

The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The award can be earned by girls aged 14-17, or in grades 9-12. To receive the award, these Girl Scouts first earned four interest project patches, the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award and the Senior Girl Scout Challenge as well as designing and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project to meet a special need in their communities.

As members of the Vermont Girl Scout Council, Melissa and Tina first earned badges in understanding yourself and others, child care, games, creative writing, and reading. The girls then combined their efforts in a project to combat illiteracy. They designed a series of three workshops for young children about the magic of books which they put on at their local town library. The workshops featured a magician, hired with money the girls raised themselves, magic tricks and crafts taught by the girls, and wonderful stories featuring magic. They attracted a large number of youngsters. The girls reported "everything we did interested and excited the children; they wanted to read more books and they now know the library and are planning to come to their future children's programs".

Jennifer and Vincenza put their efforts into making a special place for some elderly members of their community. The girls designed and established a conversation garden to give nursing home residents and their guests access to sidewalks, shade, and beauty, putting in two settees and planting bulbs and a flowering crabapple tree, all financed by the girls' sale of handmade cookbooks. To quote the nursing home administrator, "these two young people have earned the respect and appreciation of 125 nursing home residents and 160 employees of Eden Park".

As a member of the Vermont Girl Scout Council, Lori first earned badges in child care, reading, music, games, well being and understanding yourself and others. She then used these skills to design and implement a series of Lenten workshops for the younger children in her parish church. Kathleen earned badges in artistic crafts and exploration among others. After learning leadership skills through Girl Scouting, she served as the editor of her high school yearbook. As her Girl Scout Gold Award project she spent the last year organizing and leading a youth group for teens which meets every other week and a youth band which plays every Sunday for her church parish. Kathleen wanted the young people in her parish to "feel a sense of home in the church." Both girls used the skills they learned in Girl Scouting to help the church of their faith.

These six Senior Girl Scouts have earned my respect and admiration. I believe all the girls should receive the public recognition due them for such

significant services to their communities and their country.●

#### TRIBUTE TO EDWARD P. SCOTT

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, it is with great regret that I rise today to note the impending retirement of Edward P. Scott, Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs with the Department of Veterans Affairs [VA]. Ed has served in this position since his confirmation by the Senate in May 1993, after being nominated by President Clinton.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have greatly appreciated Ed's successful efforts to maintain close relations with legislators and keep Congress apprised of VA operations, programs, and policies. During his tenure, VA confronted the impact of judicial review on veterans' claims; addressed the health care, research, and compensation needs of Persian Gulf veterans suffering from undiagnosed illnesses; and, in the face of unprecedented fiscal pressures, began the most comprehensive restructuring of its health care and benefits administrations in history. Ed has played a critical role in developing and implementing VA's response to each of these challenges, while keeping Congress fully informed of, and involved in, major developments.

Mr. President, prior to his administration appointment, Ed enjoyed a long and varied career in public service. After graduating cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1963, where he was Law Review editor, he clerked for New Jersey Supreme Court Associate Justice Nathan Jacobs. He then joined the Air Force for 3 years, working as an assistant staff judge advocate at Keesler Air Force Base before retiring in the rank of captain. Soon after, he joined the Peace Corps, serving as deputy director and, later, country director, in Korea. Returning to the United States, he signed on as a staff attorney to the Mental Health Law Project in Washington, DC. In 1977, he joined the staff of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, thus embarking on a long and distinguished career in the veterans arena. In the 16 years he was employed on the committee staff, he alternately served as majority and minority general counsel and, ultimately, staff director and chief counsel.

As a committee staffer, Ed was instrumental in creating the Vet Center Program, enacting the Montgomery GI bill, elevating VA to cabinet rank, and establishing the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals. During the 102d Congress, one of the most productive legislative periods in the committee's history, he helped revamp VA physician pay, improve homeless veterans programs, create a fairer system of compensation for survivors of disabled veterans, bring educational benefits in line with inflation, heighten concern for minority veterans, and establish a program to help treat women who were sexually

abused in the military. In addition, under the leadership of my distinguished colleagues, Senator DASCHLE and Senator ROCKEFELLER, respectively, he helped resolve controversial matters relating to agent orange exposure and VA drug pricing.

