

has been a leading voice advocating for more Americans to become involved in national service. Committing to serve one's nation is an honor, and I join Senator Wofford in calling on more Americans to make this commitment.

As our world becomes interconnected, more Americans will need to interact with those who live outside our borders. Peace Corps volunteers learn more than 250 languages, which provides them the skills to compete globally as well as assist the U.S. Government in national security areas where critical language skills are essential. Many Peace Corps volunteers go on to serve in Congress, the executive branch, and the Foreign Service. I salute the Peace Corps for its tremendous work and the dedication of its volunteers who have not hesitated to help improve our world. On this week marking the 47th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps, I call on everyone to join me in celebrating its historic achievements.

PRENATALLY AND POSTNATALLY DIAGNOSED CONDITIONS AWARE- NESS ACT

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I am excited and encouraged that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension today voted unanimously to pass the Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act. This legislation will help parents receiving the news that their unborn child may be born with a disability by supplying them with current and reliable information about the many services and support networks available. This information will also be made available to parents whose children were diagnosed at birth or up until 12 months of age.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists now recommends that the screening procedure used to detect Down syndrome be offered to all pregnant women, not just those over the age of 35, as was recommended in the past. According to the American Journal of Medical Genetics, 80-90 percent of patients who are told that the child they are carrying has Down syndrome choose to have abortions. The percentage is similarly high for children with other prenatally diagnosable conditions. A recent study by Prenatal Diagnosis actually puts the figure at between 91 to 93 percent.

I believe that one of the main reasons for these disturbingly high figures is that many people in society still believe the outdated stereotypes and misconceptions that continue to exist about people with disabilities. In a study done by Louis Harris and Associates, the vast majority of adults with even the most severe disabilities reported being "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" with their lives. The same study shows that there is virtually no difference between the proportion of Americans with disabilities

and those without who are married and who have children. Many people with even the most severe disabilities live independently, have jobs, get married, have children, and pay taxes.

Parent support groups and disability advocacy groups have tried to reach out to parents who have received prenatal diagnoses of various conditions, but they often have difficulty getting practical information about raising a child with a disability and information about available services and resources to new and expecting parents. This bill will help to remediate this situation in five concrete ways.

First, the bill establishes a toll-free resource telephone hotline parents can call after they have been given a prenatal or postnatal diagnosis for their child. The bill also calls for the expansion of the leading information clearinghouse on disability, so that it can more effectively provide parents with accurate, up-to-date information on their child's condition along with available resources and services. The bill also provides for the expansion and development of national and local parent support programs and disability advocacy groups, so that they can more effectively reach out to new parents. A national registry of parents willing to adopt children with these disabilities would also be established under this bill. Finally, this bill will help create awareness and education programs for health care providers who give parents the results of these tests.

It is difficult, sometimes overwhelming, for new and expecting parents to receive the news that their new baby or their unborn child will have a disability. I hope that this bill will provide these parents with the information and support they so desperately need during this critical time. I hope this information will encourage parents that their child can live a meaningful and fulfilling life and that this bill will heighten society's awareness of the capabilities value and worth of people with disabilities.

I would like to thank Senator KENNEDY, Senator ENZI, and all other members of the HELP Committee who have worked so diligently with my office to get this important legislation past the HELP Committee. I am hopeful that this bill will soon receive consideration by the full Senate. The quicker my colleagues and I move to pass this bill, the more people we can help with these critical services and information.

GREEN CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I am proud to join my friend Senator SNOWE and our colleagues Senator PRYOR, Senator COLLINS, and Senator KERRY in introducing the Green Chemistry Research and Development Act. This legislation is a bipartisan effort to promote the efforts of some of the most brilliant minds in academia, government, and industry to both reduce the

environmental impacts of common chemical processes and to foster the development of a new generation of environmentally responsible chemical products.

My fellow cosponsors and I seek to help the chemical industry reduce its use and production of hazardous substances and the overall effect on the environment of the business of chemistry. As it was in the past when Senator SNOWE and I previously introduced legislation to promote "Green Chemistry," this legislation is supported by the chemical, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology industries and academic institutions because it is designed to hasten the attainment of a goal we all share: making the production of the chemical products we need in ways not detrimental to the environment using engineering processes that save both money and the planet. The products and engineering processes we believe will be developed will produce benefits across the entire economy.

What we call "green chemistry" is nothing more than what every industry in the United States should strive to be. Chemical companies employing green chemistry techniques will challenge their best scientists, engineers, and product developers to make new products that are better suited to the task for which they are created than the products they will replace using state-of-the-art manufacturing that minimizes or completely eliminates both the use of environmentally unsustainable substances as inputs or results in environmentally unsustainable substances as byproducts. Our purpose in introducing this legislation is to make certain that the nascent green technology revolution does not bypass the chemical industry by providing significant and ongoing support for green chemistry research, development, demonstration, education, and technology transfer.

When enacted, the Green Chemistry Research and Development Act will create a Federal Interagency Working Group—made up of representatives from the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Department of Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency—to fund and oversee research through merit-based grants to universities, industry, and nonprofit organizations to promote the development and adoption of green chemistry processes and products. Further, the Interagency Working Group will help expand education, training in, and the flow of information about sustainable chemical engineering, including development of green chemistry curricula for undergraduate and graduate students. Finally, Federal resources in funding and technical expertise will seek to identify barriers to the commercialization of the products of a rejuvenated, more environmentally responsible domestic chemical industry.

These are challenging times for the domestic chemical industry. High

prices for necessary feedstocks and transportation to customers, along with all the other hurdles that must be overcome in the global economy, have put this industry, which began here and which supplied vital products to customers the world over, at risk of being another industry the United States could lose to our foreign trading competitors. However, this industry meets challenges every day. This legislation will allow American chemical companies to once again demonstrate a passion for excellence, safety, and innovation that will be a source of envy around the world and create a generation's worth of good-paying jobs that States like West Virginia can build an economy around.

