

STEVEN J. SHIMBERG'S
DEPARTURE

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, this Friday, June 20, marks the last day Steven J. Shimberg will work here in the Senate as staff director and chief counsel of the Committee on Environment and Public Works. Next month, he will begin a new career with the National Wildlife Federation.

Steve Shimberg is a New York native and a magna cum laude graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo. Upon graduating from Duke University School of Law, Steve spent 3 years as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice's Land and Natural Resources Division before joining the staff of the Committee on Environment and Public Works in 1981.

I have been a member of the Committee since I entered the Senate in 1977. I served as the chairman or ranking minority member of the Water Resources Subcommittee from the 96th Congress through the 103d Congress, and I served as full committee chairman from September 1992 through January 1993. So, over the years, I have seen Steve shepherd through the committee enormously complicated and thoroughly bipartisan legislation to protect our natural resources. I can attest to Steve's personableness, his sense of humor and good cheer, his comity, and his utter competence. Consummately professional, always courteous, and always calm.

Environmental policy, to be supportable, must be based on sound science. And so I have argued that the committee needs more scientists and fewer lawyers on the staff. Steve certainly is an exception; he has been indispensable. While I applaud Federation officials for their astuteness in hiring Steve, I lament the loss his departure means to the committee, and to the Senate. We will miss him.

Sir Christopher Wren's tombstone reads, "Lector, si monumentum requiris circumpice." With regard to Steve's work over the past 17 years on the committee, the products are around us all: cleaner air, cleaner water, a greatly redeemed physical and human environment.●

EXPLANATION OF VOTES ON THE
NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on Wednesday, April 10, the Senate once again turned to consideration of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. This legislation, Senate bill 104, is the latest attempt to force action on the long overdue construction of a Federal, spent nuclear waste depository. A centralized waste storage facility must be located soon if the Department of Energy [DOE] is to have any hope of fulfilling its contractual obligation to collect the spent fuel stored at over 100 facilities around the country in the next decade.

Michigan needs the DOE to fulfill this obligation. My State has four nu-

clear plants: Big Rock in Charlevoix, Fermi in Monroe, Palisades in Southaven, with 2 reactors, and DC Cook in Southaven. All four of these plants were designed with some small storage capacity, but a couple of years ago, Palisades ran out of spent fuel pool storage space. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act will mandate the removal and storage of this spent fuel at a safe, central facility.

The first amendment to S. 104 was a Reid amendment stipulating that no waste may be transported through a State without the prior written consent of that State's Governor. In effect, this amendment would have permitted any Governor to block the implementation of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and impede the safe storage of nuclear waste. I supported, therefore, the tabling motion which passed by a 72 to 24 margin.

The Thompson amendment which was considered next sought to exempt Oak Ridge, TN, from being considered as an interim waste site should the President search for a location other than Yucca Mountain. In general, I do not like the idea of deleting from consideration particular sites without a debate on the matter. This site, however, lies in a geological zone comprised primarily of limestone bedrock that is frequently riven by shallow underground rivers. As such, the risk of contaminated waste leaking into the area's water table is too great for this site to be a reasonable replacement for the Yucca Mountain site. For that reason, I supported the Thompson amendment and it passed on a 60 to 33 vote.

The Bumpers amendment that followed was a sense of the Senate resolution stating that the Department of Energy had an unavoidable delay in its contractual obligations to begin taking possession of spent fuel in 1998. If passed, this resolution could have undermined the current lawsuit which has been filed by Michigan and 34 other States against the DOE for not taking this waste in the agreed to time. For that reason, I opposed this resolution. The great majority of my colleagues agreed with me, and the resolution failed on a 24 to 69 vote.

The next amendment, a Bingaman effort to eliminate the language to exempt Oak Ridge, TN, from consideration as an interim site, failed by a 36 to 56 margin. As I have noted, this site is not a suitable interim storage site, and I voted against the Bingaman measure.

The second Bingaman amendment which was considered sought to eliminate the default provision for designating an interim storage site. The legislation as passed gives the President the authority to declare whether Yucca Mountain is a suitable interim storage site. If the President says it is not, he has 18 months to identify a new interim site. If, however, the President does not designate another facility within that time, then Yucca Mountain becomes the interim site by default.

The Bingaman amendment would have changed this. Had it passed, the President could have rejected Yucca Mountain and then simply refused to identify another interim site. The end result would be years of lost time, millions of wasted taxpayer dollars, and a return to the present, untenable situation. I opposed the Bingaman amendment for this reason and supported the motion to table which passed 59 to 39.

The final amendments to be considered were a Domenici amendment and a Murkowski second degree amendment. The bill as written could have been considered to allow a waiver on a budget point of order. The Domenici amendment clarified and reinstated existing law, which does not permit waiving a point of order prospectively.

The Murkowski second degree to the Domenici amendment was a technical fix that capped the annual fee for each civilian nuclear powerplant at 1.0 mill per kilowatt-hour. The original provisions limiting user fees to 1.0 mill per kilowatt-hour were poorly worded. With the budgetary fix provided by the Domenici amendment, this provision was restored.

I supported the Murkowski amendment and it was adopted by a 66 to 32 vote. Shortly after, the Senate passed the Domenici amendment as modified by a voice vote.

Upon the disposition of these amendments, the Senate turned to final passage of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. Once again, I voted in favor of this important act and was pleased to see it pass by a 65 to 34 margin.●

RACE FOR THE CURE

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to express my admiration for the thousands of Americans who spent last Saturday morning running to help bring attention to breast cancer and to raise money to aid in finding a cure for this terrible disease—the leading cause of death among women ages 35 to 54. In Washington alone, more than 35,000 runners and walkers, including several members of my own staff, joined the Vice President and his wife to raise more than \$1 million for breast cancer research in the Race for the Cure. This effort is even more impressive when you consider that this race took place in 77 cities across the country. Since its inception in 1982, the Race for the Cure has raised \$45 million and funded 230 grants in basic science and clinical research, as well as education and screening projects. The incredible turnout for this event displays the widespread concern over the devastation of breast cancer.

Every 3 minutes another woman is diagnosed with breast cancer. This year alone, more than 180,000 women will struggle with this disease, and more than 44,000 women will die as a result of it. One in eight women will develop breast cancer within their lifetime, making it likely that every American will be touched in some way by this disease.

Until we find a cure for this disease, it is crucial that we educate women about the importance of early detection. If the cancer can be confined to the breast, the survival rate is 93 percent. Women need to understand the importance of mammograms, monthly breast self-examinations, regular exercise and a low-fat, high fiber diet.

Mammography screening exams are the best early detection system available, and I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the reauthorization of the Mammography Quality Standards Act. Since it was originally passed in the 102d Congress, this legislation has provided women with safe and reliable mammography services. Through this reauthorization, mammography service providers will be required to retain women's mammography records so that an accurate medical history is maintained. In addition, it will ensure that patients are notified about substandard mammography facilities. It is crucial that we address this need, as early detection is often the key to effective treatment and recovery.

Women who undergo treatment for breast cancer deserve the best and most appropriate care. The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1997, another bill that I have cosponsored, guarantees that health care providers cover inpatient care for mastectomies, lumpectomies, and lymph node dissection. These procedures can be both physically and psychologically traumatizing, and we must provide these women with the option to have an overnight stay in the hospital after surgery.

This bill would also require HMO's to provide coverage for reconstructive surgery that is necessitated by breast cancer. Currently, this reconstructive surgery may be considered cosmetic, but this categorization is illogical as it ignores the trauma that results from a full mastectomy and other breast cancer related procedures. Last, this bill will guarantee that HMO's cover secondary consultations when any form of cancer has been diagnosed.

I know that my colleagues share my concern with the problem of breast cancer, and I hope that they will support these legislative efforts to help women prevail over this disease.

Again, I wish to commend all those who participated in the Race for the Cure, and I only hope that their efforts move us closer to the Race's noble goal: a true cure for this debilitating illness.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN J. DEPIERRO

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, this year John J. DePierro, president and chief executive officer of the Sisters of Charity Health Care System, celebrates a milestone in his career. For 25 years he has served the Sisters of Charity health care efforts on Staten Island in New York City. In so doing, he has given vision to the health care mission of the sisters and has been a pivotal

force in insuring the success of the many institutions of human service that comprise the Sisters of Charity Health Care System.

Through St. Vincent's Medical Center of Richmond, a broad array of acute care services are made available to the community including maternal and child care programs, centers of excellence in cardiology and oncology, a broad array of psychiatric and addiction services and an active emergency medicine program.

Through Bayley Seton Hospital which was the former Public Health Service Hospital which Mr. DePierro played a key role in providing for its transition to community service working closely with me, a strong range of outpatient services together with inpatient programs with specific emphasis on the centers of excellence of dermatology and ophthalmology are available to the community. As with St. Vincent's, there is an effective emergency medicine program to meet the needs of the surrounding community.

Bayley Seton has also, working closely with me, forged a productive relationship with the Department of Defense to provide military health care as a uniformed services treatment facility.

In 1994, St. Elizabeth Ann's Health Care and Rehabilitation Center became a reality and through it a range of chronic, subacute and rehabilitative services were provided for the community of Staten Island. Special populations that are served include persons with AIDS as well as ventilator-dependent patients.

The system also has concerned itself with insuring a continuum of community-based services. Pax Christi Hospice, a home-based hospice program, has served the needs of Staten Islanders since 1988 and the Sisters of Charity Home Health Care Program meets their posthospital needs.

To Mr. DePierro's abiding credit, he has also concerned himself with other human needs of the community of Staten Island. Through his commitment, three senior housing programs have been developed to provide over 225 residential units of housing for seniors. He is also seeing to the needs of the employees of the system with the development of the Sister Elizabeth Boyle Child Learning Center which provides day care services for both the staff of the corporations of the system, let alone the community.

It is rare in the context of health care today to see an individual have such long and illustrious tenure in an institution. This is made all the more unique by the strength that has been created in the vertically integrated health care delivery system that is the Sisters of Charity.

Mr. DePierro's background speaks to his capacity as a hospital administrator and health care leader. A graduate of St. Peter's College with a master's in business administration majoring in hospital administration from

George Washington University, he completed a residency in hospital administration at Bellevue Hospital Center. He is a fellow of the American College of Health Care Executives, a member of the American Hospital Association, the American Public Health Association and the Public Health Association of New York City.

He has served as a regent for New York State for the American College of Health Care Executives. He has lent his significant leadership to the professional associations of the industry including serving as a member of the board of governors of the Greater New York Hospital Association of which he is also past chairman as well as a member of the board of the Healthcare Association of New York State of which he is also a past chairman. He has been a delegate to the regional advisory board II of the American Hospital Association and currently serves as chairperson of the hospital advisory council of the Catholic Health Care Network of the Archdiocese of New York.

Mr. DePierro, despite the heavy demands on his professional responsibilities, makes time to serve on the board of the Seton Foundation for Learning which provides educational programs in the Catholic tradition for special children. He is also a past president of the foundation.

A man committed to his family, he and his wife, Jeanne, are the proud parents of four children and delight in their six grandchildren—soon to be seven.

All of this, Mr. President, gives testimony to the capacity of a single individual motivated and concerned about the needs of others to work effectively over the course of time to insure that those needs are provided for effectively and good works are accomplished by harnessing the involvement of others and by personal example.

I am proud of the strong relationship that I have enjoyed with the Sisters of Charity Health Care System over the years and the opportunities that I have had to work with Mr. DePierro in the transition of Bayley Seton Hospital, the provision of military health care and the development of housing programs.

I know of his forthright commitment and his unquestioned integrity in his dealings will all. These traits are exemplary of the pattern of care of the Sisters of Charity on Staten Island.

I join with Mr. DePierro's countless friends and associates in wishing him professional and personal success in the years ahead. I trust too Mr. President that knowing of John's fondness for golf, that his handicap will be reduced in inverse ratio to his years of service with the Sisters of Charity and his hole-in-one shot in Aruba was only the first of many.

I share the prayer of those who are honoring John at a celebration on Staten Island on Tuesday, July 1, that he shall continue to be blessed with good health and a steadfast concern for others.●