

RECOGNIZING NANCY J. COX

Mr. HARKIN. I would like to recognize the outstanding career of a dedicated civil servant, Iowan Dr. Nancy Cox, who will retire in November 2014 after 37 years of distinguished Federal service at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Cox started working on influenza at CDC in 1976. Thirty-seven years and 278 publications later, she has transformed the surveillance and science of influenza viruses and vaccines. Her scientific work has been critical, given the tremendous global burden of human seasonal influenza—1 billion cases, 3 to 5 million severe illnesses, and 300,000 to 500,000 deaths each year. In addition, avian or swine influenza viruses can adapt to human-to-human transmission, leading to global and devastating pandemics with disruption in commerce and tragic numbers of illnesses and deaths. The breadth and depth of influenza's impact is vast, underscoring Dr. Cox's vital contribution from her science and service.

Dr. Cox began her senior leadership duties years ago directing a small branch of 40 to 50 staff. Today she oversees more than 320 staff, and the Influenza Division she directs has broad responsibilities as the U.S. Government, USG, lead for influenza prevention and control, and as one of five World Health Organization Collaborating Centers for the Surveillance, Epidemiology and Control of Influenza. Dr. Cox recognized that influenza prevention and control requires a broad, multifaceted surveillance effort. Through her scientific leadership, direction, and publication of scientific findings, CDC established surveillance for various aspects of influenza illness to improve the understanding of influenza impact and to provide ongoing influenza surveillance data throughout the season to inform clinical management and to monitor effectiveness of influenza prevention efforts.

During her 37 years at CDC, Dr. Cox has served as mentor, educator, supervisor, and supporter to hundreds of individuals: undergraduates, medical and PhD students, postdoctoral fellows, laboratory and epidemiology staff members, journalists, and visiting researchers. As Director of the WHO Collaborating Center for the Surveillance, Epidemiology and Control of Influenza at CDC, Dr. Cox has worked closely with public health laboratory officials from Russia, Vietnam, and China, leading to transforming their capabilities in influenza virology and surveillance. Her oversight of influenza laboratories at CDC has set the standards for measuring immune response in infected and vaccinated people and also has led CDC to be the global reference center for antiviral resistance and for measuring transmission of influenza viruses in animal models. Her leadership at WHO has also led to significant changes in the methods, reporting, interpretation, and policy development for selecting candidate vaccine viruses for use in an-

nual vaccine production. Dr. Cox has been able to see where the field of influenza prevention and control needs to go to address emerging problems, and the successes of her scientific intuition and persistence are present in many places around the globe.

Dr. Cox has been recognized by virologists, public health officials, leaders in State and Federal governments, international leaders, academics, and others. She is the recipient of 10 National Center for Infectious Disease recognition awards, 7 Nakano Awards, 4 Shepard Awards, Lancet Paper of the Year, Time Magazine's The Time 100: People Who Shape Our World, Service to America Award, CDC's Lifetime Achievement Award, and the USG-wide award for Federal Employee of the Year. She has served as a reviewer for numerous scientific journals and research grant efforts. She is frequently invited by editors of Science, New England Journal of Medicine, and other journals to write editorials and opinion pieces. She has been chair of many scientific panels and symposia and has served on various scientific committees for international conferences and global influenza policy development workgroups. Even more important than her past contribution is the solid footing of CDC's Influenza Division for the future that she leaves as her legacy.

Dr. Cox is an Iowa native—born in Emmetsburg—and attended Iowa State University, ISU, where she got a BS in bacteriology in 1970. She is a life member of the ISU alumni association. In addition to her Iowa State degree, she has a doctorate in virology from the University of Cambridge and was a postdoctoral fellow at both the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

REMEMBERING PERRY RENN

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the extraordinary service and ultimate sacrifice of Indianapolis, IN Metropolitan Police Officer Perry Renn. Dedicated, loyal, and above all compassionate to those in need, Officer Renn served with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, IMPD, for 21 years.

