

He began his military career by enlisting in the Regular Army in September 1971. He was trained in Infantry, Airborne, and Air Defense Artillery assignments, being released from Active Duty in July 1976. In June 1978, Sergeant Major Yoakum joined the Alaska Army National Guard and served in a military technician status as the administrative assistant to the state maintenance officer, and part-time as a flight operations coordinator with the 1898th Aviation Company, Attack. He moved to southeast Alaska and continued his service as a full-time Scout Battalion Attendant, Administrative Supply Technician, for Company B, 4th Battalion, 297th Infantry. He served in the Alaska Army National Guard until March 1981.

In August 1983, he rejoined the Army National Guard in Phoenix AZ, working as a unit administrator and battalion supply sergeant. In October 1985, he entered Federal Active Guard Reserve status and was assigned to the United States Property and Fiscal Office Guam, where he served as military pay supervisor and logistics NCO. He transferred his membership from the Arizona Army National Guard to the Wyoming Army National Guard in March 1996. Further assignments in Federal AGR status included instructor/writer, operations NCO, force structure NCO, first sergeant, manpower NCO, training center liaison NCO, G-1 personnel policy sergeant major, and congressional liaison.

Sergeant Major Yoakum holds an associate of arts degree in business administration from the University of Alaska and a bachelor of science degree in business administration from California Pacific University. He is a graduate of every level of NCO education up to and including the Sergeants Major Academy. Yoakum is a life member of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States and a life member of the Wyoming National Guard Association. He has been inducted into the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara by the Field Artillery Association and the Order of Samuel Sharpe by the Ordnance Corps Association.

As the former congressional liaison for the Chief, National Guard Bureau, my staff and I have found Sergeant Major Yoakum to be an invaluable resource and ally in advancing the interest of the Army National Guard. While his departure will be a major loss to the both NGB and the Federal Government, his new position as legislative director with the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S. is well deserved. It is with admiration that I honor Sergeant Major Yoakum today and congratulate him on his retirement. I wish him and his family all the best.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO SAINT JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I rise to memorialize in the RECORD of the

Senate, one of the great institutions in the State of Georgia. This year, Saint Joseph's Hospital celebrates its 125th anniversary of providing the citizens of Atlanta and the Southeast with the highest quality and most compassionate health care services.

Let me speak for a moment on the significance of Saint Joseph's:

In 1880, 125 years ago, shortly after the Civil War, four young determined Sisters of Mercy traveled to Atlanta from Savannah with a meager 50 cents in their collective pockets to start a hospital. Hospitals were not common during this time. The Sisters' idea of creating a hospital that would serve the entire community, and not simply be a place to die, was truly bold and visionary.

With the goal of "extending the mission of healing mercy begun by Christ, showing a just and compassionate regard for all who suffer," Saint Joseph's Infirmary was established as a 10-bed hospital in an old house located on Courtland and Baker Streets in downtown Atlanta.

Saint Joseph's established Georgia's first school of nursing in 1900, an indigent ward to care for the poor and rural population during the depression, diagnostic outpatient clinics, and a \$10,000 operating room to begin a legacy of state-of-the-art medical technology.

The hospital became a national leader in treating heart disease, performing the first openheart surgery in the Southeast, the first angioplasty as an alternative to bypass surgery, and operated the first comprehensive cardiac catheterization laboratory. And, Saint Joseph's became one of only six medical centers in the world to perform percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty.

In 1978, the hospital moved to north Atlanta in order to continue its growing mission of service and changed the name to Saint Joseph's Hospital. To maintain close ties with those it served downtown, Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services began. Starting as a simple signup sheet for volunteers to visit women's and homeless shelters, teams used their own vehicles and worked out of tackle boxes filled with medical supplies donated by physician offices. Today, Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services is truly an integral part of the community. They now provide comprehensive services to the chronically homeless of Atlanta.

In 2003, the hospital formed the Saint Joseph's Research Institute, a comprehensive research center to provide patients access to some of the newest and most innovative therapies available in the world. The Research Institute provides preclinical research and trials and clinical trials in cardiology, pulmonology, radiation, oncology, gastroenterology, orthopaedics and more.

