

Center was established in 1976. The American Folklife Preservation Act states “that the diversity inherent in American folklife has contributed greatly to the cultural richness of the Nation and has fostered a sense of individuality and identity among the American people.” I couldn’t agree more. Dr. Bulger has worked to preserve the unique nature of American folklife for future generations.

During her tenure, the center’s archive has tripled. With more than 5 million items, it is the largest ethnographic archive in the United States and possibly the largest in the world. The collection is a treasure trove of American creativity that is reflected through music, stories, crafts, dances, foodways, and other forms of traditional expression.

I am particularly proud that under her leadership the Folklife Center developed and expanded the Veterans History Project. The project contains more than 78,000 pieces of war-time memories and experiences from Americans across our country. The Veterans History Project has become the largest oral history project in our Nation’s history, and it will all be preserved for generations at the Library of Congress.

The Folklife Center also uses the latest technology to share its holdings via online presentations, as well as through webcasts and social media. As a result, students in Nevada and other States can access the Folklife Center’s collections from their homes, classrooms, and others venues.

It is also important to note that Dr. Bulger and her colleagues have provided advice and support to struggling cultural programs during these difficult economic times. In my home State, for example, the center has served the Western Folklife Center in Elko as well as the Nevada Humanities. The assistance to Nevada’s arts and cultural organizations has been invaluable as my State has weathered the economic recession.

I am proud to recognize Peggy Bulger, and I appreciate her important contributions to the American Folklife Center. I know I speak for the Senate when we wish you the best in your future endeavors.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

SECTION 647

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I understand there has been some confusion about the application of section 647 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which is codified in 10 U.S.C. 12731(f). This law reduces the eligibility age for retired pay for non-regular service, to provide a benefit to Reserve component members called to Active Duty in support of a contingency operation. Mr. President, 10 U.S.C. 101(a)(13)(B) defines contingency operation to include section 688 relating to the ordering of retired members to Active Duty but does not include section 688a, added in response

to 9/11 and relating to the ordering to Active Duty of retired members in high-demand, low-density assignments.

I filed an amendment to resolve this inconsistency by including mobilizations under section 688a to qualify for earlier receipt of Reserve retired pay under 10 U.S.C. 12731(f). However, I would withdraw my amendment if we can clarify that the provisions of 10 U.S.C. 12731(f) should include mobilizations under 10 U.S.C. 688a.

I ask the chairman of the Armed Services Committee whether he understands that Reserve retirees recalled to Active Duty in support of a contingency operation should qualify for earlier receipt of reserve retired pay under section 12731(f).

Mr. LEVIN. I agree that the authorities allowing for earlier receipt of Reserve retired pay should apply to members of the retired Reserve called to Active Duty in support of a contingency operation to the same extent it applies to other members of the reserves.

Mr. KOHL. I agree with the chairman.

TRIBUTE TO FREDERICK M. KAISER

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Frederick M. Kaiser, who retired from the Congressional Research Service, CRS, on November 3, 2011.

Mr. Kaiser, a former Specialist in American National Government at CRS, was an authority on congressional oversight issues of great importance to the Congress.

Mr. Kaiser’s career in service to Congress began in the summer of 1974, when he worked as a special staff consultant to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, chaired by Representative Thomas E. “Doc” Morgan of Pennsylvania. At the request of Chairman Morgan, Mr. Kaiser conducted an evaluation of the committee’s oversight activities, which was subsequently published by the committee. This early focus on congressional oversight foretold key aspects of Mr. Kaiser’s CRS career.

Mr. Kaiser began his employment with CRS on February 18, 1975, where he was given responsibility for the subjects of general congressional oversight, congressional oversight of foreign policy, and the authority and role of the General Accounting Office, which is now known as the Government Accountability Office, GAO. These are subjects on which Mr. Kaiser has advised Congress throughout his career. As a result of his high-quality work in service to the Congress, Mr. Kaiser quickly earned the title of Specialist in American National Government just 6 years after joining CRS. Mr. Kaiser continued his high level of service throughout his career, and his areas of expertise gradually expanded. He was regularly recognized for his service to Congress through special

achievement awards and other recognition.

Mr. Kaiser produced hundreds of CRS publications; testified before congressional committees and commissions; and organized policy institutes, workshops, and other policy discussions for congressional staff. Over the course of his career, Mr. Kaiser developed a reputation among colleagues for being supportive and generous in sharing his knowledge and insights.

Mr. Kaiser was regularly at the forefront of emerging legislative issues. As the possibility of organizing Federal homeland security functions into a new department began to develop, Mr. Kaiser undertook studies of agencies that might be included in a new department. As Congress considered the Help America Vote Act, he contributed his expertise on the organization of agencies that might be established to carry out the purposes of the act. Mr. Kaiser’s analysis and insights were important to informing successful efforts to improve GAO’s ability to support congressional oversight of the intelligence community. In February 2008, Mr. Kaiser testified on congressional oversight of the intelligence community before the subcommittee I chair, the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. In his testimony, as well as separate research conducted for the subcommittee, he examined the importance of intelligence community oversight, congressional structures for conducting such oversight, and options for enhancing oversight.

Other examples of Mr. Kaiser’s writing and briefings in the area of congressional oversight of the intelligence community include analyses of proposals for a joint intelligence committee, organizational reform of the House Intelligence Committee, intelligence community whistleblower protection, unauthorized disclosure of classified information, and use of classified information by Members of Congress. Mr. Kaiser also advised Congress on creation of the 9/11 Commission and on implementation of its recommendations, particularly concerning the Commission’s authority and recommendations related to the intelligence community.

Mr. Kaiser has been a leading authority on the management and oversight of the executive branch. Mr. Kaiser analyzed the Government Performance and Results Act, private citizens’ complaint-handling mechanisms, postal reorganization, audit institutions in other nations, statutory inspectors general, privatization of government background investigations, and security clearances. He also authored, with other selected CRS specialists, the Congressional Oversight Manual. The 1993 bipartisan House Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress noted the value of this publication, stating:

“As a way to further enhance the oversight work of Congress, the Joint Committee would encourage the Congressional Research Service to conduct on a regular basis, as it has done in the past, oversight seminars for Members and congressional staff and to update on a regular basis its Congressional Oversight Manual.” Mr. Kaiser contributed the chapter on congressional-executive relations to the final report of the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress.

Mr. Kaiser sought to enhance public understanding of the Federal Government as well. He wrote the introductory-level CRS report “American National Government: An Overview,” which explains the American national government structure. He also served as project coordinator for updates of Congress’s booklet on the Federal Government for the American people, “Our American Government.”

Finally, Mr. Kaiser has been a respected member of the academic community, and he has participated in numerous symposia; served as an adjunct professor at American University and the University of Maryland; and consulted with the Congress, the Department of State, and the Agency for International Development on democratic institution building in emerging democracies. Mr. Kaiser’s work has also appeared in numerous journals, including the *Administrative Law Review*, *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, and the *International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence*, and he has contributed to the *Encyclopedia of the American Presidency* and the *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Congress*.

As chairman of the subcommittee, I thank Mr. Kaiser for his dedication, professionalism, and lifetime of service to the Congress and our Nation. I wish him the best in retirement with his wife Carol and their children and grandchildren, and I am confident Congress, CRS, and the academic and professional community will continue to benefit from Mr. Kaiser’s research and analysis for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL PETER W. CHIARELLI

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and my Army Caucus co-chair, the senior Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. JIM INHOFE, I rise to congratulate GEN Peter W. Chiarelli, the 32nd Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, on his monumental contributions to our national security over the course of his distinguished 39-year career.

Throughout his career, General Chiarelli has been the consummate soldier’s soldier. His career is distinguished by excellence in command of troops from platoon to corps. General Chiarelli is known for his having an open mind and for his candor while addressing the issues affecting the Army today. He is a tremendous advocate for soldiers both within the Pentagon and

here on Capitol Hill. His advice, counsel, and friendship have been very valuable to us as Army Caucus cochairs, and he will be sorely missed. Who he is today though began being shaped many years ago.

After his graduation from Seattle University in 1972, Pete married his sweetheart, Beth, went to the Basic Course, and reported to his first assignment in the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, WA. After his time there, the Army offered him a job teaching at West Point, where he taught cadets in the distinguished Social Science Department.

In 1985, he graduated from the Naval Command and Staff College and returned to leading soldiers, this time in Germany with the 3rd Armored Division—the same division in which his father, also Pete Chiarelli, earned the Silver Star for heroism and a battlefield commission in 1945 as a tanker in World War II. It seems that character runs in the Chiarelli family. While in Germany, General Chiarelli showed his battlefield prowess—under his guidance, the U.S. tank crews won NATO’s distinguished Canadian Army Trophy for the nation with the best tankers.

After his success in Germany, he moved back to Washington in 1990, where took command of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, in the 9th Infantry Division. Following his time in command of the 2nd Battalion, he was sent to the prestigious National War College here in Washington, DC, and then to the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, TX, to serve as the operations officer. He continued to impress his peers and his superiors and was selected to return to his home State of Washington to command the 3rd Brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Lewis.

In 1998, following his successful brigade command, he was hand-selected to be the executive officer to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe in Belgium, where he served for 2 years before heading back to the 1st Cavalry Division to be the assistant division commander in 2000. When the Nation was attacked on September 11, 2001, then-Brigadier General Chiarelli was serving in the Pentagon on the Army staff, where he played a key role in mobilizing Army forces for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was promoted to major general in 2003 and assumed command of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Over the next several years, General Chiarelli would spend the majority of his time deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served in Baghdad from 2003 to 2005 as the commander of Multi-National Division—Baghdad. At this time, Baghdad served as the center of gravity for Operation Iraqi Freedom. General Chiarelli was given the difficult task of maintaining order in this sprawling city of 7 million people. During his command, General Chiarelli was instrumental in developing several innovations that contributed to our success in Iraq. Chief

among these were job-creating civil service projects. His commitment to using “money as a weapons system” brought stability and saved the lives of Americans and Iraqis alike.

In 2006, General Chiarelli was given command of all troops in Iraq, totaling 160,000 at that time. As the commander of the Multi-National Corps-Iraq, he continued to innovate, pushing his troops to adopt practices that protected the populace even as they destroyed the insurgent networks. His time as the commander of day-to-day operations in Iraq was, perhaps, the most difficult period of our operations there, but General Chiarelli’s performance garnered the highest praise of then-Secretary of Defense Robert Gates.

After 5 years in Iraq, General Chiarelli earned his fourth star and was selected as the 32nd Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, an honor that speaks to the confidence that his superiors and peers had in his abilities. As the “Vice,” General Chiarelli is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Army staff and its responsibility to man and equip the world’s greatest Army.

In this capacity, he has excelled on many fronts. He has been the military’s principal advocate for caring for our veterans with psychological health issues such as post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury. These “invisible wounds” affect thousands of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, who have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. His 2010 report entitled “Health Promotion, Risk Reduction, Suicide Prevention” was an effective call to action for leaders at the tactical level within the Army. This transparent and forthright self-evaluation of the Army’s small-unit leadership contained 45 hard-hitting pages of conclusions and recommendations, and we have been pleased with the general’s progress at following up with those.

As the Nation focuses on deficit reduction and budget cuts, General Chiarelli has been an important voice urging leaders to carefully consider the options. In testimony before both Chambers of Congress, he has advocated measured, strategy-based decisions that would meet budgetary needs, while maintaining a force that balances end-strength and capabilities.

Throughout all this important work, General Chiarelli is widely recognized as one of the most genuine and personable senior leaders in the military. One widely repeated anecdote is applicable here. While at a dinner at the White House in February 2011, General Chiarelli was passing behind another distinguished guest who, having seen his uniform pants and nothing more, asked him to refill her wine glass. The woman almost immediately recognized her error and was understandably mortified. Rather than be angry or embarrassed, General Chiarelli, as the second-ranking officer in the most powerful Army in the world, graciously filled