On Saturday, July 5, 2014, Officer Renn responded to a report of shots fired on the northeast side of Indianapolis, the district where he was a patrolman throughout his career with IMPD. When Officer Renn arrived, he joined another IMPD officer already on the scene, and they approached a group of individuals standing in a nearby alley. As they approached the group, one of the individuals brandished a gun and began shooting at the officers. Despite the fact that he was wearing a protective vest, Officer Renn was struck by the gunfire. After additional officers arrived and detained the shooter, Officer Renn was transported to Eskenazi Hospital in critical condition. Sadly,

despite the best efforts of his fellow officers, EMTs, and medical personnel, Officer Renn, 51, succumbed to his wounds.

A native of Indianapolis, IN and raised in Phoenix, AZ, Officer Renn joined the U.S. Army after graduating from high school. For the majority of his 10-year enlistment, Perry was stationed in Fort Bragg, NC with the 82nd Airborne Division as a paratrooper and jumpmaster, completing more than 100 jumps. He achieved the rank of staff sergeant and was awarded achievement and commendation medals during his tenure. Perry was stationed in Korea for 2 tours, spent 18 months in New York City as a recruiter, and served in Operation Urgent Fury, the military conflict in Grenada in 1983.

Officer Renn was awarded two Medals of Bravery during his career with IMPD, in the years 1999 and 2003. Prior to becoming a police officer, he worked at the Marion County Sheriff Communications Department as a dispatcher and control operator. In 2011, Officer Renn received a letter of commendation for his efforts to assist individuals after a stage collapse at the Indiana State Fair injured 58 and killed 9 people. Always seeking to help those in need, Officer Renn chose to serve in a district on the northeast side of Indianapolis because he knew it was an area of the city where many citizens would need help.

Officer Renn is survived and deeply missed by his wife of 25 years, Lynn Sappenfield-Renn; mother Phyllis Renn; father David Renn (Tina); sister Sherri Jones (Michael); five nieces; two nephews; four great nieces; four great nephews; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins; the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department family; and his beloved pets.

Officer Renn loved his work, and he gave his life to serve and protect the citizens of Indianapolis. Although he would have never thought of himself as a hero, Officer Renn demonstrated his character daily by conducting himself with courage, bravery, compassion, honor, and integrity. Thus, he was a true American hero—in his everyday life as a police officer, husband, and community member—and in his final call to duty. Let us always remember and emulate the shining example this stalwart, modest yet brave man set for us, and honor him for his selfless commitment to serving his fellow citizens. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.

REMEMBERING MASTER SERGEANT JOSEPH B. SMRT

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I also wish to recognize and honor the extraordinary service of U.S. Army MSG Joe Smrt. Dedicated, loyal, and above all compassionate to those in need, Mr. Smrt was drafted into the Army in 1942 and served throughout World War II.

On September 23, 2014, Joe passed away at the age of 98. A native of North

Judson, IN, Joe was a shining star in the “greatest generation,” forced to learn the virtues of hard work, frugality, and self-reliance at a young age after losing his father when he was just 6 years old.

Joe was always proud of his service to our country during World War II. He served as a combat engineer in the 94th Division—a part of Patton’s Third Army and earned the European Medal with four bronze stars—signifying his participation in four separate military campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge.

Recognized for his love of country, Joe was well-respected by those in his community. As one of the most patriotic men in Knox, his neighbors often referred to him as “Mr. Patriotism.” Many considered him a pillar of the Knox community, and over the past several decades, whenever there was a veterans function or celebration of patriotism in Starke County, chances are Joe was deeply involved. Joe worked to educate our youth about the sacrifices of our veterans and servicemembers by giving presentations about World War II at Knox schools and Veterans Day events. He also served as commander of VFW Post 748 in Knox from 1991 to 1994, and he was elected Starke County surveyor for 7 terms spanning 28 years.

