

these efforts in a coordinated manner and with backing from both the Governments of Haiti and Armenia and of the United States.

While it is important to start putting trees in the ground, this bill is about more than just planting trees. Our government has tried that approach in the past and it has proven to be ineffective.

This bill empowers the U.S. Government to work with Haiti and Armenia to develop forest-management programs based on proven, market-based models.

These models will be tailored to help both countries manage their conservation and reforestation efforts in ways that can be measured.

The bill encourages cooperation and engagement with local communities and organizations, provides incentives to protect trees through income-generating growth, and authorizes debt-for-nature swaps, focusing on sustainable restoration of forests, watersheds, and other key land surface areas.

Most importantly, the bill does not authorize any new funds. It will help make sure such existing funds are spent wisely and productively.

It will help the people of Haiti and Armenia rebuild their critical ecosystems, which in turn will have tremendous long-term impacts on their qualities of life.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

TRIBUTE TO CARMEN VELÁSQUEZ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to thank Carmen Velásquez of Chicago, who is retiring as executive director of Alivio Medical Center, for her many years of service to the Latino Community and the city of Chicago.

As a community leader, civil rights activist, health and education advocate, and one of my personal “she-ros,” Carmen Velásquez has dedicated her life to justice and equitable health access for all. As one of the original founders of the Alivio Medical Center, she has served the community for 25 years, helping grow one community health center to a network of 6 clinics, with plans to open two new sites this year.

Carmen is the daughter of Mexican immigrants—her father harvested beets in South Dakota before coming to Illinois to start a successful jukebox business. Carmen went on to earn degrees from Loyola University Chicago and the University of the Americas in Puebla, Mexico.

In her professional career, Carmen dedicated her talents and energy to universal health care and immigration reform as a community organizer. She was a social worker and bilingual education specialist, who quickly became a pillar of Chicago’s Latino community.

As a member of Chicago’s Board of Education, she realized that more needed to be done not only to address

the needs of the Latino community in schools, but also in health clinics.

In 1988, Carmen’s mission was clear; she needed to find a place to address the too often neglected medical needs of her community. While walking through Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood in search of clinic space, Carmen came upon a muffler shop parking lot littered with rusting old trucks. She went inside the shop and asked its owner if the lot was for sale.

His response? “Offer me something.”

Carmen Velásquez made an offer, and with that, she began her active campaign to raise \$2.1 million for construction of the first of Alivio’s community health centers.

Carmen’s passion and tenacity turned her dream into a reality. Alivio Medical Center opened its doors 1 year later in 1989, as a bilingual, bicultural nonprofit community health center. Alivio has since grown to become a respected advocacy organization that is also an essential safety net provider for many low-income and vulnerable residents of Chicago.

Because of Carmen Velásquez’s hard work and dedication, Alivio continues to meet the primary health care needs of over 20,000 Spanish-speaking, predominantly Mexican immigrants who fall through the cracks of the health care system every year. The residents of the Pilsen, Little Village and Back of the Yards neighborhoods who come to the clinic every year know that, regardless of their income level or insurance coverage, they can expect the very best quality care.

Carmen’s commitment to her community has not gone unnoticed. She has been recognized for excellence in her work throughout the years. She was recently recognized at halftime by the Chicago Bears with the National Football League’s, NFL, Hispanic Heritage Leadership Award, and she has been honored with the MALDEF Lifetime Achievement Award, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leadership Award, and Premio Ohtli, the highest honor bestowed by the Government of Mexico on an individual for service to Mexicans living abroad. Illinois Governor Pat Quinn has also honored Carmen as the Latino Heritage Month “Trailblazer of the Day.”

I was fortunate to meet Carmen and her family early in my Senate career. On so many occasions I have counted on Carmen’s wise counsel and caring heart to help me through the challenges we face. If I could make one phone call before facing a tough decision on an issue of social justice, particularly in the Hispanic community, I would call Carmen Velásquez and know that her life experience, caring heart, and street-level wisdom would never disappoint me.

Carmen’s perseverance and her indomitable spirit are tremendous. Her willingness to stand up as a voice for the community during her tenure as Alivio’s executive director has left an

incredible legacy to Chicago’s Latino community enormously.

