

Presidential Citations. Some were lieutenants, some sergeants, some corporals. Some served abroad, some stateside.

But they all served this great country. No matter the war, no matter the rank, no matter the duty, everyone of them answered America's call. In our time of need, they stepped forward and said, "I'll do it—I'll protect this country."

These heroic West Virginians came to Washington to tour our beautiful Capitol, the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Memorial and the Vietnam War Memorial.

But the tour of the World War II Memorial is a little different than in the past. On the third Always Free Honor Flight in less than a year, the visit will include a special ceremony called "Flags of Our Heroes" to honor World War II veterans who passed away before they could ever see their memorial.

Sadly, we are losing World War II veterans at the rate of approximately 800 per day—members of what we have come to recognize, and rightly so, as the "Greatest Generation."

This generation of Americans was united by a common purpose and by common values—duty, honor, courage, service, integrity, love of family and country. And their triumph over tyranny will be remembered forever.

The "Flags of Our Heroes" ceremony involves taking a photograph of an American flag with a family photo of the deceased veteran in front of the Memorial. The photo and an Honor Flight certificate will then be presented to the family—a way to show this Nation's respect and regard for their hero.

This is such a fitting gesture because, at the northern end of the World War II Memorial, the words of General George Marshall are inscribed, and they are well worth remembering every time we salute our veterans and every time this Nation prepares for war: "Our flag will be recognized throughout the world as a symbol of freedom on the one hand and overwhelming force on the other."

May it ever be so, and may God bless the United States of America and all the men and women who keep us free.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, today, we honor the service of our brave men and women in the law enforcement community. As we look around at American flags flying at half-staff today, we remember those we have lost. In the years since President John F. Kennedy designated May 15th Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week in which that date falls National Police Week, tens of thousands of people from departments throughout the United States and agencies around the world have come to Washington, DC., to mark this day.

As they say, there is no such thing as an off-duty police officer. Our men and

women in law enforcement work tirelessly to protect our communities. While it is often in emergencies that we remark at their courage and perseverance, we know that they remain vigilant every day. Especially this year, as our community recovers from the cowardly and despicable terrorist attack in Boston last month, we acknowledge the hazards that our police officers face and the sacrifices that they make in the service of their communities. We remember Sean Collier and pay respect to his family, to his friends, and to his brothers and sisters in the police force.

The members of our law enforcement community have earned our respect, gratitude, and support. In Massachusetts, we honor Andrew J. Tufts, Frederick G. Mercer, John W. Powers, James A. Callahan Sr., Ryan Tvelia, Kevin E. Ambrose, Jose Torres, John P. Gibbons III, and Peter James Kneeland. They are among 321 law enforcement heroes who died in the line of duty, whose names have been engraved this spring on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington, DC.

As we take this moment to thank our police officers for all that they do every day, we are also reminded that we must continue to work in Congress to make sure that our agencies have the resources they need in their important work protecting our communities.

#### VETERANS' OUTREACH ACT OF 2013

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as the chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have pledged to improve outreach activities to better inform our Nation's over 22 million veterans of the benefits to which they are entitled.

Legislation I introduced last week, the Veterans' Outreach Act of 2013, would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out a 2-year demonstration project to award grants to State and local government programs and nonprofit organizations to improve the coordination and collaboration of veterans' health care and benefit services across Federal, State, and local assets. By providing State and local government programs and nonprofit organizations the opportunity to submit a grant proposal with stated goals and objectives, VA would be able to better leverage the countless services across the Nation that support veterans and their family members. Finally and most importantly, my legislation would require recipients to submit outcomes data back to VA in order to document a recipient's ability to increase awareness, efficiency, and effectiveness of Federal, State, and local outreach activities; enhance the availability of Federal, State, and local resources for veterans; and strengthen the overall culture of community-based support within a given community across our great Nation. With this

2-year demonstration project, VA will be able to examine what outreach activities work and reassess its outreach strategy accordingly.

