

said in the past, the act of adoption itself represents the value that Americans place on the worth of each human life, and it is throughout this particular month of the year that we take time to reaffirm this sacrificial and rewarding act.

VOTE EXPLANATIONS

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I was not present for the votes on Senator COBURN's motion to commit H.R. 3082 to the Senate Committee on Appropriations and amendment No. 2757, which was also introduced by Senator COBURN. Had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to commit and voted yea in favor of amendment No. 2757.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JUANITA HELMS

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to remember the life of an extraordinary resident from my home State of Alaska, Juanita Lou Helms. Ms. Helms passed away on November 7, 2009, in her hometown of Fairbanks. She was 68.

Ms. Helms was active in local community organizations, politics, and most importantly, was devoted to her husband, their four children, and grandchildren.

Juanita began her public service on the borough assembly in 1980, but she is most well known in the community for becoming the Fairbanks North Star Borough's first female mayor in 1985. During her two terms, Mayor Helms shepherded the Borough through difficult financial times. As an "open door" mayor and terrific listener, she inspired the trust needed to find common ground among her constituents.

Among her accomplishments was the construction of the community's convention center, improving air quality, and helping thaw the "ice curtain" by establishing a sister city relationship with Yakutsk in Eastern Russia.

Away from the political realm, Ms. Helms was involved in innumerable civic endeavors, especially parent-teacher groups in Fairbanks. She also held an assortment of jobs in the community from carhop to court clerk to rental property manager.

In her personal life Juanita was an avid dancer who was loved by her family and all who knew her. She and her husband Sam were devoted to their children Fawn, Selene, Ren, and Karisse. They were so deeply involved in their lives and those of their many grandchildren that the number of events they attended and participated in are virtually countless.

Juanita will be missed by her family, friends, and all of the people she touched in the State of Alaska.●

REMEMBERING ANNIE ASHENFELTER

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I rise today in remembrance of Annie

"Akkuluq" Ashenfelter. I am saddened to announce with her passing on October 8, 2009, the village of White Mountain and the great State of Alaska lost an elder of great cultural knowledge, wisdom, and language. The magnitude of this loss is better understood by recalling the immense contributions she gave her family, community, and region.

Annie was born in White Mountain on January 24, 1913. She spoke Inupiat as her first language and learned English when she went to school. She completed the third grade.

Annie lived a subsistence life, reliant on the land and its resources to sustain her family. Annie's steadfast connection to her Inupiat identity ensured her children, grandchildren and her many generations to follow would remain grounded in those same cultural roots and values. Annie loved to go camping and fishing, living off the land, spending 90 years of her life sharing this love with her family. She enjoyed preparing Native food and sharing what she had with others. Annie was a talented sewer, of both children's clothing and animal skins. She made all 10 of her children's clothing: pants, shirts, parkies, mukluks, and mittens.

Annie was a pillar of her community. She had strength of character, embodied knowledge of the land, and symbolized the resilience of the Inupiat people. Her kind heart has left a permanent mark on the lives of countless individuals. Annie was easy to laugh, had good memories, and enjoyed the simple things in life: getting up in the morning, having her morning cup of coffee, sitting at the window and observing life in White Mountain. Annie never had a bad word to say about anyone, ever. Even during the difficult times, she lived her life with grace, humor, love, strength, joy and understanding. Annie was a strong Fish River Inupiaq woman.

Mr. President and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Annie "Akkuluq" Ashenfelter, whose love and wisdom will forever be in the memories of those who loved and knew her.●

TRIBUTE TO EDEN SUTLEY

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to honor a very special Louisianian, Eden Sutley, who has served her State and Nation with great distinction. Eden is a Lafayette, LA, native who is currently a junior at the George Washington University in Washington, DC. Just like Louisiana's senior Senator, Eden Sutley is a proud member of the Delta Gamma Fraternity.

Winston Churchill, one of the great figures of World War II, once said: "We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give."

Eden Sutley may not know what she wants to do to earn a living after college, but her volunteer spirit and desire to give back to the "greatest genera-

tion" precisely highlights the sentiment to which Mr. Churchill refers.