Congratulations to Carmen on a spectacular career. I thank Carmen for all her years of distinguished service. I know I speak for Alivio’s professional staff, the thousands of families that have benefited from her caring leadership, and all of Chicago when I say she will be sorely missed.

I wish her the best as she opens the next chapter in her life.

WORLD WAR II VETERANS VISIT

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President. In October of 2013, Veterans in the Last Frontier and Alaska-Golden Heart hubs of Honor Flight will be traveling to Washington, DC, to visit their memorials. I would like to welcome these heroes to our Nation’s capital and take this time to recognize their service to our Nation.

I would like to record the individual names of the World War II veterans selected for this trip: Mr. Jacob Knapp, Army; Mr. Stanley Coleman, Navy; Mr. John Collins, Army; Mr. William Field, Navy; Mr. Alvin Hershberger, Army; Mr. Norman Hogg, Army; Mr. Howard Hunt, Army; Mr. Alfred Kehl, Army; Mr. George Miller, Air Force; Mr. Manuel Norat, Army; Mr. Leonard Nugent, Navy; Mr. Dale Parker, Navy; Mr. Fredrick Samsun, Marines and Air Force; Mr. Marshall Solberg, Navy; Mr. Lafton Wells, Navy; Ms. Ellen White, Air Force; Ms. Juliana Wilson, Navy; Mr. Allen Woodward, Navy; Mr. Edward Young Jr., Air Force; Mr. James Brewster, Navy; Mr. Elvin Brush, Air Force; Mr. Arnold Booth, Army; Mr. Conrad Ryan, Army; Mr. William Miller, Army; Mr. Louis Palmer, Navy; Mr. James Dodge, Marines; Mr. Roy Helms, Army; Mr. Nelson McBirney, Navy and Mr. Wenzel Raith, Navy.

These veterans from Alaska join over 90,000 other veterans from across the country, who, since 2005, have traveled to our Nation’s capital to visit and reflect at memorials built here in their honor. This Honor Flight trip was made possible by generous public donations and contributions from those who wish to honor these heroes.

We owe a great deal to our servicemen and veterans who put themselves in harm’s way for our Nation and for our security. The sacrifices made by these heroes are truly incredible and without their honor, courage, commitment, and sacrifice, we would not enjoy the freedoms we cherish today.

Each of these veterans have my thanks for their service, and I very appreciate the staff, volunteers and supporters of the Honor Flight program who make these trips happen. Again, thank you to all Alaska veterans and the volunteers for their dedication, commitment, and service.

ESTEVEZ NOMINATION

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, yesterday, I voted to confirm Alan Estevez to

be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense. In this important position, the second highest ranking acquisition official at DOD, Mr. Estevez will help oversee hundreds of billions of dollars in procurement during his tenure.

I am eager to work with Mr. Estevez on an issue important to my State and our overall security strategy. Like my colleagues Senators BLUMENTHAL and CORNYN have discussed, it is unacceptable to me that the Department of Defense is continuing the procurement of Mi-17 helicopters from Rosoboron export, Russia's official arms export firm.

The reasons to stop this procurement are numerous, and, by contrast, the logic behind the continuation of this procurement is flawed.

Not only is Rosoboronexport at the heart of an industry that Russia's own chief military prosecutor publicly stated is corrupt, but this company is also supplying the Assad regime in Syria. We are handing money—tax dollars from my constituents in Connecticut—to a company that is propping up a regime that is committing atrocities against its own people.

I was outraged to learn that earlier this year that DOD awarded Rosoboronexport a \$572 million contract for the procurement of 30 Mi-17 helicopters for the Afghan Special Mission Wing, completely ignoring the recommendation of the Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction, SIGAR, to halt this procurement.

Even if DOD thinks that this procurement should go forward in light of the SIGAR recommendation, there is no credible reason that these helicopters should not be made in America. My constituents are tired of our procurement dollars going to overseas firms, and this particular example is one of the most egregious.

We have spent over \$100 billion on equipment from overseas manufacturers in the last several years. When I talk to manufacturers in Connecticut who are churning out the most reliable and rugged military equipment in the world, including helicopters, they just can not understand why we are paying a corrupt Russian arms dealer for equipment we already make at home.

