prestigious preparatory schools, Punahou School, and

in her involvement in community activities. I encourage her to aspire to make a difference in the world by continuing to cultivate her leadership skills.

I look forward to hearing more about her successes as she continues to pursue her education and personal goals. Congratulations to her parents Kendall and Sandra Moser, who have raised their daughter to be an exemplary representative of the United States on the international stage. I wish Ashley and her family the very best in their future endeavors.●

COMMENDING THE HONOLULU BULLS

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I congratulate the Honolulu Bulls Soccer Club's Under-14 Division Girls Team for winning the Dana Cup No. 1 in Hjørring, Denmark. The Dana Cup is an international soccer tournament that takes place every summer and includes 300 girls and boys teams from 30 nations. The Under-14 Division Girls Team was one of 2 teams representing the United States out of 47 teams in that division. This was the first time a team from Hawaii has won this prestigious international tournament.

I wish to acknowledge the girls' skill, hard work, and dedication to soccer that led them to this unprecedented victory. They showed strength and agility as they went undefeated in eight matches without a single goal scored against them. A special congratulations goes to Malia Brennan, who received the Golden Boot Award as the top player in the girls Under-14 Division. I wish to also acknowledge her teammates on their success: Jayci Cabael, Kayla Cabael, Lauren Stollar, Brooke Lovelace, Kianna Akazawa, Caprice Dydasco, Kadi Lee, Staci Mihara, Teisha Nacis, Sierra Nicols, Steffani Tanaka, Gabby Yates, McKenna Davidson, and Tracee Fukunaga. Their parents and families are recognized as well for their commitment, sacrifice, and support that helped shape and instill in them important values that led to their success.

These young women could not have gotten where they are today without the support and knowledge of the game passed down to them from their coaches, Rick Chong and Kerry Milke. I commend these two men on their dedication to teaching, nourishing, and raising our next generation of athletes.

I also congratulate everyone at the Honolulu Bulls Soccer Club for their commitment to educating and developing youth soccer players that strive to be competitive regionally, nationally, and internationally. I wish nothing but the best for the girls, their family, and coaches and wish them success in future endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING THE ARMY VETERINARY CORPS

● Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the hard work and

meritorious sacrifice of the Army Veterinary Corps. Their efforts support the global war on terrorism by protecting not only the military men and women serving our country, but our armed forces' animals as well.

The Army Veterinary Corps was formally established in 1916. However, the need for a military veterinary service was recognized as far back as the Revolutionary War. George Washington knew that if the Army used horses, it needed farriers as well. The program continued through the 19th century and when the Civil War began, the War Department issued orders that provided each cavalry regiment with a veterinary surgeon. As early as the 1890s, army veterinarians were sought to inspect meat, poultry and dairy products destined for the frontier posts.

Veterinary officers were first commissioned following the passage of the National Defense Act of June 3, 1916, and the Army Veterinary Corps became a reality. While providing care to the military's working animals would be part of the Army veterinarian's function, food safety and regulation was a primary mission upon the Army Veterinary Corps creation.

After the start of World War I, veterinarians within the ranks of the Army rose from 57 to 2,313 in just 18 months. Since World War I, the Veterinary Corps has remained an essential asset to our Nation's military by ensuring the health of both our animals and troops. The Air Force formed a veterinary service in 1949 as well, but in 1979, Congress directed changes to Department of Defense's veterinary missions and in 1980 the Army became DOD's Executive Agent for veterinary services.

Today the mission of the Army Veterinary Corps includes maintaining food safety and defense, animal medicine, and medical research support. Part of this mission is protecting the food of deployed soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. In the global war on terrorism, more than 200 U.S. Army veterinarians have deployed in support of our Nation's efforts. The threat of BSE, the spinach recall due to pathogenic E. coli, and the ongoing pet food recall are just a few examples that illustrate the necessity of having robust food safety programs throughout DOD. Army veterinary service personnel audit more than 3,800 food producers in more than 80 countries annually to ensure safe food for service members and beneficiaries. Approximately 75 percent of emerging pathogens are zoonotic, meaning they are shared by both animals and man, such as avian influenza.

Army veterinarians have actively contributed to military and interagency planning processes as well. They recently participated in the development of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Avian Influenza Playbook in support of the National Response Plan. Veterinary personnel are also an essential contributor in over-

seas avian influenza testing and surveillance programs.

The Army Veterinary Corps executes programs to test for, monitor and control other emerging diseases, like West Nile Virus, numerous food borne diseases, certain parasitic infections, and rabies. Army veterinarians direct animal medicine programs that protect both military members and their pets. In the same role, they also provide veterinary medical care for the Government-owned and contractor military working dogs which detect explosives, weapons and other devices. These animals help to literally take these weapons out of the hands of terrorists and insurgents.

Here at home, military veterinary supervision of operational ration assembly plants, supply and distribution points, ports, and other types of subsistence operations are critical to ensuring safe, wholesome food for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and their family members. The service provided by the Army Veterinary Corps remains an increasingly vital component of our homeland defense.

There are nearly 700 veterinarians serving on active duty, Army Reserve, and National Guard today. These brave service men and women proudly protect our Nation and its animals. I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to these veterinarians and their staffs who dedicate their time and efforts in aid to the United States of America. As a veterinarian, I am proud to see them portray a positive image of our country, both at home and deployed abroad.●

RECOGNIZING ADMIRAL EDMUND P. GIAMBASTIANI, JR.

● Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I wish to recognize ADM Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr. for his 37 years of dedicated service to our Nation. Next month, Admiral Giambastiani, or "Admiral G" as he is known by those who have worked closely with him, will retire from his position as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. A native New Yorker, Admiral Giambastiani hails from Canastota, a small town near Syracuse. Following his graduation from Canastota High School, he entered the U.S. Naval Academy in the summer of 1966. For the next 4 years, Admiral Giambastiani learned and practiced many of the values and skills that would guide him later in life and ultimately to the most senior levels of the Department of Defense.

Admiral Giambastiani's early career brought him back to the State of New York where he served at the Naval Reserve Training Center in Whitestone and later at the Nuclear-Powered Training Unit in Schenectady. He served his first fleet assignments aboard the USS *Puffer* and USS *Francis Scott Key*. Later, Admiral Giambastiani commanded submarine NR-1, the Navy's only nuclear-powered, deep-diving ocean-engineering and research