Last month I was in Brooklyn, NY, where I met two combat veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. One was a U.S. Marine Corps captain and the other was a sergeant in the U.S. Army. Both were receiving health care at VA and struggling to pay for their copays. Similarly, both were unaware of their eligibility to receive 5 years of free health care at VA following their most recent discharged from Active Duty. Most displeasing was the lack of understanding of this very same health care benefit by senior VA officials who accompanied me that day. If senior VA officials are unaware of such a principal health care benefit available to combat veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, much more remains to be done inside and outside of VA to ensure veterans of all eras are informed and understand the benefits and services they are entitled.

I urge my colleagues to ask veterans across their State and see how many understand all of the benefits and services available to them. For instance, countless veterans across this Nation remain unaware that some of them may be entitled to one-time dental care if they apply at VA within 180 days of separation from Active Duty. Little known benefits like this, can go a long way in placing our newest generation of veterans on sound footing following their exit from military service. Other veterans may be eligible for no-cost or low-cost health care and medications if they meet eligibility requirements for VA health care. To claim this coverage they must enroll at their local Department of Veterans Affairs medical center. These uncertainties surrounding VA health care eligibility will most certainly be compounded by the additional health care options that become available as we approach implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Veterans need to know and understand their options.

The men and women who have sacrificed so much in defense of this country deserve to know about the benefits and care to which they are entitled, and it is VA's job to make sure they know. Simply knowing about benefits in certain instances is not enough. If VA is trying to reach rural veterans, knowing where and when a mobile vet center will visit your community is critical. If VA is trying to reach more and more veterans in the community, knowing when and where the local medical center or community-based outpatient clinic will hold events and activities can drive up the number of veterans in attendance. Furthermore, VA needs to do more to proactively identify outreach efforts that work locally while leveraging the countless services supporting veterans that are made available by organizations all across the country.

Highly able and willing organizations and agencies are already providing

quality social services and outreach into communities across the Nation. Some of these organizations report a lack of coordination and collaboration with local VA facilities. Additionally, many small nonprofits and local organizations sometimes lack the additional resources needed to strategically develop guidance and partnerships with and across Federal, State, and local assets. More effective and localized outreach will better address the community-based needs of today's veterans and do so in a cost-efficient way.

This legislation goes beyond authorizing VA to issue grants. This legislation would also allow VA to enter into cooperative agreements and arrangements with various State agencies to carry out, improve, or enhance outreach activities for veterans. Simply put, if a State is already supporting our Nation's veterans, then this legislation would allow VA to reinforce the bond between Federal and State resources to ensure local veterans outreach activities are streamlined and cost-avoidances identified.

One thing is undeniable, and that is that VA should be making every effort to ensure veterans are aware of the benefits and services afforded to them. I recently held a committee hearing where we heard about some of the progress the Department has made in addressing the important issue of outreach. We also heard from community-based organizations that are coordinating and collaborating across Federal, State, and local levels to leverage resources in order to provide cost-effective programs. But what struck me the most was the steadfastness with which each of these community-based organizations identifies veterans and links them to the Federal, State, and local benefits and services they are entitled.

Widely available information and a clear understanding of the information are two basic components of effective outreach. If our Nation's veterans are to take full advantage of the benefits and service they have earned, effective outreach is indispensable. When our Nation's over 22 million veterans are able to take advantage of these benefits and services, they more often than not are placed on a positive path toward an encouraging future.

Mr. President, we have made a solemn commitment to aid veterans after they leave military service. We can only honor this commitment if veterans and their families are aware of the benefits and services available to them. This legislation would strengthen VA's outreach and support the organizations and agencies that seek to stand shoulder to shoulder with VA in support of our nation's heroes.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL HARTER, PH.D., M.S. ED.

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Dr. Michael Harter,

senior provost and chief executive officer of Touro University's Western Division. After more than three decades of dedication to excellence in higher education, Dr. Harter is retiring. My home State of Nevada has benefited tremendously from Dr. Harter's contributions as a researcher, educator and advocate. As he enters retirement, Dr. Harter leaves an inspiring legacy of leadership that will be long felt in the lives and careers of the countless medical professionals he helped to educate.

Since 2004, Dr. Michael Harter has shown exceptional commitment as the administrative and academic head of Touro University's Western Division, including its Nevada campus. He not only helped to establish Touro University Nevada, but his leadership and vision has also contributed to Touro's development as one of the fastest growing medical schools in the region. Despite significant challenges associated with rising costs and a difficult economic climate, Dr. Harter has shown remarkable perseverance and commitment, and he has enhanced Touro University's reputation as an institution.

Prior to his tenure at Touro University, Dr. Harter served as vice dean of the University of Nevada School of Medicine, and he was also the founding executive director of Family Development Programs, Inc. of Ohio. In addition to his educational experience, Dr. Harter has served Nevada's medical profession and health care community as a passionate and dedicated advocate, and has received numerous recognitions and awards for his service. The Nevada State legislature recently recognized Dr. Harter for his "dedication and contributions to the elevation of the educational system in Nevada to the highest caliber."

I want to acknowledge and thank Dr. Michael Harter for his many years of dedicated service as an educator, researcher, administrator, and community advocate. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Harter on his retirement, and in wishing him many successful and fulfilling years to come.●

#### REMEMBERING DANIELLE DUNLAP

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to honor in the RECORD Miss Danielle Dunlap of Atlanta, GA. A few weeks ago, I was very saddened to learn of the passing of this 25-year-old Peace Corps volunteer, who was known as "Dani" by her overseas community. Danielle was stationed in Ghana when her life was cut tragically short by illness. Like so many of our Peace Corps volunteers, she was a role model who dedicated her life to serving others. During her time in Ghana, Danielle touched the lives of individuals and families in Ghana by working with them to improve their lives in the areas of nutrition, HIV/AIDS, malaria, and sanitation. Her colleagues in Ghana said that she was proud of her role as a volunteer trainer, helping to mentor newly arriv-

ing volunteers in the projects to which she was so devoted.

Born in Germany, Danielle's love for all things international began long before her days as a Peace Corps volunteer. She studied abroad in South Korea and Haiti, where she learned Korean and Spanish.

Danielle was clearly a bright and gifted individual. She graduated from Brown University in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in neuroscience. She tutored young students at the Academy at Harvard Square in Cambridge, MA, and she was a swim instructor for students with asthma.

Danielle Dunlap was a model of service and character, and it is Americans such as her who make this country great. The Nation mourns the loss of an incredible individual at such a young age, and my heart and my prayers go out to Danielle's family and friends.●

#### RECOGNIZING KELO-TV

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to honor KELO-TV, a South Dakota institution, for 60 years of excellence in broadcasting. Since 1953, South Dakotans have turned to KELO for reliable news and information about their local communities.

Theater promoter Joe L. Floyd had a vision of providing all South Dakotans, even those in the most isolated parts of our State, with access to television programming. Volatile weather and vast distances made this no easy feat. Tornadoes caused towers to collapse in the early years, but the dedicated KELO team always restored service promptly.

On May 19, 1953, KELO-TV made its inaugural broadcast and South Dakota's first television station was born. Dave Dedrick signed KELO on the air for the first time. "Serving the mighty Sioux Empire, this is KELO-TV Channel 11 Sioux Falls," he boomed. Dedrick became the face of the network, not only as the station's long-time weatherman but as Captain 11, a fictional character in KELO's hugely popular afterschool children's program. Captain 11 ran for nearly 42 years, making it America's longest running children's program.

KELO has always grown with the times and strived to bring the latest technological innovations to their viewers. In 1955, KELO began to broadcast the news live from the second floor of the Hollywood Theater building. KELO aired the first live telecast of a sporting event in South Dakota in 1957. In 1968, KELO pushed the envelope yet again by becoming the first station in the area to broadcast live and in color. Every step of the way, KELO has gone to great lengths to provide the best programming for all South Dakotans. In 1991, as soon as the technology became available, KELO began to closed-caption of many of their programs to better serve deaf and hearing-