At the urging of her father, 2 years ago Eden became involved with Louisiana HonorAir Program. This group, based in Eden's hometown of Lafayette, honors surviving World War II veterans by giving them an opportunity to see the Washington, DC, memorials dedicated to their service. After flying up from Louisiana, the veterans visit the World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iwo Jima memorials and travel to Arlington National Cemetery.

Eden Sutley has played an important role during HonorAir's trips to Washington, DC. For each visit, Eden organizes about 40 of her sorority sisters to come out and assist these World War II heroes. They help by pushing wheelchairs, taking pictures, and handing out water as these Louisiana World War II veterans experience the Nation's Capital, many for the first time.

In all, Eden has recruited over 200 sorority sisters to lend a hand to our HonorAir veterans. They have volunteered on more than a dozen Saturdays since 2007, helping over 1,000 veterans. There have been seven different flights this year alone, including the last trip of the year, which occurred October 24.

Volunteering with HonorAir to assist the World War II veterans is so popular among her fellow Delta Gammas that some sisters come back to help out even after they have graduated. Eden has also inspired two other Louisianians, Terricia Soyombo and Brooke Oschner, who are also Delta Gammas at George Washington University, to become part of this effort. Through her role as Delta Gamma president at George Washington, Eden has been instrumental in getting other Greek organizations involved, as well.

Eden has demonstrated a passion for public service that serves as a model for college students across our great country. On behalf of Louisiana HonorAir and our entire State, I thank Eden for her leadership, for her willingness to give back, and for inspiring others to do the same.●

TRIBUTE TO LOUISIANA WWII VETERANS

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I am proud to honor a group of 97 World War II veterans from all over Louisiana who travelled to Washington, DC, on October 24 to visit the various memorials and monuments that recognize the sacrifices of our Nation's invaluable servicemembers.

Louisiana HonorAir, a group based in Lafayette, LA, sponsored this trip to the Nation's Capital. The organization is honoring surviving World War II Louisiana veterans by giving them an opportunity to see the memorials dedicated to their service. The veterans visited the World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Iwo Jima memorials. They also travelled to Arlington National Cemetery.

This was the last of three flights Louisiana HonorAir made to Washington, DC this fall. It is the 20th flight to depart from Louisiana, which has sent more HonorAir flights than any other State to the Nation's Capital.

World War II was one of America's greatest triumphs but was also a conflict rife with individual sacrifice and tragedy. More than 60 million people worldwide were killed, including 40 million civilians, and more than 400,000 American servicemembers were slain during the long war. The ultimate victory over enemies in the Pacific and in Europe is a testament to the valor of American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. The years 1941 to 1945 also witnessed an unprecedented mobilization of domestic industry, which supplied our military on two distant fronts.

In Louisiana, there remain today about 30,000 living WWII veterans, and each one has a heroic tale of achieving the noble victory of freedom over tyranny. This HonorAir group had 41 veterans who served in the U.S. Army, 11 in the Army Air Corps, 33 in the Navy, 6 in the Marine Corps, 3 in the Merchant Marines, 1 in the Coast Guard, and 2 were a part of Women's Army Corps, WAC.

Our heroes, many of them from Southeast Louisiana, trekked the world for their country. They fought in Germany, Holland, France, Italy, Africa, Guam, Bougainville, Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, the Philippines, New Guinea, Japan, and Saipan. Their journeys included the invasions of North Africa, Sicily, and Normandy.

One of our Army veterans fought on the front lines in Europe and was held as a prisoner of war. Another Army veteran was wounded in Bastogne and received a Purple Heart for his service.

One Army Air Corps veteran served in 37 combat missions between 1943 and 1945 as a B-24 tail gunner. One Army veteran served in Normandy during D-day.

Another Army veteran received five battle stars for his service. Yet another one of our Army veterans received a Purple Heart and five medals, including the Bronze Star Medal, for his service in Europe.

I am also proud to acknowledge that of the 97 veterans who visited Washington this past weekend, two were women who served our country with honor and distinction during World War II.

I ask the Senate to join me in honoring these 97 veterans, all Louisiana heroes, who visited Washington. We thank Louisiana HonorAir for making these trips a reality.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM McCORKLE

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, it is an honor to recognize Dr. William McCorkle, who after 52 years of extraordinary service to our Nation, is retiring from Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL.

