

9.10. Attendance of persons outside the Committee at closed meetings of the Committee shall be kept at a minimum and shall be limited to persons with appropriate security clearance and a need-to-know the information under consideration for the execution of their official duties. The Security Director of the Committee may require that notes taken at such meetings by any person in attendance shall be returned to the secure storage area in the Committee's offices at the conclusion of such meetings, and may be made available to the department, agency, office, committee, or entity concerned only in accordance with the security procedures of the Committee.

#### RULE 10. STAFF

10.1. For purposes of these rules, Committee staff includes employees of the Committee, consultants to the Committee, or any other person engaged by contract or otherwise to perform services for or at the request of the Committee. To the maximum extent practicable, the Committee shall rely on its full-time employees to perform all staff functions. No individual may be retained as staff of the Committee or to perform services for the Committee unless that individual holds appropriate security clearances.

10.2. The appointment of Committee staff shall be approved by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, or, at the initiative of both or either be confirmed by a majority vote of the Committee. After approval or confirmation, the Chairman shall certify Committee staff appointments to the Financial Clerk of the Senate in writing. No Committee staff shall be given access to any classified information or regular access to the Committee offices until such Committee staff has received an appropriate security clearance as described in Section 6 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress.

10.3. The Committee staff works for the Committee as a whole, under the supervision of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee. The duties of the Committee staff shall be performed, and Committee staff personnel affairs and day-to-day operations, including security and control of classified documents and material, shall be administered under the direct supervision and control of the Staff Director. All Committee staff shall work exclusively on intelligence oversight issues for the Committee. The Minority Staff Director and the Minority Counsel shall be kept fully informed regarding all matters and shall have access to all material in the files of the Committee.

10.4. The Committee staff shall assist the minority as fully as the majority in the expression of minority views, including assistance in the preparation and filing of additional, separate, and minority views, to the end that all points of view may be fully considered by the Committee and the Senate.

10.5. The members of the Committee staff shall not discuss either the substance or procedure of the work of the Committee with any person not a member of the Committee or the Committee staff for any purpose or in connection with any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, either during their tenure as a member of the Committee staff or at any time thereafter, except as directed by the Committee in accordance with Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress and the provisions of these rules, or in the event of the termination of the Committee, in such a manner as may be determined by the Senate.

10.6. No member of the Committee staff shall be employed by the Committee unless and until such a member of the Committee staff agrees in writing, as a condition of employment, to abide by the conditions of the nondisclosure agreement promulgated by the

Select Committee on Intelligence, pursuant to Section 6 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress, and to abide by the Committee's code of conduct.

10.7. No member of the Committee staff shall be employed by the Committee unless and until such a member of the Committee staff agrees in writing, as a condition of employment, to notify the Committee or, in the event of the Committee's termination, the Senate of any request for his or her testimony, either during his or her tenure as a member of the Committee staff or at any time thereafter with respect to information which came into his or her possession by virtue of his or her position as a member of the Committee staff. Such information shall not be disclosed in response to such requests except as directed by the Committee in accordance with Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress and the provisions of these rules or, in the event of the termination of the Committee, in such manner as may be determined by the Senate.

10.8. The Committee shall immediately consider action to be taken in the case of any member of the Committee staff who fails to conform to any of these Rules. Such disciplinary action may include, but shall not be limited to, immediate dismissal from the Committee staff.

10.9. Within the Committee staff shall be an element with the capability to perform audits of programs and activities undertaken by departments and agencies with intelligence functions. Such element shall be comprised of persons qualified by training and/or experience to carry out such functions in accordance with accepted auditing standards.

10.10. The workplace of the Committee shall be free from illegal use, possession, sale, or distribution of controlled substances by its employees. Any violation of such policy by any member of the Committee staff shall be grounds for termination of employment. Further, any illegal use of controlled substances by a member of the Committee staff, within the workplace or otherwise, shall result in reconsideration of the security clearance of any such staff member and may constitute grounds for termination of employment with the Committee.

10.11. All personnel actions affecting the staff of the Committee shall be made free from any discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or disability.

#### RULE 11. PREPARATION FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

11.1. Under direction of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman designated Committee staff members shall brief members of the Committee at a time sufficiently prior to any Committee meeting to assist the Committee members in preparation for such meeting and to determine any matter which the Committee member might wish considered during the meeting. Such briefing shall, at the request of a member, include a list of all pertinent papers and other materials that have been obtained by the Committee that bear on matters to be considered at the meeting.

