

icon. He took Jacqueline Cochran under his wing and helped her, and she went on to become the first woman to break the sound barrier. She also was the woman who conceived of the Women Airforce Service Pilots and was the leader during World War II of this incredible group of women.

I wish to read the remarks I made because they tell much of the story of the WASP and Jacqueline Cochran's leadership.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, this is the perfect time for us to gather to honor the Women Air Force Service Pilots. They were not in the Air Force at the time, but they were called the WASP. We are presenting them the Congressional Gold Medal during Women's History Month because these women truly made history. America's first women to fly military aircraft, they blazed a trail in the sky that opened the door for today's women military pilots. By the time the war ended, 1,074 women had earned their wings at Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas. Thirty-eight of those women were killed in the line of duty. Throughout the war, these courageous women flew over 60 million miles around the world, in every type of aircraft flown by male pilots. They were never commissioned, were never afforded Active-Duty military status, and were not granted veterans status until 1977, 30 years after they had served.

All these women volunteered to serve their country in wartime. The reason the organization was formed was the every available male pilot was needed to fly combat missions. So, for the first time, women were recruited to fly non-combat missions. They ferried new aircraft from the factory to the coast and delivered the aircraft for shipment overseas. Some flew airplanes that towed targets so that male gunners could practice shooting with live ammunition and others even trained male pilots. They did all the things someone in the Air Force would do today except fly combat missions. That is why Jacqueline Cochran convinced the Army Air Corps of that their recruitment was a necessity. Women were eager to serve the war effort. That was why the Women's Army Corps, the WAC, was created. They too contributed to the war effort. The WAC was headed by Oveta Culp Hobby, a wonderful woman who later became a member of President Eisenhower's Cabinet.

Women volunteered by the thousands during World War II. The WASP volunteers paid their own way to Texas for training. Just before the war ended, the program ended, and the WASP paid their own way back home. The 38 courageous women who died as a result of their service in the WASP received no military honors and the expense of their burials was borne by their families or through contributions from their fellow WASP. Their families even had to pay to have their bodies transported home for burial. They were not even accorded the honor of having a flag on their caskets because they were not considered to be in the military.

I wrote about the WASP in my book, "American Heroines: The Spirited Women who Shaped our Country." These women surely did. Despite their patriotic and historic impact, the WASP were never formally recognized by Congress for their wartime military service—until today. Both Houses of Congress, the Senate and the House of Representatives, passed a resolution to present the Congressional Gold Medal. It was unanimous on both sides of the aisle. It is the highest award given by Congress. We honor their service, the history they made, and the history they made possible for other

women to make as a result of their courageous service.

Today, we right a wrong and acknowledge our debt to these great patriots, women who are so worthy of this award and this recognition.

I recognized Tom Brokaw during the ceremony. Tom was on the stage with us at the ceremony. Of course, Tom wrote the book "The Greatest Generation" that raised the awareness in America about the incredible contribution of the veterans who served in World War II—primarily of course, the combat veterans who served in World War II. He chronicled those because they served so valiantly in horrendous circumstances. They came home, never talked about it, didn't talk about their experiences to their wives or their friends or their children. Most went back to life as normal and considered that they had done their duty and now it was time to go back to work. Tom Brokaw did a wonderful service for all of us. He raised the awareness of the "greatest generation" and made us appreciate so much what they had done.

I said at the ceremony that Tom Brokaw, who came to the ceremony today because he had gotten to know about the WASP through his own research, was really here helping us close the circle for so many of those who served in World War II and were never recognized. We recognized the combat veterans. We recognized their incredible service in combat and in battle. But there were some who contributed that we have only recently received the Congressional Gold Medal. The WASP was the third of the three. The first was the Tuskegee Airmen. They were an incredible group African American pilots who flew combat missions but whose service was never fully recognized until later, when they were presented the Congressional Gold Medal.

Then there were the Navajo code talkers who did an incredible service for our country but operated in secret. They promised they would not ever tell what they did, and they didn't until years later when they were given leave to do so after a movie was made that chronicled their critical wartime role. They too were recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal. And now today we honor the WASP, the women who were the first women to fly military missions but never made a part of the military.

This effort to recognize the WASP started in the Senate where I was proud to introduce the legislation with my colleague from Maryland, BARBARA MIKULSKI, that culminated in the celebration today. Senator MIKULSKI and I shepherded that bill through the Senate, and in the meantime legislation was introduced in the House of Representatives by Representatives SUSAN DAVIS and ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, who passed it on the House side. It passed in record time for a Gold Medal resolution. For this, I thank my colleagues in the Senate and House. It took less than a year from the day we introduced this

legislation in the Senate to arrive at this day in which we award this medal to the WASP. There have not been too many Gold Medal resolutions signed into law, usually one per year, two at the most. But these resolutions usually take much longer. But because these women are older and have waited so long, we wanted to pass this quickly so as many of them as possible could come to Washington to celebrate. In fact, over 2,000 WASP veterans and their family members did come. Of the 1,074 women who earned their wings, over 200 were here today. I thank them.

I ended my remarks today by saying:

I thank the WASP and their families who have waited so long and traveled so far to be here today to finally hear these words: on behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for your service.

Speaker PELOSI was eloquent. The distinguished Minority Leader in the House, our leaders, Senator HARRY REID and Senator MITCH MCCONNELL, all participated with the Secretary of the Air Force in this special day. And of course, the four of us from the Senate and House who sponsored the resolution spoke as well. It was a beautiful ceremony. I wished to put that in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as a record of this day and as an additional record of the recognition the WASP so richly deserve and for which they have waited far too long.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEDICARE FRAUD

Mr. LEMIEUX. Madam President, yesterday, the President was in St. Charles, MO. He talked about a new effort the Federal Government would undertake to go after waste, fraud, and abuse in the health care system. He focused on the use of payment recapture audits and the teams of auditors who will now go through the process of looking at the payments being made in Medicare, for example, health care for seniors, to make sure the money is actually going for health care to seniors and not going to criminals who are stealing money from the system. I commend the President for doing this. It is the right thing to do. Republicans and Democrats can work together. This is a good initiative.

But I would like to request of the President, as I have requested of this Congress, to take further steps and more bold steps to stop fraud in the system.

I thank Leader McCONNELL who, in his opening remarks this morning as the Senate opened its session, commented on a piece of legislation I have offered that will not only go after the fraud after it happens, which is what the President's proposal does—and I commend him for it; it is estimated by folks looking at his proposal that it might save \$2 billion a year by going through and auditing and trying to find out where the bad guys have taken the money. I have some experience in that. When I was deputy attorney general in Florida, working under then-attorney general Charlie Crist, we had a Medicaid fraud control unit.

On the Medicaid side—health care for the poor—we did just what these teams the President is putting together now are going to try to do for Medicare. We had teams that looked at the data. We would break down the list of the top 50 folks who were receiving reimbursements from the Federal Government, and if the number and the amount of money they were receiving was abnormally high, we would look at it and make sure it was legitimate. You could go where money is. Right? They say: Look where the money is going. And if you can find out where the money is going, you can find out what the problems are.

We looked at the top 50 or top 100 folks who were receiving reimbursements from Medicaid, and we found problems. So the President's idea is effective. But let's not just do pay and chase. That is what we have been doing in health care for years and years and years.

The Presiding Officer, the Senator from North Carolina, agrees with me on this issue. She has been a leader in advocating that we stop the health care fraud before it starts. We were trying to change the health care bill last year at the end of the year to put in something more robust.

We do not have to start from scratch. There is an idea out there that already exists that is already working in another sector of the economy that is very similar to what could be done in health care.

Health care is about a \$2 trillion a year business. We know that in Medicare, there is at least \$60 billion if not \$100 billion a year of health care fraud. That is worth repeating: \$60 billion to \$100 billion a year of waste, fraud, and abuse in Medicare alone.

My colleague, Senator and Dr. COBURN, has been a leading advocate about trying to go after this waste, fraud, and abuse.

So what could we do with that money? We could put that money back into Medicare to make sure we are actually helping patients and make Medicare solvent for years to come, instead of where we are looking at it right now: that in the next 7 years Medicare is going to have a real financial crisis.

So how do we get at that \$60 billion to \$100 billion a year of waste, fraud, and abuse? Well, the health care indus-

try is about a \$2 trillion industry. Another industry that does a fantastic job of fighting fraud that is also an industry of about \$2 trillion is the credit card industry.

In health care—at least in government health care—we believe \$1 out of every \$7 is fraud. In the credit card industry, they lose 7 cents on every \$100. Madam President, \$1 out of every \$7 versus 7 cents on every \$100.

How do they do it? They do not do just pay and chase; they do not just set up auditors and prosecutors to go after the bad guys after they have stolen the money. They stop the stealing before it starts. Technology is a wonderful thing, and it has created tremendous abilities for us to prevent fraud before it begins.