I look forward to making my feelings known to Mr. Estevez and, as we did last year during the consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act, making it clear that this body does not approve of this Mi-17 procurement.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE S. ARTHUR SPIEGEL

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a friend and fellow Cincinnati, Judge S. Arthur Spiegel, on the occasion of his 94th birthday and would also like to recognize him for his service to our community and our Nation.

On April 5, 1980, Judge Spiegel was appointed as a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio

by President Jimmy Carter. He was confirmed on May 20, 1980 and began his duty on June 5, 1980.

With 33 years of Federal judicial service, including as Chief United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of Ohio and by designation on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, he took Senior Status on June 5, 1995. He continues to serve on the Court as Cincinnati's oldest sitting judge and continues to handle a full docket and hundreds of cases a year.

Judge Spiegel served his country valiantly in World War II in the Pacific campaigns while serving as a flying artillery spotter in an unarmed light aircraft. He was a United States Marine Corps Captain from 1942 to 1946 in the First Marine Division.

Judge Spiegel received a BA from the University of Cincinnati in 1942 and obtained his LL.B. from Harvard University in 1948—postgraduate University of Cincinnati, 1949. In addition, he was awarded an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters by Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion in 1996 and a Distinguished Alumni Award, College of Arts & Sciences from the University of Cincinnati in 1997.

Judge Spiegel has served as a role model to many lawyers in private practice and on the bench. His intelligence and strength of character have been revered by many and he has set the highest standards of professionalism for those appearing in his courtroom. He was a co-founder of the Potter Stewart American Inn of Court in Cincinnati, which was one of the first establishments of this kind, and serves to mentor and teach professionalism and trial techniques to law students and young lawyers.

Judge Spiegel is a member of the American Bar Association, the Ohio Bar Association, the Cincinnati Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association. He was a lecturer on labor law, debtor/creditor rights, and appellate advocacy at the University of Cincinnati College of Law from 1970 through 1975. He was also a Delegate, Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference from 1967 through 1970; a Life Member, Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference beginning in 1971; and was a District Judge Representative for the Sixth Circuit, United States Judicial Conference in 1996 and 1997.

He has served on numerous boards of trustees in his community. He served on the Mayor's Friendly Relations Committee from 1961 to 1965 and the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission from 1967 to 1973, including serving as its first Chairman from 1965 to 1967. He was also a Board Trustee for Bowling Green State University from 1973 to 1981 and has been a Trustee and Trustee Emeritus for The National Conference for Community and Justice since 1973.

In recent years, Judge Spiegel has served on the Roundtable of the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati,

which aims to broaden the opportunities in the legal profession for minorities. He regularly meets with students of local high schools regarding the role of the courts in our society and also conducts naturalization ceremonies in the local schools. He received the Award of Recognition from the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati in 1995.

A civil rights advocate both on and off the bench, Judge Spiegel served as the first Chairman of the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission, an organization with the mission of helping the community overcome prejudice and discrimination. As an active participant in the civil rights movement, Spiegel worked to calm tensions after race riots in the late 1960s.

A true renaissance man, Judge Spiegel is a pilot, painter, tennis player, writer, horseback rider and self-taught mechanic.

He is married to Louise Wachman Spiegel, and they have four sons, Thomas, Arthur M., Andrew and Roger, and seven grandchildren.

Today, I would like to recognize my friend and an Ohio icon and commend him for the many contributions he has made to our community and to the legal profession.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING CSU-GLOBAL CAMPUS

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, in an increasingly global economy, we must find ways to promote innovation, increase college access, and make college affordable so that our students can remain competitive. In light of today's Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee hearing which focused on these important topics, I want to recognize Colorado's own Colorado State University-Global Campus for their impressive work in this area. This year marks CSU-Global Campus' 5-year anniversary, and I would also like to congratulate them on reaching that milestone.

CSU-Global Campus, and its president, Dr. Becky Takeda-Tinker, have demonstrated a remarkable commitment to ensuring a quality education at an affordable price. As the first and only 100 percent online, fully accredited public, non-profit institution in America, students enrolling at CSU-Global today will not see any tuition increases as long as they take at least one class per year, even if tuition rates increase five years down the road. CSU-Global does this because it wants students entering today to be able to plan their education and anticipate the full cost of graduation.

CSU-Global Campus has been at the forefront of new innovative approaches to learning, including offering competency-based courses. Students have access to CSU-Global's full course content online for free and can receive