Saint Joseph's is among only 10 non-teaching hospitals in the country to have earned the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence and Pa-

tient Safety by HealthGrades, Inc., the Nations' leading provider of health care quality information. It is also among a prestigious group of hospitals on Solucients 100 Top Hospitals for Cardiovascular care—Saint Joseph's has been named a 100 Top Hospital 5 times. J.D. Power and Associates also has recognized Saint Joseph's as a Distinguished Hospital for Service Excellence, providing an outstanding patient experience, for 2 consecutive years, the first hospital in Atlanta to earn the distinction.

But it is the people behind the awards and recognitions that make Saint Joseph's so unique. From the Sisters of Mercy who still are intimately involved with the hospital to the nurses, physicians and medical support staff—the spirit of mercy is alive and vibrant. That spirit transcends the entire organization and is the foundation for the superior medical services and programs, the unique compassionate care, the volunteers who raise money for the homeless and underserved, and the auxiliary who put in tireless hours at the hospital without pay. The spirit of mercy is in all employees who come to work year after year with smiles on their faces and compassion in their hearts.

It gives me great pleasure to recognize on the Senate floor the contributions of Saint Joseph's Hospital to the citizens of Atlanta, GA, and the Southeast.●

HONORING CHARLES R. ADAMS

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment and honor a man who has greatly served his community and his Nation for more than 38 years.

Charles R. Adams retired from his position of National Employee Development Center Director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS, in Fort Worth, TX, on November 3, 2005.

Charles learned the importance of self-development at an early age while growing up on his family farm in Logansport, LA. His parents, the late Mr. T.C. Adams and Elneva Adams, gave him and his 10 siblings firsthand experience in working the land, and he still carries those experiences with him today.

After leaving Logansport, Charles graduated from Southern University at Baton Rouge with a bachelor of science in agronomy. He received his master's degree in public administration from Harvard University in Cambridge, MA, in 1983 and has Ph.D. studies in urban and public affairs at the University of Texas in Arlington.

His impressive career with USDA spans some 38 years, having held some of the top positions in his Agency, including regional conservationist for the NRCS Southeast Region, based in Atlanta, GA, from 1997 to 2004, director of the National Employee Development

Center, based in Fort Worth, TX, from 1993 to 1997, South National Technical Center associate director, also based in Fort Worth, from 1992 to 1993, and water quality coordinator at the center from 1990 to 1992.

Before that Charles served as NRCS's State Conservationist for Arizona, based in Phoenix, from 1988 to 1990, after having been the State Conservationist for Nevada, based in Reno, from 1986 to 1988. He was the Deputy State Conservationist in New Mexico, based in Albuquerque, from 1985 to 1986, after having been the Assistant State Conservationist for Operations at that location from 1984 to 1985.

Charles worked as an area conservationist in Rio Rancho, NM, from 1983 to 1984, after working as an area conservationist in Flagstaff, AZ, from 1981 to 1982. From 1978 to 1981 he served as a district conservationist in Edinburg, TX, following service from 1976 to 1978 as a district conservationist in Eastland, TX. He was a soil conservationist for the agency in Abilene, TX, from 1973 to 1976. He began his full-time career with the agency as a soil scientist in Athens, TX, in 1969.

During his tenure with USDA, Charles founded some of the Agency's most innovative approaches to outreach, including the Student Trainees in Agriculture Related Sciences, STARS, program, an initiative to introduce underserved high school students in the Southeast to agriculture, as well as NRCS's American Indian Program Delivery Initiative, an annual conference linking USDA officials with American Indian leaders to promote tribal participation in USDA programs and services.

While working for NRCS, Charles Adams has received a number of awards and recognitions. Within the last few years alone, he received several USDA Honor Awards, including the Secretary's Award for his leadership of the Southeast Region American Indian Initiative Workgroup and the Sustainable Coffee Production Team, and his work in the Agency's Streamlining and Cost-saving Initiative. He received special recognition through a national volunteer award for his long-standing dedication to the NRCS Earth Team Volunteer Program and was the recipient of the Chief's Workforce Diversity Award which praised his encouragement and promotion of professional development among his employees. In addition, his extensive outreach efforts to minorities and women earned him a nomination for the Agency's highest Civil Rights Award in 2003.

