

States. An estimated 100,000 Americans have a neurofibromatosis disorder. About half of those affected with NF have a prior family history of the disease.

NF has two distinct forms, NF1 and NF2. NF1 is the more common version, occurring in 1 of nearly every 4,000 individuals in the U.S. It has varying manifestations and degrees of severity resulting from a mutation of the NF1 gene. Symptoms include common skin abnormalities and are often evident at birth or shortly afterwards. NF1 can cause learning disorders, bone deformities, and may even be associated with cancer. NF2 is a much more rare condition, resulting from a mutation of the NF2 gene, that is most frequently associated with hearing loss and visual impairment.

The National Institutes of Health, NIH, supports critical research to fight NF, investing approximately \$13 million a year. At NIH, the \$1.5 billion National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, NINDS, supports research and clinical trials to understand normal and abnormal development of the brain and nervous system to improve our understanding of the disease and our ability to prevent, treat, and ultimately cure the NF disorders. Researchers have been able to locate the exact NF1 gene, which they found normally works as a "molecular brake" to keep cells from overmultiplying, and the NF2 gene, which they found normally helps suppress tumors. It is the mutations of these genes that cause the difficulties associated with NF. According to NINDS:

Understanding the molecular pathways and mechanisms that govern these key proteins and their activities will offer scientists exciting opportunities to design drugs that could replace the missing proteins in people who have neurofibromatosis and return their cell production to normal.

NINDS is currently researching how NF1 can also cause abnormal fetal development that can cause learning disabilities and cognitive deficits for children. NINDS also supports research aimed at developing improved methods of diagnosing NF and identifying factors that cause the wide variations of symptoms and severity of the disorders.

As a practicing physician, I am encouraged that NINDS is performing research to help doctors equip parents for their child's education by pinpointing associations between brain abnormalities and specific cognitive disabilities. This will help parents to develop and implement early intervention programs.

Having treated patients with NF, I know firsthand the pain and suffering associated with the disease and the difficulties it can cause for parents. The ongoing Federal research activities though NIH are critical toward fighting NF. I also applaud the tremendous efforts of private foundations and the thousands of NF volunteers and advocates across the country. It is my sin-

cere hope that public-private partnerships will continue to provide medical breakthroughs that can prevent, treat, and cure NF and other painful diseases.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING JACKLYN H. LUCAS

• Mr. BURR. Madam President, I wish to honor the life of Jacklyn Harrell Lucas. Mr. Lucas was born in Plymouth, NC, to Louis Harold and Margaret Lucas on February 24, 1928. He was in the eighth grade at Edwards Military Institute when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Lucas felt an obligation to serve the country and refused to let age get in his way.

Ten months after Pearl Harbor, Jack Lucas joined the Marine Corps Reserve at the age of 14. He listed his age as 17 and joined without his mother's consent. Lucas soon reported to Parris Island for basic training, where he qualified as a sharpshooter.

He was assigned to a machine gun crew and moved to Pearl Harbor at the end of 1943 where he was promoted to PVT first class. A year later, Lucas and his unit had not been deployed, so Lucas decided to deploy himself. He stowed away on the USS *Duel*, which was carrying the 5th Marine Division to battle in the Pacific.

A month into the journey he came out of hiding. Despite being reported as AWOL a month earlier and having been reduced in rank, PVT Jack Lucas was assigned to the 5th Marine Division. He was assigned to a rifle team and longed to get into the fight.

On February 19, 1945, Lucas finally got his wish as he and 30,000 other marines stormed the beaches of Iwo Jima. On the second day of the invasion, Lucas was pinned down with three members of his rifle team when two grenades landed in their foxhole.

His Medal of Honor citation describes best what happened next. Private Lucas "unhesitatingly hurled himself over his comrades upon one grenade and pulled the other one under him, absorbing the whole blasting force of the explosions in his own body in order to shield his companions from the concussion and murderous flying fragments." He saved the lives of his fellow marines by an act that would almost surely result in death, but Lucas survived.

Seven months and twenty-one surgeries later, Lucas was medically discharged from the Marine Corps. He left the service with over 200 pieces of shrapnel in his body. A month later he was awarded the Medal of Honor. Private Lucas was only 17 years old. He was one of 27 marines given the medal for their heroic actions at Iwo Jima. Eight-two marines were awarded the Medal of Honor during World War II, and almost a third received the medal for their heroism during this historic battle. Lucas is the youngest person ever to receive this Nation's highest military honor.

This Nation lost one of its best on June 5, when Jacklyn Harrell Lucas succumbed to cancer. He is survived by his wife Ruby C. Clark Lucas; 4 sons—William, Jimmy, Louis, and Kelly; a daughter, Peggy; 3 stepdaughters, Joan, Debbie, and Melinda; a brother, Louis; 15 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Madam President, the determination, patriotism, and selflessness of Jack Lucas should be admired by all. He was a fine North Carolinian and a great American.●

HONORING HORACE P. AXTELL

• Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I am pleased to recognize an extraordinary honor bestowed upon Horace P. Axtell, elder of the Nimiipu, more commonly known as the Nez Perce Tribe. Horace is a 2008 recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts, NEA, National Heritage Fellowship, an annual fellowship that honors American folk artists for contributions to American culture. The highest federal honor in the folk and traditional arts, only 10 NEA National Heritage Fellowships are awarded every year.

Horace is a Nez Perce tribal historian, storyteller, singer and drum maker. In fact, he is a spiritual leader of the Seven-Drum religion, a traditional religion of the tribes of the plateau region that requires practitioners to memorize songs and accompany them on handmade drums. He still builds these drums in the traditional way, curing hides and stretching them over wooden frames. Spending his youth listening to stories of the tribal elders, some of whom survived the 1877 war against the Nez Perce by the United States, Horace is now a respected elder himself and a pipe carrier for his tribe, a position of great honor. He is the author of a memoir, the first one printed in over half a century by a Nez Perce elder. He has received numerous awards including the President's Medallion from the University of Idaho, an honorary doctorate from Lewis-Clark State College and the Washington State Historical Society Peace and Friendship Award.

It is an honor for me to publicly recognize the remarkable achievements of Horace P. Axtell.●

300TH ANNIVERSARY OF RIDGEFIELD, CONNECTICUT

• Mr. DODD. Madam President, today I recognize a significant milestone for one of the towns in my home State of Connecticut. This year, the town of Ridgefield is celebrating the 300th anniversary of its founding.

Ridgefield's heritage dates back to the founding of this country and the American Revolution. A small militia force led by Generals David Wooster and Benedict Arnold faced off here against a larger British force at the Battle of Ridgefield on April 27, 1777. Whether it's the graves of the soldiers

on both sides of the conflict who were killed and are now buried together in a cemetery on Main Street, or the cannon ball that remains lodged into the side of the Keeler Tavern, landmarks of this battle can still be found throughout Ridgefield.

This beautiful colonial town of approximately 24,000 people has historically been known as a farming community. Today it is regularly recognized not only for the high quality of its schools and tranquility but for its world class restaurants and inns. Considered right after World War II as a potential location for the United Nations secretariat building, Ridgefield has managed to retain its small town, New England charm to this day.

The residents of Ridgefield are rightfully proud of the town's rich cultural and agricultural heritage and have organized a number of activities to celebrate this momentous occasion. I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating my many friends among the good people of Ridgefield as they gather this year to celebrate their town's three centuries of history.●

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR SCHUT

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I would like to take this time to recognize Arthur J. Schut, a fellow Iowan who has dedicated more than 30 years of his life to serving the disfranchised in Iowa communities with his care, counsel and work to help individuals struggling with substance abuse. Arthur Schut, or Art as many people know him, has gone above and beyond the call of duty, devoting his life to substance abuse treatment in Iowa. And I would like to wish him all the best in his future endeavors as he moves on from Iowa to continue his efforts in other parts of the country.

Art has worked tirelessly to provide substance abuse care and council throughout the State of Iowa. He has fought to minimize the negative stigma surrounding those struggling to overcome their substance abuse by educating families, lawmakers, and the public. He has worked with great effort towards securing funding and resources for those with addiction and mental health issues. His deep passion for his vocation has led him to travel all across our great State and Nation for his cause, fighting on a local, State, and national level.

Art earned his psychology degree from Central College in Pella, IA, and obtained his master's in clinical psychology from the State University of New York at Albany. After obtaining his degrees, he devoted all his time to administering substance abuse care throughout Iowa. He has held positions as treatment director, clinical director, child psychologist, and community programming director in substance abuse agencies. He served as adjunct faculty at the University of Iowa, where he gave guest lectures and taught substance abuse courses. He ad-

ministers agency operations and programs in three regions of Iowa including outpatient offices in 16 Iowa counties, a prevention unit, an employee assistance program, residential treatment programs and a detoxification unit. In addition, Art has been the president and chief executive officer of the Mid-Eastern Council on Chemical Abuse, MECCA, in Iowa City and Des Moines for the past 16 years.