You all have had this experience. You have gone somewhere and used your credit card, and your credit card company has e-mailed you or called you and said: Was that really you making that purchase? And why is that? Well, a mechanism was triggered by their computers, where you were doing something you normally do not do. You were outside your normal spending habits. You were in Washington, DC, visiting, not at home in Orlando, FL. That is not something you usually do. A red flag goes off because they built a computer model that tracks your normal purchasing, and if something is out of normal—if you are traveling or you are purchasing more than you usually do, or you are buying things that are the target of people who steal credit cards—the model goes off, the phone call happens, and if you do not verify, they do not pay.

This is called predictive modeling, and it makes all the sense in the world that we put this into our health care system. And we can. I have a bill, S. 2128. It has bipartisan support in the Senate with about a dozen cosponsors.

It is a bill to do three things. One, create the predictive modeling system, set up a computer program where if we have health care fraud, we can try to detect it before it starts.

Let me give you an example. My home State of Florida is rampant with health care fraud—rampant. In fact, I think south Florida is the capital, unfortunately, of health care fraud. Here is one example to give you: We have in south Florida 8 percent of the Medicare beneficiaries with HIV or AIDS nationwide, but 72 percent of the reimbursements to these patients are sent there.

Is that because they are getting the best health care in the world? No. It is fraud. There are people in organized crime who are running these health care codes, stealing medical records from hospitals, finding out your patient information, saying that you have AIDS, running a \$2,400 vaccine, and running those vaccines all day long, sending the bill to the Federal Government. The Federal Government is paying. It is a lot better deal for the crooks. It is a lot better than illicit drugs. We hear from these criminals

they would much rather be stealing from the Federal Government. No one is shooting at them, and it is a lot easier to rip off Uncle Sam.

We have to stop this. So if you put this predictive modeling system in place, you could actually have a trend that occurred, and the computer would say: Wait a minute, this "health care provider" has sold this wheelchair 100 times in an hour, or they sold this other medicine, this very expensive AIDS medication. They have prescribed that more than anybody else. The model goes off and the payment stops until they are verified. We stop the fraud before it starts.

My bill does two other things. One is, it requires a background check for every health care provider in America that is going to try to bill Medicare or Medicaid. Can you imagine that we do not do that right now? We do not do background checks of people who are allegedly providing health care to our seniors and to the poor. Can you imagine, we have a convicted murderer in Florida who was an alleged health care provider who was scamming the system? There are bad guys scamming the system for \$10 million, \$20 million, \$50 million, \$60 million. So we have to do a better job.

The third thing this bill does is it creates some accountability. We are going to create an Assistant Secretary of Health at the Department of Health and Human Services whose only function will be to fight fraud so we have some person accountable who we can call in front of our committees and say: How are you doing in the battle to fight fraud?

As much as I appreciate what the President did today—and that could save \$2 billion—a group here in town has evaluated this bill that has bipartisan support and they say it could save \$20 billion a year. So why aren't we doing this today? I know this health care bill is very important. We have differing views on whether we should pass the big bill. But why can't we pass my bill now? Why can't we start preventing this health care fraud now and save \$20 billion a year?

Imagine what we could do with that money. Imagine what we could do to put that money back in Medicare and make it more resilient so our seniors know their health care is going to be paid for.

I applaud the efforts of the President of the United States today. It is a good step. But it is on the pay-and-chase side. It is not on the prevention of fraud side. I keep coming to the floor and talking about this because I feel so passionately about it. It is a common-sense thing to do. It is problem solving. It is not partisan. No one is for fraud. Everybody should believe that we should try to spend the government's money more effectively and more efficiently.

With that, Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN LIEBERMAN, KAREN HUGHES, AND JAMES GLASSMAN

Mr. KAUFMAN. Madam President, this afternoon I will preside over a Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the future of U.S. public diplomacy. Never has public diplomacy been more important for promoting U.S. national security interests, especially in volatile regions and areas where we are engaged in counterinsurgency. In order to evaluate past achievements, successes, and challenges in public diplomacy, the committee invited three former Under Secretaries of State for Public Diplomacy to testify on the matter earlier today. Given their wide breadth of experience, they will share their views about lessons learned from their tenure and their recommendations on tools and future strategy.

The three former Under Secretaries who are participating—Evelyn Lieberman, Karen Hughes, and James Glassman—promise to provide incredibly useful insight, and I am grateful they are able to be here for the hearing today. Not only are they important voices on public diplomacy, they have also been dedicated public servants in both the Clinton and Bush administrations.

