

home in Huntington Woods, MI. They were blessed with two children, and have since watched their children grow and start families of their own. They have become involved in their community by volunteering at their local synagogue and for political campaigns. Although they have now retired, they have continued to volunteer at the synagogue and with SCORE. Has Abe had time to think about medals he earned but never received? That was not Abe's style and still is not.

Several months ago when Bea discovered some papers in Abe's Army chest showing that he never received his medals, she took it upon herself to correct this oversight. She contacted the powers that be, and on October 7, 1995, at a gathering of family, friends, and other veterans, 1st Lt. Abraham Sacks will receive the medals he earned fighting for his country in World War II. Abe will be the recipient of the European-African-Middle Eastern Medal with Silver Star, the African Campaign Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal with Germany, and the Good Conduct Medal. On behalf of a country that is grateful to the men and women of our military forces, I want to congratulate 1st Lt. and dear friend Abe Sacks. It is never too late to honor someone of his caliber, goodness, and integrity. I know Abe will display these medals with the same pride he exhibited when he served his country. ●

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS L. AYRES ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

● Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I would like for the Senate to recognize the retirement of Thomas L. Ayres from the Department of Veterans Affairs after more than 41 years of exemplary service in providing health care to the armed service members and veterans of our nation. On September 30, 1995, Mr. Ayres will retire from his position as the Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Augusta, GA.

Tom Ayres began providing health care during his service with the United States Army from 1955 until 1959 at the 279th Station Hospital in Berlin. After his service in the Army, he started his career with the Veterans Administration by becoming a nursing assistant at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Marion, Indiana. From 1962 until 1969, Tom Ayres worked as a supervisory recreation specialist at the Veterans Hospital in Brecksville, OH. From 1969 until 1972, he served as a voluntary services officer at Veterans Administration Hospitals in both Madison, WI and Gainesville, FL. In 1972, Tom Ayres became a medical administration assistant at the Veterans Hospital in Madison, WI.

Since 1972, Tom Ayres has earned appointments to positions of increased

responsibility within the Department of Veterans Affairs. In 1976, he became a hospital administration specialist and soon thereafter was transferred to the Veterans Affairs central office and served as the executive assistant to the Associate Chief Medical Director for Operations.

Tom Ayres received an appointment to the position of Medical Center Director of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Salisbury, NC in 1981. Nine years later, he became the Director of the two-division Veterans Administration Medical Center in Augusta, GA. He also serves as the Associate Administrator for Veterans Affairs at the Medical College of Georgia and as a member of the Medical College of Georgia's Clinical Enterprise Executive Committee.

Throughout his long and distinguished career in providing health services for U.S. veterans throughout our great Nation, Tom Ayres has received numerous awards based on the exemplary performance of his duties. His awards include the National Daughters of American Veterans Commander Award, the Award for Valor from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, three Superior Performance Awards, and five consecutive Executive Performance awards. In 1990, he received the Presidential Rank Award from the President of the United States.

It is important to note that his compassion and sense of civic responsibility does not start and end with his job. Tom Ayres is an active participant with the local United Way, Kiwanis Club, American Legion, Senior Executive Association, and the American College of Hospital Administrators. In addition, he serves on the administrative board of Trinity on the Hill Church and is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Thomas L. Ayres for his outstanding career spent in service to our Nation's veterans. He is a model citizen in every sense of the term. We wish him, his wife Christa, and their children and grandchildren Godspeed and every success for the future. ●

OUT OF PRINT

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, recently, Bob Samuelson had a column in the Washington Post on the scarcity of various Government statistics in printed form.

Mr. Samuelson wrote that some of the reports published by the Census Bureau are going out of print. He cited the fact that the Census Bureau issued only 635 printed reports in 1994 as opposed to over 1,000 the Bureau printed in 1992.

His concern over the scarcity of printed statistics led him to contact the Census Bureau. Mr. Samuelson learned that the Census Bureau is still researching and compiling all of the

same data and information it has in the past. Only now, rather than publishing its reports in printed form, the Census is circulating statistics on the Internet.

Lately there has been a great deal of attention surrounding the Internet and the information superhighway.

I have to confess that my knowledge of the Internet is limited. Although, I do understand that a large and varied amount of information may be accessed by using the system.

I join Mr. Samuelson in his concern that those who do not have access to the Internet, or choose not to use the information superhighway, will not have the same access to the vital statistics published by the Census Bureau that they have had in the past.

While I do not dispute the benefits that accompany the Internet and other similar technological advances—especially in the field of education—I am concerned that we might overlook the usefulness and practicality of printed materials in the name of progress.

Having access to a wide range of information at our fingertips is definitely an advantage of the Internet. We must be mindful, however, that there is no substitute for the printed word.

Mr. President, I ask that Robert Samuelson's column entitled "Out of Print" be printed in the RECORD at this point.

The column follows:

[From the Washington Post]

OUT OF PRINT

(By Robert J. Samuelson)

My name is Robert, and I am a numbers junkie. I compulsively scour the Statistical Abstract for intriguing indicators of our national condition—the fact, for example, that state lotteries collect \$25 billion annually. Naturally, I am also a big fan of the Census Bureau, which publishes the abstract and conducts surveys on everything from our incomes to our housing patterns. So it pains me to report that Census is now committing a colossal blunder. It is slowly going out of print. Literally.

The Statistical Abstract momentarily seems safe, but scores of other printed reports are simply being eliminated. In 1992 Census issued 1,035 reports; last year the number was 635, and the retreat from print has only begun. Gone are, among others: "Earnings by Occupation and Education," "Poverty Areas in the United States" and "Language Use in the United States." This is absurd. We go to great trouble to collect this information, and now Census is suppressing it.

The losers are not just statistics addicts. Our public conversations depend heavily on these dry numbers. The shape our concept of who we are, of how society is performing and of what government should or shouldn't do. Political speeches routinely spit out statistics that can be made to tell stories: some true, some not so true. Keeping the conversations honest requires that the basic data be easily accessible to anyone who wants them.

When I say Census is "suppressing," I don't mean that it's deliberately hiding its surveys. As a reporter, I've asked Census for information hundreds of times; I can't recall an instance when answers, when available, weren't provided quickly. The culture of the place is to release information. By its lights,