

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 year, 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