

made in combating the human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome, HIV/AIDS, and to redouble our commitment to preventing and treating this devastating disease.

For many years, we have viewed AIDS as a death sentence. Before 2000, rates of infection grew exponentially. People living with HIV/AIDS had few options, and what options they did have were expensive and out of reach. Millions of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS were isolated within their own communities, and there was virtually no way to prevent HIV transmissions from pregnant women to their unborn children, ending countless lives before they could truly begin.

But thanks to sustained United States and global efforts—administered through programs like the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, the Global Fund, and UNAIDS—we are finally turning the tide, not only in terms of slowing the spread of HIV/AIDS, but also by improving the lives of those affected by this disease.

Since 2000, new HIV infections have dropped by 35 percent. AIDS-related deaths are down 42 percent from their peak in 2004. To date, 15 million men, women, and children worldwide are on anti-retroviral therapy, compared to only 1 million in 2001. We have also made significant progress in tackling mother-to-child transmissions, which are key to ending the AIDS epidemic. Today 73 percent of pregnant women living with HIV have access to anti-retroviral therapy, greatly reducing the likelihood that they will transmit the disease to their babies. As a result, since 2000, new infections among children have fallen by 58 percent. Because of our investments in HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention, health systems throughout Africa have been strengthened, allowing millions to gain access to medications and more advanced treatments. Life expectancy in nations like Rwanda and Kenya have dramatically increased, and health facilities have been modernized.

These steps are just some of the ways in which we have made remarkable progress to stop HIV/AIDS in its tracks. We are, without a doubt, on our way to an AIDS-free generation. This is something that can happen in our lifetimes.

In mid-September, more than 150 world leaders gathered at the United Nations General Assembly to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Goal 3 includes a target to eradicate HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and other communicable diseases by 2030. This is a bold commitment that requires strong leadership from the United States. To achieve this goal, the United States must continue to invest in and provide strong funding for our global health programs, especially PEPFAR.

As my colleagues know, PEPFAR is the largest commitment by any nation

to combat a single disease internationally and represents the very best of America and our commitment to global humanitarian values. Thanks to PEPFAR, 7.7 million men, women, and children worldwide are receiving anti-retroviral treatments. In 2014, PEPFAR supported HIV testing and counseling for more than 56.7 million people and provided training for more than 140,000 new health care workers to help combat HIV on the ground. Through PEPFAR, we have been able to reach 5 million children who have been orphaned or made vulnerable due to HIV/AIDS. PEPFAR has also dramatically improved outcomes for pregnant women and their babies, reducing the transmission of HIV from mother to child. In 2014, PEPFAR supported HIV testing and counseling for more than 14.2 million pregnant women worldwide. For the nearly 750,000 pregnant women who tested positive for HIV, PEPFAR's anti-retroviral medications allowed 95 percent of their children to be born HIV-free.

We have made extraordinary progress; however, there is still much work to be done. Currently, there are more than 22 million people living with HIV who are not yet on treatment, and HIV is still the leading cause of death for women of reproductive age worldwide. We are on our way to an AIDS-free generation, but we can't rest on our laurels now. We need the commitment and leadership of partner countries—reinforced with support from donor nations, civil society, people living with HIV, faith-based organizations, the private sector, and foundations—to make an AIDS-free generation a reality. On this World AIDS Day, we recognize the progress we have made and recommit ourselves to continuing to combat HIV/AIDS both at home and abroad.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING MILTON PITTS CRENCRAW

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor today Milton Pitts Crenshaw, an aviation pioneer from Little Rock, AR, who paved the way for integration in the U.S. military and impacted generations of aviators.

Crenshaw, known as the father of black aviation in Arkansas, developed a love of flying while at the Tuskegee Institute. He excelled in the program, and after earning his pilot's license, he pursued his instructor's certificate. Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Crenshaw joined the Army Air Corps Civilian Pilot Training Program as a flight instructor.

He had the distinction of being one of the original supervising squadron commanders for the Tuskegee Airmen. He trained hundreds of cadets during the 1940s, an accomplishment he was rightfully proud of.

"The first thing that he takes pride in is that he and the other Black flight

instructors paved the way for people of color to enter the field of aviation. He is proud that he was chosen to implement that program," his daughter Dolores Crenshaw Singleton said in a recent interview.

Crenshaw helped break the barriers that existed in the military. His passion for aviation continued after his tenure at Tuskegee, serving as a flight instructor at several air bases, including Camp Rucker, AL, where he became the first Black flight instructor.

Crenshaw honorably served with the U.S. Army Air Corps and the U.S. Air Force for more than 40 years.

He also shared his love of aviation with Arkansas, and he was instrumental in creating an aviation program at Philander Smith College in Little Rock. Crenshaw taught aviation at the school from 1947 to 1953, holding classes at Adams Field in the Central Flying Service building.

Along with the accolades of inductions in the Arkansas Aviation Hall of Fame and the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame, in 2007 he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, along with other members we have come to admire as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Milton Pitts Crenshaw passed away on November 17, 2015. Today he will be laid to rest at the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery in North Little Rock. He was a true American hero whose leadership helped secure victory and peace for all freedom-loving people of the world.●

RECOGNIZING THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF ATLANTA

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to honor a wonderful asset in my hometown of Atlanta, GA, the Children's Museum of Atlanta.

Since the opening of its permanent facility in 2003 at Centennial Olympic Park in downtown Atlanta, it has become a leading attraction for families and has helped ignite the revitalization of the area, along with the Georgia Aquarium, the Center for Civil and Human Rights, the College Football Hall of Fame, and the iconic World of Coca-Cola. The Children's Museum of Atlanta has promoted the power of play and highlighted the importance of early childhood education in all areas, especially literacy, math, and science.

Not only am I married to a former teacher, but as a grandfather and the former chair of the Georgia Board of Education, I have long been committed to enhancing and improving educational opportunities for our children. The Children's Museum's mission and vision help parents, educators, and schools ignite curiosity and discovery in young children, enhance learning, and help them reach their goals.

The museum has recently undergone a major renovation and will reopen its doors on December 12, 2015, to a completely updated facility.

I am delighted to recognize on the floor of the Senate and to join the city