Charles is married to the former Prenella Williamson of Port Gibson, MS. In his spare time, he enjoys raising horses on his ranch in Shreveport, LA, restoring his collection antique cars and fishing with his young grandsons.●

HONORING DR. ISAAC GREGGS

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment and honor

a man who has influenced the lives of so many students for more than 35 years.

A band director since 1969, Dr. Isaac Gregg has taken the half time show for Southern University to a different level, electrifying audiences with the band's energetic and precise performances. However, these performances could not have happened without a lot of hard work. Dr. Gregg's practices are legendary for being gruelling, but they paid off in the end.

In many ways, Dr. Gregg's practices are a metaphor for his life—when one demonstrates discipline and effort, one can succeed anywhere.

This motto certainly proved true for Dr. Gregg's band. Under his direction, the band performed around the world, including for three United States Presidential inaugurations, four Sugar Bowls, and five Super Bowls. The band has also appeared at the Astro Dome, Superdome, Yankee Stadium, and the Oakland Stadium Coliseum. For six weeks, the band played at Radio City Music Hall, and they have also made appearances on television shows such as the Bob Hope Show, Jim Nabors Show, Almost Anything Goes Show, Perry Como Show, Henry, The Fonz, Winkler Show, and the Telly Savalas Show.

In addition to the talent Dr. Gregg has brought as a band leader, he is also an accomplished musician and song writer and is the author of Southern University's fight song and alma mater. He is an honorary member of both Louisiana's House of Representatives and State Senate, and has won several major music festival awards for the marching division. Dr. Gregg has conducted honor bands throughout the country, and on behalf of Southern University he was presented with a special trophy by the National Football League for his band's outstanding performance at a Super Bowl.

Dr. Gregg's leadership is not limited to the sporting field. As president of the Louisiana College Band Directors Association, founder and president of the Lakeside Music Mart and School of Music, and State Chairman of the L.I.A.L.O. Band Festival, Dr. Gregg has proved his leadership skills and shown his commitment to the arts.

Dr. Gregg was presented with the Key of Life Award at the 31st NAACP Image Awards. The Key of Life Award was created in honor of musician Stevie Wonder and is presented to an individual or group who exemplifies Wonder's "inner vision." The award also recognizes extraordinary achievements in the areas of civil rights, human rights, and community. It is clear through all of his career, Dr. Gregg exemplified these attributes.

Dr. Gregg's power to move people through music is an amazing gift. If one is lucky in life, one improves the life of one's own children. However, Dr. Gregg has improved the lives of thousands and has left an indelible mark on African-American students and fans.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT OF GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS RELATIVE TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INFORMATION SHARING ENVIRONMENT CALLED FOR BY SECTION 1016 OF THE INTELLIGENCE REFORM AND TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2004—PM 34

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Select Committee on Intelligence:

To the Congress of the United States

The robust and effective sharing of terrorism information is vital to protecting Americans and the Homeland from terrorist attacks. To ensure that we succeed in this mission, my Administration is working to implement the Information Sharing Environment (ISE) called for by section 1016 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (IRTPA). The ISE is intended to enable the Federal Government and our State, local, tribal, and private sector partners to share appropriate information relating to terrorists, their threats, plans, networks, supporters, and capabilities while, at the same time, respecting the information privacy and other legal rights of all Americans.

Today, I issued a set of guidelines and requirements that represent a significant step in the establishment of the ISE. These guidelines and requirements, which are consistent with the provisions of section 1016(d) of IRTPA, are set forth in a memorandum to the heads of executive departments and agencies. The guidelines and requirements also address collateral issues that are essential to any meaningful progress on information sharing. In sum, these guidelines will:

Clarify roles and authorities across executive departments and agencies;

Implement common standards and architectures to further facilitate timely and effective information sharing;

Improve the Federal Government's terrorism information sharing relationships with State, local, and tribal governments, the private sector, and foreign allies;