

as commander in chief of U.S. Air Forces Europe and commanding general of Tactical Air Command. During his service, General Cannon earned four Distinguished Service Medals, a Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star, and the Air Medal. He also received decorations from Great Britain, France, Italy, Poland, Yugoslavia, and Morocco.

For the last 50 years the service men and women who called Cannon home have been deployed numerous times around the world to ensure the national security of our country. They have performed their duty faithfully and in a manner that I am sure would make General Cannon proud.

This year we will see major changes at Cannon as the 27th Fighter Wing is deactivated in preparation for the impending arrival of the 16th Special Operations Wing in October. While we are excited for the arrival of the 16th Special Operations Wing, we are sad to see the men and women of the 27th Fighter Wing go.

In the coming years I am sure the 16th Special Operations Wing will continue the 27th Fighter Wing's long tradition of excellence at Cannon. Again, I would like to thank the men and women, past and present, who have made Cannon a source of national pride.●

RECOGNITION OF JEFFREY S. MERRIFIELD

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, the Honorable Jeffrey S. Merrifield will be leaving the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, NRC, on June 30, 2007. Originally from Antrim, NH, Jeff Merrifield has served as a member of the Commission since October 23, 1998. First appointed by President Clinton, Jeff was reappointed by President Bush and was sworn in for a second term on August 5, 2002. After a distinguished government career at the NRC and on Capitol Hill, Jeff Merrifield has chosen to pursue endeavors in the private sector.

Throughout his tenure at the NRC, Jeff Merrifield has invested considerable time in familiarizing himself with the operations of NRC licensees, visiting all 104 operating power reactors in the United States, as well as numerous nuclear materials facilities and sites undergoing decommissioning. Jeff actively supported initiatives to improve the transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of NRC regulatory programs. He headed an NRC Communications Task Force charged with initiating and implementing many recommendations to improve agency internal and external communications. Jeff also led an interagency task force of fifteen departments and agencies to identify gaps in the control and use of radiation source materials as required by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Recommendations of this task force were detailed in a report to the President and Congress.

Jeff Merrifield has advocated a vision of excellence in regulating the safe and

secure uses of nuclear material for the public good. A participant in the development of NRC's Strategic Plan, he championed a number of significant regulatory improvements, including efforts to risk-inform regulations, provide discipline in staff review of applications for license renewal, and prepare the agency for potential new power reactor applications. Recently Jeff chaired a Combined License Review Task Force which made a number of recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the review of new reactor applications. He was the leading advocate for the use of the alternate dispute resolution process in agency enforcement actions and has taken a special interest in improving the management of decommissioning funding.

As an NRC Commissioner, Jeff Merrifield was actively involved in the agency's post September 11, 2001, response activities. These actions resulted in a significant improvement in security at NRC licensed facilities. Both before and since the terrible events of 9/11, NRC licensed power reactors are some of the best protected facilities in the civilian community.

Recognizing the NRC's influence in the international regulatory community, Jeff has traveled abroad to discuss policy issues with nuclear regulators and foreign dignitaries in more than 35 countries and has toured more than 140 nuclear reactors overseas. In 2005, he led an NRC delegation to India for the fifth bilateral exchange between the Indian Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and the NRC. This was the first visit to India by a member of the Commission following President Bush's initiative "Next Steps in the Strategic Partnership" with India. Jeff was also the major advocate for the establishment of a three-nation agreement with Canada and Mexico on nuclear materials and waste issues through periodic trilateral meetings.

Mr. President, please join me in thanking Jeff Merrifield for his dedicated service to the American people and in wishing him and his family all the best in their future pursuits.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT B. MEHNERT

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to Robert B. Mehnert, who is retiring after 48 years of dedicated service to the Government and people of the United States of America.

Mr. Mehnert began his public service in 1958 with the U.S. Army, continuing in uniform until 1962. In 1963 he reentered Federal service, this time as a management intern with the then-Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He rose quickly through the ranks and, in 1971, Mr. Mehnert became Chief of the Office of Public Information at the National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health. Since 1998 he has directed the Office of Communications and Public

Liaison at the library. For more than a quarter century, Mr. Mehnert's keen editorial and literary talents have helped library's director, Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D., and his predecessor, Martin M. Cummings, M.D., to communicate the most current and reliable medical and consumer health information to medical professionals, researchers, patients, families, and the public.