I wish to make a point here. They don't stay, as do the vast majority of the people we have talked about who have spent 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 years in the government. These people come from a different group. They are the group who come for a short period of time and bring incredible expertise and intelligence to the issues we face—expertise and intelligence, by the way, that we in the Federal Government could never afford to pay for. These three are perfect examples of that, and that is one of the reasons I wish to recognize them today.

During their years of service as Under Secretaries of State for Public Diplomacy, they oversaw our State Department's efforts to promote American foreign policies abroad using tools such as educational exchanges, public affairs and embassy outreach, international broadcasting, and the establishment of American corners or centers. They did this through communication with international audiences, cultural programming, academic grants, and international visitors programs. Public diplomacy programs such as the Fulbright Fellowship and Sports Envoy exchanges bring emerging leaders from foreign countries to

visit the United States, promoting a cross-cultural exchange and contributing to sharing an American perspective with the world.

Although these three officials come from different sides of the aisle, they each hold unique perspectives on American public policy, and all share—and I can say from firsthand experience they all share a love of country and dedication to service that called them to government service. I was honored to work with each of them in various capacities over the years, especially during my tenure on the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

Evelyn Lieberman is a native of New York and a graduate of State University of New York in Buffalo. She first entered government service in 1988 as press secretary to my predecessor, now Vice President JOE BIDEN. In those days I was serving as chief of staff, and I had the privilege to work with Evelyn early in her career. In 1993 Evelyn moved over to the White House where she served as Assistant to the First Lady, now Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Three years later, after serving also as Deputy White House Press Secretary, she was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff under Leon Panetta.

In 1997, President Clinton appointed her as director of Voice of America, and she served there for 2 years. During that time, I was a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, which oversees Voice of America programming, and I was fortunate to work closely with Evelyn once more.

In 1999, President Clinton nominated Evelyn to serve as the State Department's first Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy, and she was confirmed by the Senate. He could not have picked a better person. What happened back then was, we took the Information Agency and split it into two pieces. The Broadcasting Board of Governors created an independent entity for that, and then we brought the rest into the State Department, and Evelyn was the one who got that started and got it started on the right foot. She stayed there until the Bush administration.

Since then, since 2002, Evelyn has continued a career in the Federal Government serving as the Director of Communications and Public Affairs for the Smithsonian Institution.

The second witness today is Karen Hughes, who was appointed by President Bush to this position after serving as Counselor in the White House from 2000 to 2002. A Texas native, she holds a bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist University. Before embarking on a career in politics, Karen worked in broadcast journalism for 7 years.

When she was appointed as Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy in 2005, Karen was given the rank of Ambassador to underscore the importance of public diplomacy as a central component of U.S. foreign policy. While she was there, Karen implemented impor-

tant changes including the creation of a rapid response unit in her bureau at the Department of State and many others.

Upon leaving State in 2007 to pursue work in the private sector, Karen told the BBC that her greatest achievement was "transforming public diplomacy and making it a national security priority, central to everything we do in government," which is the goal I believe continues to this day.

During her tenure as Under Secretary, she represented former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in meetings with the Broadcasting Board of Governors, and I had the opportunity to work with her on promoting a free press overseas.

I have worked with all three of these people. These are extraordinary public servants, Republicans and Democrats; people who have disagreements on many things but came to the government, took incredible financial sacrifice, and worked together to solve bipartisan problems that have put the public diplomacy effort in a positive light.

When Karen Hughes left the State Department, President Bush nominated James Glassman to take her place. James is a Harvard graduate and a prominent writer and journalist, to say the least. He was confirmed by the Senate in June 2008 as Under Secretary of Public Diplomacy. Jim has done a whole lot of things. He has held senior roles at a number of leading news organizations, including the New Republic, the Atlantic Monthly, and U.S. News and World Report. He is also a former owner and editor of Roll Call.

Before joining the Bush administration, Jim served as a fellow at the non-profit American Enterprise Institute for 12 years. In 2007, Bush nominated him to be chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, and he served in that role until moving to the State Department several months later. As I said, I worked with Jim during my service on the board, and I saw firsthand his dedication to promoting American values and policies overseas.

Since the Bush administration left office, Jim has been working in the nonprofit sector, and he was recently selected to lead a new public policy institute at the George W. Bush Presidential Library.

Think about this: Here I am, a Democrat, and I can tell my colleagues there aren't three better people with whom I have worked in the whole world than Evelyn Lieberman, Karen Hughes, and Jim Glassman. They care. We have a lot of fights about a lot of things, but when it came to public service, these three individuals all did incredible work.

Political appointees make up an important constituency in our Federal Government. When a President requests their service, they often make real sacrifices to respond to that call, and I can tell you without a shadow of a doubt, these three made incredible