Mr. President, I should also note that Ed played an important role in improving health care benefits and services for Hawaii's 120,000 veterans. Ed had an opportunity to visit Hawaii, gaining firsthand an appreciation of the unique needs of our multiethnic veterans population as well as of the special problems that confront the community as a consequence of Hawaii's insular geography and isolation from the mainland. He materially supported the Hawaii Delegation's efforts, initiated by my late predecessor, Senator Spark Matsunaga, to establish a VA medical center on Oahu; triple the size of the Honolulu VA outpatient clinic; and, establish vet centers, primary care clinics, and a residential post-traumatic stress disorder treatment center in the neighbor islands.

Mr. President, however extensive Ed's achievements, what is most remarkable about this good man is the grace and sense of balance he has brought to public service. In dealing with many different organizations and personalities, each with a separate agenda, often on extremely contentious issues, he brought calm to rough waters and comfort to bruised egos. His willingness to consider every side to an issue, his ability to rise above partisan and personal concerns, truly elevated the level of debate on veterans issues. By his example, he constantly reminded us of our primary obligation, which is to promote the welfare of veterans.

Thank you, Mr. President. Ed's departure from public service is a loss to all who care about good government. I offer him and his wife, Jane, my best wishes as they embark on a new, and I hope rewarding, phase of life.●

#### NATIONAL STROKE AWARENESS MONTH

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to take a few minutes to discuss National Stroke Awareness Month.

Every year in our country, approximately 28 out of every 100,000 people will suffer from a stroke. In fact, the third leading cause of death in the United States is a stroke. However, advances in medical technology and better control of high blood pressure have greatly reduced the number of strokes per year.

The number of strokes can be reduced even further if just a few preventive steps are taken. Periodic medical checkups and being on the look out for warning signs like high blood pressure, heart disease, age, and heredity are several basic ones.

A stroke occurs when blood vessels carrying oxygen and nutrients to the brain either become clogged or burst.

The result is that the brain does not receive the flow of blood it requires and brain cells become deprived and start to die. Stroke victims often suffer from changes to their senses, ability to understand speech, behavioral and thought patterns, and memory. Additionally, stroke victims may cry easily, laugh inappropriately, or become easily irritated.

Luckily, Mr. President, advances in treatment and rehabilitation allow many stroke victims to return to an active lifestyle. Even though recovery is very possible, these stroke victims must often learn a whole new set of skills because old ones were lost and new skills are required.

Another result of a stroke may be aphasia. Aphasia is the total or partial loss of the ability to speak and understand speech and in approximately 20 percent of strokes a serious loss of speech occurs. This change in speech may turn into an extremely frustrating experience because both speech and hearing are extremely important components within our society.

People with aphasia may use unusual words or sounds when expressing themselves. Consequently, slurred speech may often result and thus, the appearance of being drunk. People recovering from a stroke may also become isolated from others because they cannot communicate. As a result, the person may become depressed and indifferent to rehabilitation, judgment may become impaired, and memory lapses may occur.

Mr. President, I believe it is extremely important that we as a society take steps to become more aware of a stroke's effects. Charles Huston of Albuquerque, NM, has done just that for the past 30 years. Charles suffered a stroke in 1963 and ever since he has dedicated his life to making others aware of the effects of a stroke.

Charles has specifically involved himself with the issue of aphasia. In fact the stroke he suffered left him with aphasia. As a result, Charles spent many years just relearning how to speak, painstakingly relearning individual words, one at a time. The hard work and determination paid off because Charles has led a highly successful personal life.

In particular, Charles has focused on the misperception that people suffering from aphasia are merely drunk. He has tirelessly promoted a document known as the Aphasic Patient's Bill of Rights. The document explains the difficulties a person with aphasia may face and also states that people with aphasia have the right for others to treat them with dignity and consideration in all situations.

As part of Charles' work to make others aware of the effects of aphasia, he has focused on educating the New Mexico State Police. Within just the past year, he presented the State police with 13 copies of the Aphasic Patient's Bill of Rights and the State police will hang one of the documents in each of the Department's 13 district offices.