In the words of Napoleon Bonaparte, "Victory belongs to the most persevering."

Dr. McCorkle is a person who has used his perseverance, determination, and forthrightness not only to personally succeed in the Army but more importantly to do what is best for our warfighters.

A 1950 graduate of the University of Richmond with a bachelor of science degree in Physics and a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Tennessee in 1956, Dr. McCorkle came to Redstone in 1957 from a position at Tulane University.

Not since Dr. Wernher von Braun has one man done more to promote rocket development at Redstone than Dr. McCorkle. Since he joined the Aviation and Missile Command, Dr. McCorkle has been a pillar in the aviation and missile research and development fields.

As director of the Aviation and Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center, Dr. McCorkle is an internationally recognized leader in aviation and missile technology, and has been involved in virtually every Army rocket and missile development program since 1956. He helped build the very foundation that has made the U.S. Army's aviation and missile programs so successful.

Dr. McCorkle's efforts have been instrumental in taking engineering ideas and transforming them into weapon systems. Dr. McCorkle was key in the development of the Prototype Integration Facility which has transformed the Army's rapid response capability to meet the needs of the soldier in the battlefield.

This facility is on the forefront of providing our servicemembers with quick solutions to critical problems they currently face in combat. Dr. McCorkle's work on this initiative has led to the building of a world-class research program at Redstone Arsenal valued at over \$1.2 billion.

More importantly, he has dramatically increased rapid prototyping efforts that have led to significant advancements to unmanned aerial vehicles at use today in combat.

Dr. McCorkle has effectively championed the use and growth of unmanned aerial vehicles and the new capabilities that have increased their value in combat. In conjunction with the Air Force, Dr. McCorkle's team led the development of advanced technology to arm predator unmanned aerial vehicles with Hellfire missiles. This program is now one of the most successful weapon systems being used today in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Under Dr. McCorkle's guidance, aviation research has also flourished. The Aviation and Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center is heavily involved in the research and development initiatives behind many of the most utilized Army helicopter programs, including those on the Apache, Black Hawk, and Chinook helicopters.

After the rapid development of blue force tracking, a new capability that tracks the location of friendly and hostile military forces, units overseas were able to install this technology directly in the field.

Continuously, throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom, it was reported that blue force tracking systems were working flawlessly, even allowing troops to fly in formation during sandstorms and brown-out conditions. This is an invaluable advancement for our soldiers and Dr. McCorkle ensured it was delivered to our servicemembers in the field at a critical time.

Dr. McCorkle's work has significantly improved technology development and reduced the time to field equipment, ensuring our warfighters are the best equipped fighting force in the world. His work has also reduced the cost of these programs for the taxpayer.

Under his direction, the Aviation and Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center developed the Department of Defense's Best Value Engineering Program, which has consistently achieved 70 percent of the Army Materiel Command's total savings and 30 percent of the Department's total savings. His Service Life Prediction Program has achieved over \$8 billion in cost avoidance.

Dr. McCorkle has been on the forefront of new technology to provide our warfighters with the best equipment and our nation the best defense from those who wish to threaten us.

Under his guidance and leadership, the Aviation and Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center was consistently recognized as an Army Materiel Command Laboratory of Excellence and formally recognized as the Army's best laboratory eight times.

I thank Dr. McCorkle for his years of service to our Nation, the Army and, most importantly, the warfighter. He has been a genuine asset to both the Service and the warfighter.

In everything he did, Dr. McCorkle strove for excellence in himself and sought to inspire the same in those around him.

His leadership, experience, and expertise have advanced our rocket, missile, and aviation programs beyond what was ever imagined when he first came to work for the Army. I am proud to have worked with Dr. McCorkle for over 30 years, but I am even more honored to call him my friend.

Dr. McCorkle, I wish you and your wife Nancy the very best as you enjoy your well-deserved retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO GORDON J. JONES

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Gordon J. Jones of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, who passed away on October 6. He was a man of great faith in God and had a strong conviction to serve his country, State, city, and Santee Sioux tribal community in many generous and selfless capacities.