

Health Management Coalition's Pathways to Excellence Hospital Measurement and Reporting Initiative has given the facility multiple blue ribbon awards based on its performance in a number of critical safety and clinical quality areas.

Through the generosity of the hospital, three doctors—general surgeon Douglas Cole, urologist Lars Ellison, and orthopedist Kevin Olehnik—departed Maine en route to Haiti last Wednesday. Having been to the Caribbean nation in the past, as part of a Notre Dame Haiti Program trip in 2008, the doctors are all familiar with the people and places of Haiti. The Notre Dame Haiti Program, which is led by Father Tom Streit of the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, is dedicated to fighting lymphatic filariasis, a parasitic disease caused by microscopic, thread-like worms spread through infected mosquitoes. More than 26 percent of the Haitian population has the disease, which is prevalent in the subtropical regions of Asia and Africa, as well as parts of the Caribbean. In fact, the doctors were set to return to Haiti in February to help dozens more people through the Notre Dame Haiti Program. Yet after hearing about the earthquake, the doctors decided to fly to Haiti as quickly as possible to help with the ongoing relief efforts. They are in the country for a week or two, helping people with broken bones and performing other general surgeries. Their generosity is overwhelming, and it is a true testament to the magnanimous spirit of the resolute people of Maine.

We are defined as a people by what we do in times of tragedy, and I am proud to say that these three Mainers have gone above and beyond their Hippocratic Oath to willingly put their lives on hold in order to help the less fortunate in Haiti. They are extraordinary examples of how the American people time and again respond so charitably to the misfortunes of others. I commend Drs. Cole, Ellison, and Olehnik for their selfless service to others in this time of catastrophe, and I thank everyone at Penobscot Bay Medical Center for the remarkable work they do day in and day out to keep Mainers healthy.

#### TRIBUTE TO PAMELA GAVIN

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to salute Pamela Gavin, who retires this week after serving as Superintendent of the Senate Office of Public Records for 24 years.

In her service to the Senate, Pam has had the enormous responsibility of maintaining disclosure records under numerous laws, including those under the Federal Election Campaign Act, the Ethics in Government Act, and the Lobbying Disclosure Act. Tens of thousands of new records a year must be archived, adding to the already massive papers in this collection, and Pam's stewardship has been impeccable.

I especially want to pay tribute today to Pam's contributions to the implementation of the Lobbying Disclosure Act. As the Committee on Homeland Security worked to draft expansive changes to the Lobbying Disclosure Act, which were included in the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, Pam provided indispensable technical expertise. And after the act was signed into law, she worked tirelessly to make sure its implementation was smooth. She has been the driving force behind the development of an electronic filing system, providing guidance to the lobbying community to assist it in complying with the law, and ensuring access to researchers, reporters and the public.

Pam is someone who understands that we can increase accountability through transparency, and in pursuit of that goal she has been a model not only for the Senate but for the entire government.

Those who have worked closely with Pam will miss her cheerful smile, her enthusiasm, and warm consideration of all her colleagues. Although she is retiring, she will always be a dear member of the Senate community, and I wish her and her family the very best as she embarks on this new stage of her life.

#### 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU

Mr. LEMIEUX. Mr. President, this week marks the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi concentration camp. It was 65 years ago this week when the Soviet army entered Auschwitz and liberated more than 7,000 prisoners. It is estimated that a minimum of 1.1 million people were murdered in the camp as part of the Nazis' deliberate and systematic campaign to exterminate as many as 6 million European Jews and Roma. Winston Churchill called it a "crime that has no name."

Stories from the survivors are a chilling reminder of the unspeakable horrors that can be perpetrated by evil men when the forces of good are slow to respond. Some of these personal testimonies are preserved in museums around our Nation, including the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

In 1948, the United Nations pledged in the Genocide Convention that the horrors of the Holocaust would "never again" be repeated. Sadly, this pledge has not been upheld. In Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Sudan people have been murdered solely on the basis of their national, ethnic and religious affiliations.

I urge my colleagues and members of the international community to renew our commitment to "never again" allow genocide to take place. I also call upon the Obama administration to continue upholding our pledge to protecting the personal freedoms of individuals around the globe.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO NORTH DAKOTA'S ELECTRICAL LINEMEN

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish honor the brave crews of electrical line workers who helped restore power to thousands of North Dakotans.