Mr. President, I call on my colleagues to take up and pass the Green Chemistry Research and Development Act.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER NATHAN H. HARDY

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay a heartfelt tribute to special warfare operator CPO, SEAL, Nathan H. Hardy of Durham, NH. Sadly on February 4, 2008 while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, this brave 29-year old patriot gave his life for his team and for our Nation during combat operations in Iraq. Chief Hardy was a member of Naval Special Warfare Tactical Development and Evaluation Squadron THREE, Dam Neck, VA, and was serving our country in his fourth deployment to Iraq.

Nathan, or Nate to family and friends, was a 1997 graduate of Oyster River High School, Durham, NH, where he excelled in soccer and lacrosse. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on November 4, 1997, received basic training in Great Lakes, IL, Undersea Demolition/SEAL training in Coronado, CA, and attended the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA. During his Navy career he served entirely with east coast-based SEAL teams.

Friends say from his youth Nate dreamed of becoming a U.S. Navy SEAL, one of the most challenging, rigorous, and elite fighting organizations in the history of the world. He applied his fierce competitiveness and team spirit to achieve success and served our Nation with deep pride and great courage. He loved what he did, and that was obvious.

The awards and decorations Nate received serve as testimony to his strong character and extraordinary performance. They include two Bronze Star Medals, Purple Heart, two Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medals, Combat Action Ribbon—approval pending—three Good Conduct Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Serv-

ice Medal, three Sea Service Deployment Medals, NATO Medal, Expert Rifle Medal and the Sharpshooter Pistol Medal.

During our country's difficult Revolutionary War, Thomas Paine wrote "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman." In these turbulent times Chief Hardy stood with the country he loved, served it with distinction and valor, and earned and deserves our love and thanks. Because of his efforts, the liberty of this country is made more secure.

My sympathy, condolences, and prayers go out to Nate's wife Mindi, son Parker, parents Steve and Donna, brother Ben, and to his other family members and many friends who have suffered this most grievous loss. All will sorely miss Nate Hardy—devoted husband, caring father, dedicated son, loyal brother, good friend, outstanding SEAL. Laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery, Chief Hardy joins his fellow heroes in eternal peace at our military's most sacred place. His sacrifice will live on forever among the many dedicated heroes this Nation has sent abroad to defend freedom. In the words of another son of New Hampshire, Daniel Webster—may his remembrance be as longlasting as the land he honored. God bless Nathan Hardy.

REMEMBERING JANEZ DRNOVŠEK

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to pay tribute to a good friend, Janez Drnovšek, who passed away on Saturday. Dr. Drnovšek served as the second Prime Minister of Slovenia from 1992 to 2002, and as President from 2002 to 2007. In these and other capacities, he played a truly historic role in giving birth to a free and independent Slovenia, while avoiding the bloodshed and warfare that engulfed other nations as they seceded from the former Yugoslavia.

Dr. Drnovšek was born on May 17, 1950, in Celje. He graduated from the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Economics. In 1986, he finished his doctoral studies in economic science at the University of Maribor. In 1994, he received an honorary doctorate from Boston University. In 2004 he was named Protector and Honorary Senator of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts in Salzburg.

But Dr. Drnovšek will be best remembered as a statesman of enormous ability, vision, and courage. A brilliant economist, he unleashed the entrepreneurial spirit of the Slovenian people and played a historic role in establishing his new nation as a robust democracy with one of the most successful economies in Central and Eastern Europe. Today, thanks in large measure to Dr. Drnovšek's leadership, Slovenia is a full member of the European

Union and NATO, and a force for stability and democratic reform across the Balkans.

The world looks at Slovenia's success in the nearly 17 years since she declared independence, and it wonders: How could a nation of just 2 million people accomplish so much in so short period of time? As an American, I know the answer. Bear in mind that, when Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, America was also a nation of just 2 million people. Like Slovenians in 1991, Americans in 1776 dared to break away from a much larger and more powerful mother country. Like Slovenians, Americans demanded a democratic course for their new country.

But the most important parallel between our two countries is this: Historians of the American Revolution have marveled that a tiny nation of just 2 million people was blessed with such an extraordinary collection of thinkers and leaders, including Washington, Jefferson, and Franklin. At this crucial crossroads in Slovenia's history, it, too, has been blessed with extraordinary leaders. And Dr. Drnovšek will be remembered as one of the most talented of these Founding Fathers.

On a personal note, I was very fortunate to spend time with President Drnovšek during my trip to Slovenia in August 2005. Clearly, he was an independent thinker and a free spirit. One obituary in the Washington Post on Sunday noted that in his youth and early adulthood, he was a member of the Communist Party, which was the only political force in the former Yugoslavia. But he was never a Communist at heart, and he made a point of going off to ski whenever the party held a congress.

Mr. President, with the passing of Dr. Janez Drnovšek, the world has lost an important leader and a wonderfully decent human being. He was instrumental in founding and nurturing a free, democratic, successful Slovenia. History will not forget him, nor will the citizens of his grateful nation.

A TRIBUTE TO J. SHANE CREAMER

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I seek recognition today to express my thanks to Shane Creamer, on his extraordinary volunteer service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as the State president for the American Association of Retired Persons, the AARP. I also express deep regret that Mr. Creamer will no longer serve on the Executive Council as the Pennsylvania State president for the AARP as he will be stepping down February 22, 2008. He currently holds the highest volunteer position within the AARP and has since 2002.

In 1951, Shane Creamer graduated from Villanova University and in 1953 graduated from Temple University School of Law. During his time at each institution he served as student body president. Immediately after earning