11.2. The Staff Director shall recommend to the Chairman and the Vice Chairman the testimony, papers, and other materials to be presented to the Committee at any meeting. The determination whether such testimony, papers, and other materials shall be presented in open or executive session shall be made pursuant to the Rules of the Senate and Rules of the Committee.

11.3. The Staff Director shall ensure that covert action programs of the U.S. Government receive appropriate consideration by the Committee no less frequently than once a quarter.

#### RULE 12. LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

12.1. The Clerk of the Committee shall maintain a printed calendar for the information of each Committee member showing the measures introduced and referred to the Committee and the status of such measures; nominations referred to the Committee and their status; and such other matters as the Committee determines shall be included. The Calendar shall be revised from time to time to show pertinent changes. A copy of each such revision shall be furnished to each member of the Committee.

12.2. Unless otherwise ordered by them, measures referred to the Committee shall be referred by the Chairman and Vice Chairman to the appropriate department or agency of the Government for reports thereon.

#### RULE 13. COMMITTEE TRAVEL

13.1. No member of the Committee or Committee staff shall travel abroad on Committee business unless specifically authorized by the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Requests for authorization of such travel shall state the purpose and extent of the trip. A full report shall be filed with the Committee when travel is completed.

13.2. No member of the Committee staff shall travel within this country on Committee business unless specifically authorized by the Staff Director.

#### RULE 14. CHANGES IN RULES

These Rules may be modified, amended, or repealed by the Committee, provided that a notice in writing of the proposed change has been given to each member at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at which action thereon is to be taken.

#### DIGNITY FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS ACT

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of the Dignity for Wounded Warriors Act. While reading the recent news reports regarding the situation at Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital, I was incensed when I discovered that our brave men and women who have risked their lives in service to our country are currently convalescing under conditions that are nothing less than disgraceful—and, frankly, disrespectful of all who so honorably wear our Nation's uniform. This abomination is a far cry from the timeless words of President Theodore Roosevelt, who once said that "a man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards."

I applaud Senators OBAMA and MCCASKILL for swiftly responding to these shameful revelations by introducing this legislation at a time when more than 600,000 courageous service men and women have returned from combat in both Iraq and Afghanistan. In the past, Senator OBAMA and I have worked in a bipartisan manner to bolster the military's ability to detect and treat traumatic brain injury, reduce the claims at the Veterans Benefits Administration, VBA, and most recently, we have fought to improve the ability of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide Congress with an accurate assessment of returning veterans health care and benefits needs. I also appreciate Senator MCCASKILL's advocacy on this issue, and I look forward to working with her in the future.

During the past few weeks, the Washington Post has reported in scrupulous detail the dire and startling conditions at recuperation facilities used by Walter Reed Army Medical Center—the very facility replete with moldy walls, broken elevators, bug infestation, a lack of support programs, and general disrepair. These confines are not even habitable, not to mention acceptable, in any way, shape or form for the provision of health care to America's finest. Above all, such degrading medical quarters ultimately send the wrong message to our troops who have risked their lives in defense of our country that somehow they are fit and capable enough to serve us but not enough for us to serve them. Although the Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital has remained the preeminent health facility for wounded and recovering service members ever since the admittance of its first patients on May 1, 1909, these recent news reports have uncovered blatant defects in U.S. military health facilities that must be fixed immediately.

In order to ensure that these stalwart Americans receive the treatment they have earned and that is unquestionably well deserved, this legislation will establish stringent standards for military outpatient housing, requiring that concomitant dormitories match the existing services standard for Active-Duty barracks, and mandating that all requests for repairs be completed within 15 days or alternate housing must be offered. Additionally, recent reports have revealed Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital's lack of support counseling to assist troops and their families in times of need. To alleviate these concerns, our legislation will require an emergency medical technician, EMT, and a crisis counselor at all outpatient residences, while creating an inspection team to ensure that high-level military officials are aware of all problems occurring at medical facilities, including those related to personnel and maintenance.

Furthermore, the Dignity for Wounded Warriors Act will help solve recent problems regarding the overwhelming workloads for military caseworkers, which have, unfortunately, left countless service members helpless. This legislation will not only increase the number of caseworkers at military outpatient facilities but will establish an interim ratio of one caseworker and one supervising noncommissioned officer for each 20 recovering service members, while requiring staff training for the identification of mental illness and suicide prevention.

This legislation will also address the processing delays for troops who seek a determination for their military status and disability level, which on average, takes as long as 7 months. This legislation would bring the Physical Disability Evaluation System under one command in order to reduce lengthy bureaucratic delays that have left even the most severely injured service mem-

bers without a health determination for unnecessary lengths of time.

Family members also carry a large burden for the sacrifices made by their loved ones in uniform. In order to ease the burdens of the health care process for these families, our legislation creates two 24-hour crisis counseling and family assistance hotlines and requires the creation of a single manual for outpatient care procedures, which will allow families to access all of the information they need to help care for their loved one. Sadly, family members are often forced to decide between attending to their loved one or keeping their job—a decision that no family member of our courageous troops should ever have to make. Therefore, this legislation provides Federal protections for the jobs of family members who are caring for a recovering service member, while extending medical care to family members who are living at military treatment facilities.

And finally, one of the underlying concerns of the revelations at Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital was the lack of accountability and oversight at a facility which houses thousands of heroic Americans. This legislation would create a Wounded Warrior Oversight Board appointed by congressional leadership who will supervise the implementation of this legislation's provisions and serve as an advocate for all recovering service members in the future.

The obligation of this country to its veterans is sacred and solemn and one that must be fulfilled every day. We should strive to put into action the words of President Lincoln that we must "care for him who shall have borne the battle . . ." Since the attacks of September 11, millions of valorous American men and women have fearlessly and honorably answered the call to service. Congress must now do its duty and everything in its power to vigorously extend the finest medical treatment and care possible to troops upon their return—attention that is worthy of their tremendous and immeasurable contributions to us all.

Once again, I am pleased to join Senators OBAMA and McCASKILL in introducing the Dignity for Wounded Warriors Act because I believe it is crucial for Congress to provide our Nation's veterans with a guarantee that they will never have to worry about dilapidated living conditions in military hospitals ever again, and I urge my colleagues to voice their support.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAN CREGER

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a hard working, respected young man, Mr. Dan Creger. Dan is from Casper, WY, and has proven that in spite of his disabilities, one man can have a great impact.

Dan was born with arthrogryposis, a condition that causes multiple joint problems and limits the range of motion of a joint. As a result of this dis-

ease, Dan has spent most of his life in a wheelchair. Despite his disability, Dan refuses to be held back, relying not on public assistance but rather on his determined spirit and the support of friends and family to achieve his daily successes.

Dan worked for the Bureau of Land Management for 20 years. Recently the BLM honored his service by presenting him with the Honor Award for Superior Service. Casper Field Office Manger, Jim Murkin said, "Dan is a Go to Guy! He is someone who you can depend on to get a job done. He always wants to stay busy. He hates doing nothing. He is a great asset to the BLM."

Four years ago Dan began working at the National Historical Interpretive Trails Center in Casper. The director of the center, Jude Carino, says that Dan "always has a smile. He always has good things to say about people, and he doesn't complain." At the center Dan greets visitors, answers questions and leads tours for schools and other organized groups. In 2006 he assisted 8,000 visitors, and guided nearly 2,000 schoolchildren through the facility.

A volunteer for the National Historical Interpretive Trails Center said, "I have learned a lot from Dan in how to guide guests through the center. He is a wealth of knowledge and has a great sense of humor."

Dan's life was thrown another curve when last summer he was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. But through it all he continues to have a positive attitude. Dan said that when he was first told about the cancer he felt both sadness and anger, but soon he decided that this was just another challenge for him to deal with. He said, "I've tried to go on with my life and take it day by day."

A friend of Mr. Creger summed it up best when he said, "In my eyes, Dan is a man of courage that stands 6 feet tall. He lives his life as any productive member of society and pushes aside any thought of pity for himself. He doesn't let his physical limits or the threat of cancer keep him from achieving his goals in life. In this way, Dan is better than many men who face lesser challenges in life. I am proud to know Dan and be his friend."

It is obvious that Dan is a good, hard-working man who refuses to let life's challenges stand in his way. Dan Creger is an inspiration to all of us, and I am honored to share his story.

#### HONORING EARL B. OLSON

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, we take this floor at different times for different reasons, to debate bills and talk about the condition of our country and its future. At times, we tend to exaggerate the importance of the laws we pass to the progress of our society. I say that because there is no law to make people do the most important things: love their families, sacrifice for their communities, or create a legacy that will last for generations.