

predictive information be used against me or my family? Particularly when I am currently healthy and, in fact, may never develop the illness? I think the American public has answered quite clearly, "no."

As a physician I believe in preventive medicine to avert illness for patients. Similarly, as a policymaker, I believe in "preventive legislation" in this case—to avert widespread discrimination by stepping in now—before genetic information is used in certain health insurance practices and before genetic technologies are used in routine medical practice.

Finally, I believe that, in order to fully address genetic discrimination, we must tackle comprehensive legislation on the confidentiality of medical records—legislation that encompasses all of our health information. We must examine who should have access to sensitive health information and to whom it should be disclosed. As this important debate continues in the 105th Congress, I am committed to ensuring that we craft legislation that protects patient confidentiality, fosters medical research, and maintains a dynamic health care system.

Only with these measures can we ensure that knowledge about our genetic heritage will be used to improve our health—and not force us to hide in fear that this information will cause us harm.

I encourage my Senate colleagues to join me in examining these issues and moving forward in the coming months on these critical pieces of legislation. ●

TRIBUTE TO CAPT. FREDRIC G. LEEDER, USN—PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

● Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Capt. Frederic G. Leeder, USN, upon his retirement from the United States Navy, after 28 years of distinguished and dedicated service to our nation.

Captain Leeder is a native son of Ohio and graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in journalism. Following his graduation from college, Captain Leeder was commissioned as an Ensign. After his graduation from the officers' program at the Defense Department's Information School, he then assumed a variety of public-affairs assignments overseas and state-side. His tours of duty included a North Atlantic Treaty Organization staff assignment and four joint-service assignments.

Most recently, Captain Leeder served as Staff Director for Public Affairs at Headquarters, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) in Alexandria, Virginia. During his three years at DLA as principal spokesperson, Captain Leeder demonstrated unbounded stamina, keen insight, and exemplary professionalism. Possessing exceptional skill, foresight and composure, Captain Leeder dealt with representatives of the print and electronic media, engaging them on his

terms. In just one example, last fall he competently worked with investigative reporters from a prominent news magazine and a major television network to ensure accuracy and fairness of nationwide reporting on a sensitive issue having significant national security implications. With his intelligent foresight and strong voice of reason, Captain Leeder, advised three different DLA directors, each from a different service I might add, on how to navigate through the often perilous waters of media and community relations.

Captain Leeder succeeded in striking that delicate balance of ensuring the American public's right to know and protecting the public interest throughout his career. An accomplished communicator, he truly has earned the gratitude of thousands of military families that have found comfort and reassurance in his words when loved ones serving on distant seas and shores have been in harm's way. Captain Leeder has served his country for 28 years with valor, loyalty, and integrity, winning the personal and professional respect of all who come in contact with him. Captain Fred Leeder is a master of his craft.

On the occasion of Captain Leeder's retirement from the U.S. Navy, I offer my congratulations and thanks to this esteemed son of the Buckeye state, and wish him well in his future pursuits. ●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT A. STARR

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert A. Starr, Chair of the Vermont House Agriculture Committee and true Vermonter. I pay this tribute in recognition of Mr. Starr's unyielding support for the Northeast Dairy Compact, which on August 20, 1997, provides the first over-order payments so desperately needed by Vermont's dairy farmers.

"Bobby", as he is known far and wide throughout Vermont, has given lifelong public service to the Vermont agricultural community. Raised on a dairy farm during and after the Second World War, knowledge of hard times and a capacity for hard-bitten labor were ingrained in Bobby, traits which continue to distinguish the character of our hill farmers. After schooling at Vermont Technical College, Bobby followed the lead of his grandfather and became a member of the Vermont House of Representatives in 1979.

Bobby became a member of the House Agriculture Committee his first year, and has been there ever since. He became Chair in 1987, and has sponsored and provided leadership on a host of initiatives to promote the interests of Vermont agriculture. Bobby has lent his leadership to the variety of Vermont's agricultural pursuits, but it is the dairy industry which has remained at the heart of his vision. Certainly Bobby's upbringing and his strong dairy farm constituency provide the foundation of his knowledge and com-

mitment to the interests of the State's dairy farmers. Yet his vision is broader than just his home district, and indeed has expanded beyond the borders of Vermont to all of New England.

It is this unique expansive vision which spawned the dairy compact. Many of us in this body are intimately familiar with the dairy compact, yet few of us may know that the dairy compact was originally sponsored by Bobby Starr in the Vermont Legislature in 1989.

Few initiatives in my memory have sparked such a vigorous policy debate as the dairy compact. I am proud to have sponsored the compact on behalf of all by colleagues from the New England delegation. Adoption of the compact could not have happened without their hard work here in Congress, and without the years of dedicated work of a veritable army of compact supporters from throughout New England.

In all, the compact reflects the true spirit of commitment to our dairy farmers. The compact's first payment is a tribute to the hard work and the tireless commitment of Bobby Starr. ●

WV AMERICORPS PROJECTS

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the West Virginia Americorps Program for their outstanding service and accomplishments. Currently, 500 Americorps members work at nearly 100 sites throughout West Virginia. Americorps programs strive to extend and promote education for children of all socioeconomic backgrounds and to fulfill basic needs, such as, food, shelter, and health care, for West Virginians. By working together with the community, the members of Americorps search for solutions to improve the quality of life and expand opportunities for individuals who are less fortunate.

Helping individuals become more independent and self-sufficient are goals of Americorps. To help people with multiple sclerosis, the West Virginia chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and Americorps members provide friendly home visits, organize peer support groups, and help them with their daily chores.

The Energy Express Americorps opens new doors and expands the possibilities for children of West Virginia. This 6-week summer learning program provides nutritious meals, a safe learning environment, and positive role models. While developing a strong relationship between students and mentors, the children improve their reading skills. With the support of the community and the involvement and attention of parents and volunteers, children's self esteem is increasing and their reading skills are improving.

Throughout the mountains of West Virginia, homes need constant care and attention. My colleagues know that floods, violent storms, and other uncontrollable factors can cause homes to deteriorate more rapidly. My State is