Within the last week, severe weather hit the southwestern part of my State. These storms brought fierce winds, freezing rains, and eventually blizzard conditions. Ice coated miles of power lines, causing them to fail under the extra weight. Thousands of homes and businesses were left without electricity.

Severe weather is nothing new to North Dakotans. But living in a home without electricity during the depths of winter is an alarming prospect.

Thankfully, dedicated repair linemen immediately went to work. While I know these crews would tell me they are just doing their jobs, I think it is important to step back at a time like this and recognize the importance of their work. Repairing high-voltage power lines while battling subzero temperatures and strong prairie winds is a downright dangerous job. But these repair linemen work tirelessly in adverse conditions because they know their fellow North Dakotans depend on them.

Many people in my State still do not have access to power, but I know North Dakotans have enormous confidence in the ability of the repair linemen to restore power in a swift manner. They have shown tremendous resolve throughout this situation, and I am proud to commend their efforts.●

##### REMEMBERING RICKI CHANDRINOS

• Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, it isn't very often that we encounter an angel walking among us. However, Ms. Ricki Chandrinis was most certainly that. She was a tireless advocate working on behalf of veterans in our community, and her commitment to them will not soon be forgotten.

It wasn't until the love of her life, John Chandrinis, her husband of 35 years, began battling a terminal illness that she became passionately involved with the inner workings of the Veterans Affairs medical system. She muddled through the bureaucratic red tape to ensure that he received the care and benefits that he so richly deserved after defending the freedoms of our country for so many years. Tragically, her husband lost his battle, but her passion for America's heroes remained.

After moving to Las Vegas, following the death of her husband, she found her calling late in life. Ricki became deeply involved with the veterans living within her neighborhood, Siena. It is estimated that she personally assisted about 500 of our Nation's most heroic citizens, but she undoubtedly touched more hearts than that during her lifetime.

This extraordinary woman educated herself on VA policy in order to provide the best assistance to these men and women and went so far as to accompany many of them to the VA to ensure that they were served as thoroughly as possible. However, she knew that this wasn't enough for her and that she could serve these veterans even more.

Ricki arranged for speakers from the VA, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, State of Nevada, and others to address the members of the Siena Veterans Club. Ricki knew that she would not rest until she had served the needs of these veterans, and serve them she did.

Ricki left this Earth for a place much better, but her time on Earth was heaven-sent for all those whose lives she touched. She began her advocacy by her husband's side, and she has finished this tireless crusade to be by his side once again.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL HERBERT J. CARLISLE

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to LTG Herbert J. Carlisle, former Director of Legislative Liaison for Office of the Secretary of the Air Force and the current Commander of 13th Air Force, Hickam Air Force Base, HI. A command pilot with more than 3,400 flying hours in the T-38, AT-38, YF-110, YF-113, and F-15 Eagle, LTG "Hawk" Carlisle has commanded at the squadron, group, wing, and now Numbered Air Force levels. He has participated in Operations Restore Hope, Provide Comfort, and Noble Eagle, and his selection to lieutenant general and commander of the Jungle Air Force is a testament to his exceptional airmanship, leadership, and judgment.

General Carlisle graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1978 and was selected to attend pilot training at Williams Air Force Base, AZ. He excelled in pilot training and was selected to fly the Air Force's premier air superiority fighter, the F-15 Eagle. Stationed at Bittsburg Air Base, Germany, with the 525th Fighter Squadron, the Bulldogs, during the heart of the Cold War, then-Captain Carlisle again excelled in the air and on the ground as a pilot, flight lead, instructor pilot, and examiner pilot. His prowess in the air earned him a selection to attend the Air Force's Fighter Weapons School, and upon completion of the course he joined an elite team of fighter weapons school instructors. He became the chief of weapons and tactics at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico, only to be brought back to Nellis Air Force Base to become part of a recently declassified Air Force training program in which he flew Soviet fighters as adversaries against U.S. pilots to increase their capability and survivability in combat. Selected for promotion, Major Carlisle departed Nellis Air Force base for Maxwell Air Force Base, AL, to attend Air Command and Staff College and then de-

ployed to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, as the chief of air operations, U.S. Central Command Forward from 1991 to 1993.

In 1993, now-Lieutenant Colonel Carlisle returned to the F-15 Eagle, as operations officer of the 19th Fighter Squadron and then commander of the 54th Fighter Squadron at Elmendorf Air Force Base, AK. Following command, Lieutenant Colonel Carlisle attended Army War College in 1996, was selected for promotion to colonel, and returned to the Pacific in the F-15 Eagle as the Deputy Commander, 18th Operations Group at Kadena Air Base, Japan. Following Kadena, Colonel Carlisle was selected to command the 1st Operations Group at Langley Air Force Base, VA, then the 33rd Fighter Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, FL, and finally, after a short staff tour, the 3rd Wing at Elmendorf Air Force Base.

General Carlisle has served several tours on the Air Staff to include chief of the plans and programs directorate, director of the operational planning, policy and strategy, deputy chief of staff for air, space and information operations, plans and requirements, and two tours in the Legislative Liaison Division, as deputy director and director. It was in these positions that I witnessed firsthand General Carlisle's adept ability to handle a myriad of complex issues that directly impacted our national security. General Carlisle's engagement with Congress during his tenure as both deputy director and director of the Legislative Liaison Division was faultless.

Under General Carlisle's leadership, the Air Force developed a comprehensive congressional notification plan, ensuring timely and accurate passage of information on the Air Force's most difficult issues including the \$40 billion KC-X acquisition program, creation of Air Force Cyber Command, force structure changes, and creation of Air Force Global Strike Command. General Carlisle prepared over 200 announcements to the Hill, cleared of over 500 witness statements, transcripts, inserts, and questions for the record through the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Office of Management and Budget, and managed over 1,000 Congressional travel events to all 7 continents including 100 congressional Member visits to the Central Command Area of Responsibility. Finally, General Carlisle led the drive for what I consider the Air Force's most pressing issue: recapitalization. Through General Carlisle's leadership, the Air Force secured a budget of \$1.7 billion for bomber and air-to-ground weapons, yielded \$8.2 billion for fighter and munitions programs, and laid the foundation for \$200 million in supplemental munitions funding. The leadership, insight, and dedication of General Carlisle have been instrumental in building lasting and trusting relationships with the U.S. Congress, resulting in an overall increase in U.S. national security.

The breadth and depth of General Carlisle's assignments and the profes-

sionalism with which he has carried them out reflect a keen intellect and an unrivaled grasp of national security policies developed through both personal experience and academic instruction. General Carlisle earned a master's degree in business administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco, attended the National Security Management Course at Syracuse University, the Seminar XXI—International Relations programs at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Executive Course on National and International Security at George Washington University. While he has received many distinguished awards and decorations, it is General Carlisle's commitment and sacrifice to this Nation that make him stand out among his peers.

Today, General Carlisle is once again at the tip of the spear, leading our service men and women as commander of 13th Air Force, commander of Joint Task Force—Support Forces Antarctica, Operation Deep Freeze, and the Pacific Command's Joint Forces Air Component commander. On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank Lieutenant General Carlisle, his wife Gillian, and their daughter Summer for their continued commitment, sacrifice, and contribution to this great Nation. I congratulate Lieutenant General Carlisle on his recent promotion to lieutenant general and wish him Godspeed as he leads our military in protecting this great nation and its way of life.●

#### REMEMBERING DAVE DEDRICK

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize the life and career of Dave Dedrick, most well known for his role as Captain 11, a children's television program in the upper Midwest. He passed away on January 22 after a lifetime of bringing together South Dakotans of all ages. Dave's welcoming spirit and warm heart touched children and adults alike.

The Captain 11 Show, broadcasted from 1955 through 1996, is the longest running children's program ever. Dave, dressed in a blue and yellow pilot's uniform, led a program filled with cartoons and games. Captain 11 had the ability to control time through his Time Converter and ended every show with Freezeburg, a dance the audience, and everyone watching at home, knew by heart. Dave always made children of all ages feel comfortable, and with his show, unified generations of South Dakotans.

Dave was inducted into the South Dakota Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 1997 and the South Dakota Hall of Fame in 1999. His set is displayed in the State Historical Museum in Pierre, representing the important role Dave played in so many lives. On air and off, his friendly personality extended to all areas of his life, representing South Dakota values in all he did. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to his family on their loss.●