It is clear that Art Schut has a deep passion for treating and supporting those who struggle with substance abuse and deserves our recognition. His dedication and perseverance to his cause deserve immense respect and honor. Art will be deeply missed. He is an amazing role model, not only for his humanitarian efforts, but for his passion and zeal that can be seen in his devotion to his work.

Iowa is losing a great leader, but we can rest assured that Art's commitment to his cause will never waver and he will continue to make leaps and bounds to provide substance abuse care and treatment no matter what obstacles may stand in his way.●

HONORING HONOR GROUNDS LLC

● Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, today I celebrate an inventive Maine small business that is helping to support our country's National Guard and Reservist families. Honor Grounds LLC distributes its own brand of high-quality coffee to convenience stores and supermarkets, and a portion of the sales go to helping some of our country's most deserving citizens.

Honor Grounds LLC is an enormously innovative project of Dan Boudreau, who is a longtime coffee distributor, as well as Catherine and John Salterio, principals at Consolidated Services, a beverage distribution consulting firm in Minot. Several years ago, Mr. Boudreau, who is a Maine Army National Guard veteran himself, sought a unique avenue to give back to the Guard. Mr. Boudreau, together with the Salterios, developed a program to sell specially packaged Honor Grounds coffee and to donate some of the profits to assist military families.

They launched the company earlier this year and report that retailers have demonstrated immense support for the initiative. In fact, Hannaford Brothers, one of the supermarket chains participating in the program, generously waived its usual stocking fee for Honor Grounds in recognition of the program's significance. They offer three military-themed flavors of coffee—Reveille Dark, Five Star Joe, and D-Day Decaf.

All donated proceeds from Honor Grounds go specifically to The Patriot Fund, which was designed to concentrate money in the hands of groups that aid America's military personnel and their families. Already, Honor Grounds has succeeded in funding several organizations nationwide, including the Maine Department of Veterans

Affairs, as well as Tee It Up For The Troops, a golf fundraising nonprofit that supports the families of disabled and fallen servicemembers.

Honor Grounds coffee consists of choice 100 percent roasted Arabica beans, which translates to an exceptional cup of coffee. But more notably, each bag of Honor Grounds coffee includes the story of a member of the National Guard or Reserves. Each biography details the life of one of our Nation's defenders, the heroes among us. More than just a nice touch, these narratives provide a link between soldier and civilian, which makes the purchase of Honor Grounds coffee all the more meaningful.

To expand the scope of its reach, supplement its retail sales, and ultimately generate more funds for the Nation's military families, Honor Grounds recently implemented a fundraising partnership program. Schools, veterans and civic organizations, as well as other groups sell Honor Grounds coffee with their association's logo on the box, thereby promoting both the group and Honor Grounds. Notably, Honor Grounds donates an extra \$1.50 to that club's home State military families for each box sold.

Honor Grounds is not only a patriotic small business, but it also represents a truly creative approach to bolstering our Nation's support of those who serve. With the motto of "Helping Military Members and Their Families, One Cup at a Time," Honor Grounds is seeking to reinvigorate the gratitude our country's finest citizens have earned. I thank Mr. Boudreau and the Salterios for their selfless efforts, and wish them continued success in their magnificent achievement.●

TRIBUTE TO LELAND ROBICHAUX

● Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I wish to acknowledge Councilman Leland Robichaux of Houma for his dedicated service to Louisiana and the United States of America. I would like to take some time to make a few remarks on his accomplishments.

Mr. Robichaux started his career in oilfield services in 1964, traveling the world with his family as a result. He helped found the South Central Industrial Association 10 years ago, serving as the business organization's president from 2003 to 2004. Also active from the beginning in membership initiatives and infrastructure issues, he earned the SCIA's Tillman Esteve Award last year for his contributions. Outside his job as a salesman for Oil States, an offshore oil-and-gas manufacturer, he traveled annually with the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce to Washington, DC, to lobby for hurricane protection for the past 8 years.

Mr. Robichaux was elected to the Terrebonne Parish Council District 6 seat last fall. He represented the parishes of southwest Terrebonne, Donner, Gibson, parts of Bayou Black and