I had the privilege of meeting Joe in 2009 when he visited Washington, DC through the Honor Flight Network. I am honored to have met such an admirable and patriotic man. Last month the State of Indiana laid this public servant—a veteran, a Yankees fan, and most of all, a hero—to rest. We are forever grateful for his service to our country.

Mr. Smrt is survived and deeply missed by his wife of over 63 years, Ursula Kelly, and their four children—Terry Smrt of Knox, Kevin Smrt of Knox, Christopher Smrt of Louisville, Kentucky, Madonna Johnson of Austin, Texas and five grandchildren and five great grandchildren, as well as friends, the United States Army family, and Hoosiers across the State of Indiana.

Joe Smrt was an American hero. He conducted himself with courage, bravery, compassion, honor, and integrity—both while serving our nation and throughout his time as a civilian back home in Indiana. Let us always remember and treasure the memory of this stalwart, brave man and honor his selfless commitment to serving his fellow citizens. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.

RECOGNIZING JACKSON TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I applaud Jackson Township Elementary School of Brazil, IN for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recog-

nized over 7,000 public and non-public schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school either being measured as an Exemplary High Performing School, where schools are among the State’s highest scorers in English and mathematics, or as an Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School, where schools with at least 40 percent of their student body coming from disadvantaged backgrounds have reduced the achievement gap in English and mathematics within the last 5 years. Jackson Township Elementary School has made great strides in the area of improved proficiency in both English and mathematics.

In 2014 alone, Jackson Township Elementary School’s combined ISTEP+ passing rate for English and mathematics was around 96 percent for third through fifth grades. Jackson Township Elementary School’s effectiveness can be found in its Character Education program. In this program, students are familiarized with positive characteristics that are connected to character development introduced first in the home environment. Jackson Township Elementary School affirms that every student’s success is directly related to family and community support. With over 40 percent of its students identified as economically disadvantaged in a primarily rural farming town, Jackson Township Elementary School is seen as a beacon of light for the development of Indiana’s youth.

I would like to acknowledge Jackson Township Elementary School Principal Bradford C. Ennen, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Jackson Township Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING HAMILTON SOUTHERN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I also wish to recognize Hamilton Southeastern Junior High School of Fishers, IN for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and non-public schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain rec-

ognition for educational accomplishments in closing any achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school being identified as “Exemplary High Performing,” schools that are ranked in the top 15 percent nationally in English and mathematics, measured by each State’s assessment, or as “Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing,” where schools with at least 40 percent of their student body coming from disadvantaged backgrounds are reducing the achievement gap in English and mathematics. Hamilton Southeastern Junior High School has made great strides in these areas.

Hamilton Southeastern Junior High School combines creativity and critical thinking with the tools of the 21st century. Students are taught complex problem solving, innovative collaboration, and the merits of integrity. Also, by offering mobile technology labs and focusing on college and career readiness, students are prepared for future success. These standards have led Hamilton Southeastern Junior High School to consistently achieve an A-rating and a four-star designation by the Indiana Department of Education. The staff and students’ hard work will continue to benefit the city of Fishers and all of Indiana.

I would like to acknowledge Principal Tim A. Mankin of Hamilton Southeastern Junior High School, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate the Hamilton Southeastern Junior High School community, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

REMEMBERING ROBERT S. EDWARDS, JR.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor the life of Robert S. “Bob” Edwards, Jr. Bob was an Army veteran, a successful businessman, a community leader, a friend, and an inspiration to us all.

Bob was an advisor with AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company and before that a successful textile executive.

Among his many business accomplishments, Bob received the Equitable’s Centurion Award and several Legion of Honor President’s Cabinet Awards. He also received recognition as Associate of the Year and as the agency’s representative to the national agents. Bob was also honored with the Equitable’s Community Leadership Award twice.

A compassionate community leader, Bob served as chairman of the Board of the Freestore Foodbank and founded its most popular fundraiser, the Rubber Duck Regatta. Proceeds from this fundraiser have provided millions of meals to Cincinnatians in need. This