During his tenure at the National Library of Medicine, Mr. Mehnert has been in the vanguard of a revolution in health information. The introduction of the Internet and the Web environment vastly increased the number and extent of NLM services and audiences. In 1997, after more than a century of serving the library and medical communities exclusively, the National Library of Medicine launched Medline freely on the Web and declared that it would seek to serve the general public as well. With Mr. Mehnert's help, other NLM services for the consumer public quickly followed. In 1998, MedlinePlus.gov, a source of authoritative full-text health information written for the consumer was unveiled. In 2000, ClinicalTrials.gov—an NLM Web site that provides consumers with information on medical research studies that are recruiting patients—was launched. Other NLM consumer-oriented databases were introduced in the last decade as bandwidth and the power of personal computers increased. They have included NIHSeniorHealth.gov, a talking Web site with topics and formats tailored to the needs of older persons; Genetics Home Reference, a Web site that makes genetics and its relationship to disease more understandable to the public; the Household Products database that provides easy-to-understand information on the potential health effects of ingredients contained in common household products; and many others.

One of Mr. Mehnert's most tangible legacies has been his recent service on the editorial team responsible for producing a new quarterly NIH magazine, NIHMedlinePlus, which is sent to doctors' offices nationwide for their patients to read. The production of this consumer-oriented magazine fulfills Congress's call to publicize the fruits of NIH-sponsored research to patients, their families, and the public at large.

Mr. Mehnert has been recognized by the National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health for his exceptional leadership and achievements. Aside from numerous merit awards, his honors have also included being the recipient of both the NLM Director's Award and the NIH Director's Award on several occasions.

As someone who has worked for many years to support medical research, I am especially grateful to people who have dedicated their lives to this crucial public health mission. Bob Mehnert has done that and is a great testament to what public service is all about. Bob and his wife, Helene, have three daughters, seven grandchildren,

and 1.5 great grandchildren—that is, one is on the way. I thank Bob for his distinguished career in service to the American people, and I wish him many well-deserved years of happiness in retirement.●

RECOGNIZING THE BARABOO NATIONAL BANK

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I would like to take the time to recognize and honor Baraboo National Bank located in Baraboo, WI. This year, the bank celebrates 150 years as Baraboo's first and oldest bank.

On July 15, 1857, Simeon Mills joined with Terrell Thomas to open Sauk County Bank, Wisconsin's 15th chartered bank, in a building just down the street from its present location. They began with \$50,000 in operating capital and by the end of that year were well on their way to establishing a successful institution. By the early 1860s, the Sauk County Bank had grown their operating capital to break the \$100,000 mark. A fire in their first location caused the bank to move into temporary quarters on the back of a lot purchased on the corner of Oak and Third Avenue. The new building would soon be built on this corner and stand until today.

In 1873 the charter for Sauk County Bank changed and the bank renamed as First National Bank of Baraboo. For a 7-year period after the bank changed its name, banks in Wisconsin were financially stressed and many were closing across the State. However, through the actions taken by the principle officers and stockholders, the bank was able to avoid disaster. Otto Ringling came to the First National Bank of Baraboo and deposited a large sum of money to show his support for the bank. To show their appreciation, the bank would often send the Ringlings money when they needed help.

The 1880s brought more prosperity to Sauk County and the bank grew well beyond its neighboring competitors to over \$400,000 in assets. By this time the bank decided it was time for a name change. In doing so, was now called The Bank of Baraboo, which would remain for about 58 years. Baraboo was now the 25th largest city in the State. Industry and small businesses all over the county were helped by the bank to get their start.

This included the Circus Industry. The Bank of Baraboo was a strong supporter of the Ringling and Gollmar Brother's Circus. When the Ringling brothers needed money to expand their circus in the 1900s, they turned to The Bank of Baraboo for help. Through the 1920s this bond grew to the point that a few of the Ringlings were appointed directors and became stock holders who were very loyal customers.

In 1938 a final national bank charter changed the name from The Bank of Baraboo to The Baraboo National Bank. As banking products expanded, the bank was now able to provide more

services to the community. They even had a minibank at the local Badger Army Ammunition Plan. The Baraboo National Bank continued to expand the building on the corner, taking in space to the south and to the west.

In 1975, Merlin E. Zitzner became the eleventh president and CEO of The Baraboo National Bank. Zitzner, a Viroqua native, graduated from UW Whitewater and a graduate degree from UW Madison. Under this leadership The Baraboo Bancorporation Inc. was formed as the holding company of The Baraboo National Bank and later the State Bank of Viroqua and Green Lake State Bank.

The Baraboo National Bank continued to grow by adding the Downtown Drive-up Bank branch, West Baraboo branch, East Baraboo branch, Southwest branch and opening the Lake Delton National Bank branch. Later would follow the acquisition of the Rock Springs and Bank of Wonewoc branches. Most recently the Reedsburg National Bank and the Portage National Bank where built as well as the acquisition of the two locations of the Northwoods National Bank in Rhinelander and Elcho.

Today with assets nearing the \$800,000,000 mark and a market share in Baraboo averaging 66 percent, The Baraboo National Bank has a lot to be thankful for. Customer loyalty going back for several generations and local businesses enjoying growth are what the bank is really all about.●

RETIREMENT OF DANIEL BERNSTINE

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I want to pay tribute to one of Oregon's and indeed our Nation's finest higher education leaders, Dr. Daniel O. Bernstine, president of Portland State University. Portland State University is our state's largest university, and is foundational to Oregon's well-earned reputation for educational and technological innovation. Earlier this year, President Bernstine announced he would leave PSU at the end of the academic year and become the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Law School Admissions Council in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania's gain is truly Oregon's loss. As president of Portland State, Dan and his team have truly transformed Oregon's only urban university. Under his leadership the enrollment has grown substantially; research funding has increased from \$17 million to more than \$40 million; the University completed its first ever comprehensive campaign; and the campus has added a new Urban Center, the University Place hotel, the Native American Student and Community Center, the Simon Benson House, Epler Hall, the Broadway Housing complex, the Peter Stott recreational field, the Northwest Center for Engineering, Science, and Technology, and the Portland Street-car.

Dan has forged community partnerships that truly reflect the university's motto: Let Knowledge Serve the City. These include many of the nonprofit organizations in the Portland Metropolitan community, the urban and suburban school districts, and the area's community colleges.

I want to highlight a development at Portland State that is especially important to me and to the work I have pursued in the Senate. Shortly after his arrival, Dan said that investment in science, technology, and engineering would be a priority. One area that has emerged as a national research center is in nanometrology. Attracting Dr. Jun Jiao to Portland State set the initiative in motion and today PSU has one of the premier centers for Electron Microscopy and Nanofabrication. This is evidence that President Bernstine understands the importance of nanotechnology and is committed to having PSU make a major contribution in this area.

Under President Bernstine's leadership, Portland State University has received national recognition for its faculty, community and service-learning programs and is listed in the Princeton Review book, Colleges with a Conscience: 81 Great Schools with Outstanding Community Involvement. For its work to revitalize its community, its work in urban development, and support for the local economy, Portland State University is listed on the first President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll and was recognized by The New England Board of Higher Education as one of 25 universities considered "Saviors of Our Cities." The Association of American Colleges and Universities also recognized PSU in its report, "College Learning for the New Global Century," as a leader in the area of fostering civic, intercultural, and ethical learning. And for the past 5 years, Portland State University has ranked among the Nation's best colleges in five categories that lead to student success, according to U.S. News & World Report in its America's Best Colleges 2007 edition.

For these reasons and more, I consider President Bernstine's decision to take on this new responsibility to be a loss to Portland State University and to Oregon. I am pleased that he will remain active in the higher education community and I wish him well in his new position in Pennsylvania. Mr. President, Daniel O. Bernstine is an Oregon treasure and has made a positive difference in the lives of students and to our community.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages