

In 2009, a growing number of veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan began appearing on court dockets around the country. Many of these veterans have special needs, including mental health needs, and many of them greatly benefit from specialized services. It was then that Judge Romani began modeling an innovative, new veteran's court based on a successful model in Buffalo.

Since 2009, the court that Judge Romani created has helped innumerable veterans turn their lives around. The Court consistently sees between 30 and 40 veterans go through its program at a time. There are now approximately 104 veteran's courts, like Judge Romani's, around the country helping those who served the United States in its time of need.

Judge Romani identifies this court as his "most rewarding achievement as a judge."

Judge Romani's last day on the court was November 5, when he completed an impressive career that spanned 39 years. He has been married to his lovely wife Karen for 38 years. They have three children, two of whom were recently married.

I add my voice to many others when I say thank you, Judge Romani, for your years of distinguished public service and the indelible mark you have left on Madison County.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I regret having missed the January 24, 2013, vote on S. Res. 15, a resolution to improve procedures for the consideration of legislation and nominations in the Senate. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of S. Res. 15.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY J. GOLDBERG

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, Senator HATCH and I would like to recognize the outstanding career of Mr. Larry J. Goldberg, Principal Deputy Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS. Mr. Goldberg retired on January 3, after more than 35 years of distinguished government service.

Mr. Goldberg began his career of government service in 1976 as Associate Legal Director for the National Center for Law and Deafness at Gallaudet College. He continued his work defending civil rights for persons with disabilities as a trial attorney in the Justice Department and later as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. In 1989, Mr. Goldberg joined HHS in the Inspector General Division of the Office of General Counsel. He transferred to the HHS Office of Inspector General, OIG, at the inception of its independent Office of Counsel in 1996, and has risen through the ranks to Principal Deputy Inspector General, managing a staff of more than 1,700 auditors, criminal investigators,

analysts, and attorneys, and a budget of more than \$300 million.

Throughout his career, Mr. Goldberg has demonstrated the essence of what it means to serve and protect the public. Most notably, he has accomplished systemic and institutional reforms that have enhanced HHS programs by strengthening protections against fraud, waste, and abuse and promoting efficient and effective program operations. His visionary leadership and perseverance in driving change has resulted in billions of dollars of erroneously paid and misused funds being returned to the critical programs that serve our most needy. Mr. Goldberg's career achievements also include establishing landmark legal rights for people with disabilities in employment, education, health care, and social services. His many contributions have had a far-reaching and lasting impact.

During his 23 years with OIG, Mr. Goldberg's efforts and skill in fostering collaboration within OIG and with government partners have positioned OIG to meet vastly expanded responsibilities and to achieve results in priority areas. The depth and range of his professional knowledge and expertise are appreciated and respected throughout HHS, by the larger OIG community, by Congress, and by the health care industry. His dynamic leadership has had a direct and measurable effect on OIG's ability to align its resources, work plans and products, compliance initiatives, and investigative and enforcement activities to carry out its mission.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I join with Senator BAUCUS in commending Mr. Goldberg for his service. As Principal Deputy Inspector General, and throughout his career with OIG, Mr. Goldberg's efforts have directly benefited the American people by protecting Federal health care, public health, and social programs from waste, fraud, and abuse, and recommending to HHS actions to improve program effectiveness. Mr. Goldberg has led OIG to achieve unprecedented results in combating health care fraud and abuse. He has marshaled OIG's resources to counter this epidemic through a sophisticated, multifaceted, and innovative strategy.

For example, Mr. Goldberg has spearheaded OIG's efforts to join with the Justice Department to establish Medicare Fraud "Strike Force" operations—elite teams of investigators and prosecutors, supported by advanced data analysis—in 9 key locations. These Strike Forces have charged more than 1,400 defendants, who collectively have billed Medicare for more than \$4 billion. Simultaneously, OIG has pursued more traditional civil, administrative, and criminal cases. Under Mr. Goldberg's leadership, OIG has generated record-breaking returns for the Medicare Trust Fund and taxpayers—including court-ordered recoveries, fines, restitution, and settlements totaling more than \$6 billion in 2012.

But not all of his results can be measured in dollars. During Mr. Goldberg's tenure, OIG produced a landmark measurement of adverse events from hospital stays; reported and testified on overutilization of antipsychotic drugs for nursing home patients; and recommended actions to protect the safety of the Nation's food supply. Mr. Goldberg has also championed fraud prevention by taking the message directly to the health care industry. He has built coalitions with industry to promote a culture of compliance and transparent practices to safeguard Federal health care programs, and he pioneered a series of guidances that set the standards for how to meet Federal health care program requirements.

We wish Mr. Goldberg the very best in his retirement and thank him for his exemplary record of service to the government and the American people in protecting Federal programs from fraud, waste, and abuse and in promoting the health, well-being, and civil rights of all Americans.

REMEMBERING CAROL WALTER

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to remember Carol Walter. Carol was known throughout Connecticut and the Nation as a force for good and a supporter of the homeless. I worked with her for many years to address the homeless population in Connecticut, and no one advocated more relentlessly and tirelessly for this cause.

An ambassador for social justice, she took positions at various nonprofits, including homeless shelters throughout the State as well as at the Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition. In 2006, she was named executive director of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness.

At the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, Carol introduced a new way of approaching homelessness. Carol regarded this unacceptable human condition as something that could be prevented and addressed it on a national scale through community organizing, advocacy, research, leadership, and education. She empowered the greater community, building grassroots leadership, advocating for new research and policies, and leading these efforts with grace and resolve. According to her colleagues at the Coalition, Carol truly listened to the voices of people who experience homelessness.

She did not stop at the prevention and cessation of homelessness, but rather took the next step towards long-term sustainability. Carol dedicated most of her career to efforts to include securing permanent affordable housing and housing subsidies for the afflicted, providing support systems in the community, and offering career services to support independence and self-help. She worked to prevent and eliminate homelessness on local, State, and Federal levels. She partnered with local communities and Statewide organizations, such as Supportive Housing

WORKS and Opening Doors Connecticut, to unify everyone in this collective effort.

Carol was beloved by her family and friends, and will always be remembered as a beacon of light and hope. Her exuberance for her mission will be carried on by her colleagues, and her charity will inspire many others. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the tremendous work of Carol Walter and preserving her legacy so that others may see her tremendous importance and continue her efforts. Indeed, it is through the good works of others in the fight against homelessness that she would choose to be remembered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I would like to take the time to recognize and thank those who volunteer, take life saving courses or provide financial donations to support an organization whose mission is to help those in need, and in their honor, recognize March 2013 as American Red Cross Month.

In Alaska the Red Cross works tirelessly statewide through its 18 employees and hundreds of volunteers to help when disaster strikes and when someone needs the comfort of a helping hand. It provides 24-hour support to members of the military, veterans and their families, and provides training in CPR, aquatics safety, and first aid.

Across the country, the American Red Cross responds to nearly 70,000 disasters a year. It provides some 400,000 services to military members, veterans and civilians, collects and distributes about 40 percent of the Nation's blood supply and trains more than seven million people in first aid, water safety and other lifesaving skills every year.

Alaska, and the rest of the country, relies on the American Red Cross and the work of their supporters. I hope that by recognizing March as American Red Cross Month we can highlight their exemplary work and ensure they can continue to help Americans for years to come.●

FEBRUARY HOCKEY IN ALASKA

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, ice hockey is a popular activity in Alaska year round and especially in the winter. Today, I want to highlight hockey in my home State.

You can find someone passing the puck around in nearly any community or military installation with a frozen lake, pond or ice rink, whether it's organized play or a pickup game. There are dozens of leagues and camps for players of all ages from the squirts and midgets to Anchorage's Aces and Seawolves and Fairbanks' Ice Dogs and Nanooks.

At the professional level, the National Hockey League recognizes the importance of hockey in the lower

ranks by sponsoring the "Hockey Is for Everyone" program in February. This program helps young girls and boys learn essential life skills such as commitment and perseverance.

The NHL, along with USA Hockey, participates in the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award program, to promote activity and good nutrition. Anyone who has ever skated hard for more than a few minutes knows how healthy it can be, whether your goal is to have fun, stay fit or to play in the NHL, on the U.S. Olympic team or at the 2014 Arctic Winter Games in Fairbanks.

Not only does playing hockey teach the ideals of teamwork, fair play and loyalty, when Alaskans get involved in fund raising, coaching, and event chaperoning, they are practicing good civics and citizenship.

And it's exciting to watch live or broadcasted games because the sport is so fast paced, yet graceful and athletic at the same time.

Three cheers for the players, coaches and supporters of hockey in Alaska.●

REMEMBERING CHESTER REITEN

• Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Chester Reiten who passed away January 22, 2013, in his beloved hometown, Minot, ND.

Chester "Chet" Reiten was born in Hastings, ND, in 1923 and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He graduated from North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND, with a degree in agriculture and worked as a county agent until entering the radio and television field in 1951. His company, Reiten Broadcasting Co., eventually owned four television and three radio stations in North Dakota.

In 1978, Chester Reiten and some of his Norwegian friends sat down to discuss a way in which they could celebrate their ancestry. Their discussion led to the birth of Norsk Høstfest, with Reiten serving as the founding father. More than 35 years since its founding, Norsk Høstfest has become an international phenomenon due to Reiten's tireless leadership and efforts to steer the course of a Nordic festival that is both an ethnic celebration and a great source of entertainment. Annually, the event draws approximately 60,000 people from throughout North America and abroad. Over the years, royalty, ambassadors, national war and sports heroes, Members of Congress, a former Vice President of the United States, and many of North Dakota's Governors have attended the festival.

As a result of the success of Norsk Høstfest, His Majesty King Olav V of Norway awarded Reiten the St. Olav Medal, one of the highest honors bestowed by the Norwegian Government to individuals living outside of Norway. In 2011, Reiten was also inducted into the Scandinavian-American Hall of Fame in recognition of his efforts to preserve and maintain our Nation's rich Scandinavian heritage.

Reiten also was a dedicated public servant who devoted a considerable

amount of his time and energy to serving his community and State. His efforts included lengthy tenures as a State senator and mayor of Minot.

Chester Reiten was a great North Dakotan and a great American. He especially loved the city of Minot. I feel privileged to have known Chet all my life, and I am thankful to have called him a friend. He has left an indelible impact on our State and country, leaving a legacy of service, first serving our Nation during World War II and returning home to become a pioneer North Dakota broadcaster, mayor of Minot, State legislator and the heart and soul of Høstfest, which today remains the largest Scandinavian festival in North America.

These many accomplishments, and more, made Chet an easy choice for the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award, North Dakota's highest honor, which I was proud to present to him in 2002.

Chet truly was an all-around great guy who will be deeply missed. Mikey and I give thanks to God for the life of Chester Reiten, and we extend our thoughts and prayers to his wife of more than 65 years, Joy, and his family and friends.●

RECOGNIZING LINDSEY HEWARD

• Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I want to thank a young Kansan for sharing her thoughts and opinions regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's implementation of new school meal requirements.

Ms. Lindsey Heward wrote to me last fall to express her and fellow Osage City High School students' frustrations with the amount of food they were getting to eat at lunch and their choices for food. She outlined several areas that the USDA could focus on to prevent obesity rather than solely school meal programs. Among her suggestions were to have the USDA encourage families to share meals together, develop budgeting skills for shoppers, and encourage nutritious meal planning. I would like to submit a copy of her letter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

After hearing from parents, school administrators, and students like Lindsey, I shared the concerns I was receiving with USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack. These comments and concerns were heard by the USDA and the administration ultimately provided additional flexibility in implementing changes to school meals.

I am still concerned USDA doesn't fully understand the estimated costs to schools and plate waste. I will continue to monitor the implementation of this rule, and its impact on schools in Kansas as well as the rest of the country. I look forward to working with Secretary Vilsack to continue to improve school nutrition while ensuring our students are adequately fed.

I ask that Ms. Lindsey Heward's letter be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows.