

for her 20 years of faithful service to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Helsinki Commission. Janice joined the Helsinki Commission as a member of the professional staff just a few years after the watershed changes in Europe in 1989, including the fall of communism, the unification of Germany, and the break-up of the Soviet Union.

While 1989 did indeed mark a transition to peace and prosperity for many countries in Central Europe—a Europe “whole and free” in the words of President George Bush—by the time Janice joined the Commission staff in late 1994 it was clear that the countries of the region still had many challenges ahead.

At the 1994 Budapest Summit, where Janice first joined the U.S. delegation to the OSCE as a member of the Helsinki Commission contingent, she heard Russian President Boris Yeltsin warn that “Europe, having not yet freed itself from the heritage of the Cold War, is in danger of plunging into a cold peace.” Unfortunately, Russia’s effort to solidify its own sphere of influence and to block the OSCE’s ability to advance human rights has been a hallmark of Moscow’s approach throughout Janice’s tenure.

As the Helsinki Commission’s policy adviser attached to the U.S. Mission to the OSCE, Janice has worked on almost every aspect of the Commission’s mandate. Her expertise and dedication on Central Asia has particularly stood out.

In the aftermath of the crackdown in Turkmenistan beginning in November 2002, Janice was a tireless advocate for the victims of the regime. She has faithfully and continuously pressed to determine the fate of all those who were disappeared and been the voice of those who were silenced.

In the wake of the Uzbekistan Government’s massacre in Andijan in 2005, she helped put a spotlight on the tragic loss of life there. She also personally went to Kyrgyzstan after the outbreak of inter-ethnic conflict in 2010 and met with survivors. When Kazakhstani human rights advocate Evgeny Zhovtis was imprisoned in Siberia after a sham process, Janice visited him in prison. An international organization is only a means to an end, not an end to itself. In the case of the OSCE, that end is the promotion of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. Janice has helped to ensure that the OSCE stays focused on those goals.

As chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am pleased to recognize and commend Janice Helwig for her commitment and service to the Helsinki Commission.●

RECOGNIZING THE USA CANOE/ KAYAK TEAM

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the members of the U.S. canoe/kayak team on their outstanding performance at Deep Creek 2014—the International Canoe Federation, ICF,

Canoe Slalom World Championships—held at the Adventure Sports Center International, ASCI, in Garrett County, MD this past September.

U.S. paddlers advanced to the semifinals in every event, despite competing alongside more than 400 Olympic-level athletes from 46 countries. I congratulate U.S. team member and Marylander Fabien Lefevre on winning the Gold Medal in C1M—canoe single men—and advancing to the finals in K1M—kayak single men—and to his team members Michal Smolen, K1M; Casey Eichfeld, C1M; Dana Mann, K1W; and the team of Casey Eichfeld and Devin McEwan, C2M, who paddled their way into semifinals. I offer my congratulations to these outstanding athletes and my encouragement to all the members of the U.S. canoe/kayak team as they train and compete for a chance to represent the United States at the 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil.

U.S.A. canoe/kayak is a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee and the national governing body for the Olympic sports of flatwater sprint and whitewater slalom as well as the paralympic sport of paracanoe. Since 2009, the team has been led by Olympic Gold Medalist, 10-time U.S. National Champion, and 6-time World Cup Medalist Joe Jacobi. Joe has been a major force in energizing the team and developing the vitality of paddlesports in the United States. I wish him all the best as he steps down from this role later this year to pursue new projects and initiatives.

I also offer my congratulations to Garrett County commissioner Gregan Crawford and Maryland Office of Sports marketing executive director Terry Hasseltine who served as cochair for Deep Creek 2014; Deep Creek 2014 executive director Todd Copley; ASCI executive director Mike Logsdon; and the many sponsors and volunteers who worked together to bring this world-class event to the United States and to provide a warm welcome to athletes and visitors from around the world. This was only the second time this prestigious international competition has been held in the United States since its inception in 1949; I am proud that Mountain Maryland also hosted the World Championships on the Savage River in 1989.

I recently had the opportunity to visit with members of the U.S. team and students in Garrett College’s Adventure Sports Institute who are preparing to lead the next generation of athletes and outdoor sports enthusiasts. I commend the region’s leaders for recognizing Mountain Maryland’s unique opportunity to support the training and development of leaders in this exciting industry, and I look forward to the continued growth of competitive paddle sports in my State and around the country.●

TRIBUTE TO NARVA ROSS

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge and thank Ms. Narva

Ross, who will retire on January 2, 2015 from the Department of the Navy, for her completion of 45 years of Federal service.

Ms. Ross is a native of Plummerville, AR where her mother still resides. She has held positions with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Office of Economic Opportunity, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of the Navy. Ms. Ross has been a dedicated Federal employee and has served with distinction in a highly professional and exemplary manner for the Department of the Navy for the last 38 years of her career. She has received numerous performance awards including the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 1990.

Since July 1, 1990 Ms. Ross has been the lead administrative officer for the Sea Warfare and Weapons Department, Office of Naval Research, Department of the Navy. The Department has an annual budget of approximately \$500 million and has 100 employees. As administrative officer, Ms. Ross has provided leadership for all human resources functions, and for the implementation of personnel policy and procedures. She also serves as the Department’s lead for the creation of administrative business rules and processes, and she manages contracts for support personnel.

Ms. Ross has two children, Antoine and Jerri, and two grandchildren. Her husband, who passed away in 2005 after an extended illness, was a Vietnam Veteran serving 17 months in theater. Ms. Ross cared for her husband during his illness while working full time and raising their children.

Ms. Narva Ross has been a valued servant to the people of the United States and Arkansas. We are fortunate to have had such a dedicated Federal employee and I thank her again for her 45 years of service.●

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD A. MULDER

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Bernard A. Mulder, a veteran of World War II.

Bernard, on behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say thank you for your service to this Nation.

It is my honor to share the story of Bernard’s service in the Second World War because no story of bravery and especially not one from our “greatest generation” should ever be forgotten.

Bernard was born in Beaumont, TX, on July 21, 1922. After growing up in Beaumont and Galveston, he graduated from Galveston High School in 1939. Bernard enlisted with the Army Air Corps in San Antonio in May of 1941.

He trained in Texas and Nevada, and soon after, a squadron commander suggested that he put in for flight training. In December 1941, the same month as Pearl Harbor, Bernard was accepted for primary flight training in Santa Maria, CA. Until then, Bernard had never even been near a plane, much less flown one.