I think Charles Huston has set an example for all of us to follow. He has shown a remarkable amount of determination and resiliency in not allowing the stroke he suffered over 30 years ago to defeat him. Additionally, Charles has applied that same amount of determination to educating people about the effects of aphasia. I think we would all do well to take a little time and educate ourselves about the issues Charles Huston has been advocating for so many years.●

#### RECOGNITION OF WORLD WAR II EXERCISE TIGER OPERATION

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, this past April 28, 1997, the Missouri and New Jersey Exercise Tiger Associations, in conjunction with Veterans of Foreign War Post 280 of Columbia, MO recognized a group of heroic men. Until recently, few people knew of the secret operation code named "Exercise Tiger," because the details of the tragedy were not disclosed until after the Battle of Normandy and even then proper recognition was not given.

In December 1943, several training operations began in order to prepare for the Battle of Normandy. These operations, organized by the United States Army, were undertaken off a beach in Devon, England. It was known by all participating parties the dangers they could encounter. At the time, several German ships patrolled this stretch of water looking for American and English ships. One such evening during practice operations, with only one English ship to guard, there was a surprise attack on the American ships.

On April 28, 1944, the German Navy "E" boats, patrolling the English Channel, attacked the Eight American tank landing ships who became aware of the attack only after the U.S.S. *LST-507* was struck by an incoming torpedo. Next, the U.S.S. *LST-531* was attacked and sunk in a matter of minutes. The convoy returned fire and the last ship to be torpedoed, the U.S.S. *LST-289*, valiantly struggled to reach Dartmouth Harbor.

Even after this frightening turn of events, to its credit, Exercise Tiger continued operations and remained on schedule. Normandy was attacked as planned and the D-day invasion was a success.

Information of the fatalities was not released until after the D-day invasion due to the secrecy of the mission and in order to keep the Germans from becoming aware of the impending strike. It took many years, and the passage of the Freedom of Information Act, to learn of the significance of these missions. I feel now is the time for these courageous men to get the long-awaited recognition they deserve.

Four thousand men participated in this operation and of those, nearly a quarter were killed in action. Records from the Department of Defense estimate 749 men died consisting of 551 Army and 198 Navy casualties. Of Ti-

ger's death toll, 201 men were from the 3206th Quartermaster company in my home State of Missouri.

This Memorial Day weekend commemorates the heroic actions of the men who participated in Exercise Tiger and particularly the ones who lost their lives in this crucial preparation for the D-day invasion. The Exercise Tiger Associations and VFW Post 280 have the great privilege of being first in the State of Missouri to recognize these brave individuals.

In the words of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away \* \* \*" I hope that through this long delayed acknowledgment of these fine soldiers, their memory will not fade away, but will remain in our minds and hearts for years to come. These men were an example for all American soldiers to live by and a credit to the United States as it remains the free and great country that it is today.●

#### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT BILL

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator FAIRCLOTH, along with Senators CRAIG, REID, JEFFORDS, LOTT, MACK, and HUTCHINSON, as a co-sponsor of S. 50, the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit Bill.

S. 50 will help thousands of folks earn a 2-year college degree without creating a new Federal program. S. 50 is simple: it provides for a non-refundable tax credit of up to \$1,500, depending on the cost of attendance, for students attending a 2-year school, full-time or part-time. To receive the tax credit students must maintain a minimum grade point average as determined by the college.

Mr. President, this morning I read an Associated Press article with a Great Falls byline entitled "Regents OK \$7.6 million increase in college tuition, fees." The AP reports that tuition rates at 2-year and 4-year schools in Montana will rise an average of 6.5 percent, climbing to 7.5 percent when student fees are factored in. At Montana's colleges of technology, whose students this bill will help, the new tuition and fees vary from \$1,871 to \$2,121, an increase as high as 11.3 percent. The education and training two-year schools provide is more important for our workforce than it has ever been, but it is also more expensive than it's ever been. A tax credit is a simple way to put a degree within reach of thousands of students.

There are numerous tax credit proposals out there for 4-year schools, and I support some of these proposals. But it is vital that Montanans have the specialized training demanded by employers in the technology sector—one of the fastest growing sectors in our entire labor force—and it is our 2-year schools that provide much of that training. This tax credit is a jobs credit: a well-trained workforce not only benefits existing businesses, but will