

1970s, Walter was there to help guide. So he has been a great asset to that wonderful institution as well.

STAFF TRIBUTE TO SENATOR  
JOHN GLENN

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, as my colleagues well know, my distinguished colleague from Ohio, JOHN GLENN, is busily preparing for his extraordinary and inspirational return to space. As our best wishes are with him and his wife Annie as they begin the next chapter in their wonderful lives, I would like to take a moment to read a fine tribute to Senator GLENN by those who also dedicated their lives to public service—as members of JOHN GLENN's staff. I am honored to read the following letter addressed to him:

OCTOBER 9, 1998.

The Hon. JOHN GLENN,  
*U.S. Senator, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR: As your four terms in the United States Senate come to a close and as you prepare to return to space for the first time since your historic 1962 orbital flight, those who have had the honor and the privilege to serve as members of your Senate staff would like to express our gratitude to you.

Although there have been many staff changes over the years, you have allowed us to pursue extraordinary careers in government and experience opportunities that few can ever know. Some of us have been on your staff since 1975 and many more have served well beyond the average tenure. Beyond our professional careers, you and Annie have made us feel welcome. You generously shared your time with us as our families and children have grown. Your commitment to family is evident in your 55 years of marriage to Annie and that example must have contributed to the eight office marriages in which both spouses first met as staff members.

We have always been proud to assist a public servant who is held in such high regard. We witnessed that admiration and respect firsthand as we accompanied you in your travels throughout the country and around the world and when we see the many people who come to your offices to conduct business.

Your patriotic service in war and peace, in space and in the Senate is an inspiration to us. While you remind us that there may be no cure for the common birthday, you have proven time and again that with determination and hard work dreams do come true.

Thank you for helping our dreams come true, too. Godspeed John Glenn.

Mary Jane Veno, 1975; Christine S. McCreary, 1975; Patricia J. Buckheit, 1975; Ernestine J. Hunter, 1975; Barbara Perry, 1975; Diane Lifsey, 1975; Kathy Connolly, 1975; Linda K. Dillon, 1977; Dale Butland, 1980; Peggy McCauley, 1980.

Ron Grimes, 1984; Kathleen Long, 1984; Don Mitchell, 1984; Michael Slater, 1985; Rosemary Matthews, 1985; Peter McAlister, 1987; Jack Sparks, 1989; Micolle C. Dauray, 1989; Shannon L. Watson, 1989; Tonya McKirgan, 1990.

Suzanne McKenna, 1990; Sebastian O'Kelly, 1990; Vicki Butland, 1991; Nathan Coffman, 1992; Holly Koerber, 1993; Mike Entinghe, 1993; Vickie Eckard, 1993; Bryce Level, 1993; J.P. Stevens, 1994.

Kevin Cooper, 1995; Alberta Easter, 1995; Holly Kinnamon, 1996; Jan Papez, 1995; Ayris Price, 1996; David McCain, 1997; Yolanda Brock, 1997; Jill Jacobs, 1997; Dan Emerine, 1997.

Marc Saint Louis, 1997; Coleen Mason, 1997; Rochelle Sturtevant, 1997; Elizabeth Stein, 1997; John Hoctor, 1997; Rob Mosher, 1997; Mary Goldberg, 1998; Maggie Diaz, 1998; Christopher Davis, 1998.

Mr. President, all of us share the sentiments expressed in this heart-warming tribute. It is a reminder of how fortunate we are to have the opportunity to work with dedicated staff who share our pride in representing our fellow citizens in the United States Senate.

ASTHMA

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about a landmark report released a week ago about asthma, and about how well we as a Nation are dealing with it. The report, called "Asthma in America", frankly concludes that we are doing a poor job. Asthma is a disease that we know how to treat and that we know how to manage. But every year, thousands of Americans die from asthma—and millions more have to be rushed to hospitals to treat emergency asthma symptoms. Let me repeat—we have people dying from asthma—even though we know how to treat this disease. This really is something that we as a nation must address.

Mr. President, there's been enough public attention about asthma that I would hope we all know the basics by now. But let me restate some basic facts. Asthma is a chronic lung disease caused by inflammation of the lower airways. During an asthma attack, these airways narrow—making it difficult and sometimes impossible to breathe.

Nearly 15 million Americans have asthma—and 5 million of them are children. For some reason, the prevalence of asthma is rising—in the last two decades, the number of asthma cases have doubled.

The good news for the 15 million Americans with asthma is that we know a lot about how to treat and manage the disease. We know how to handle asthma attacks once they occur. The most common way, of course, is to use one of the types of asthma inhalers, inhalers such as the one I carry with me just about every day. Millions of Americans use this type of inhaler. Importantly, we now know a lot about how to prevent asthma attacks. Through drug therapy and through avoiding many well-known triggers that cause asthma attacks, we know enough to make sure these attacks and other complications from asthma are rare indeed. In fact, our knowledge is comprehensive enough that the National Institutes of Health have set some ambitious—but reachable—goals for asthma treatment. For example, one of the NIH goals is zero missed days of school or work. Given what we know, we should be able to reach this and the other goals NIH has set. At a minimum, we should be able to come close.

But the bad news for Americans with asthma is that we are not managing this disease well—and we are not com-

ing anywhere close to meeting the NIH goals. This is the bad news that was spelled out very clearly in the Asthma in America report. Let me go over a few of the findings from the report.

The NIH goal is that Americans with asthma miss zero days of work or school. But the report tells us that 49 percent of children with asthma and 25 percent of adults with asthma missed school or work because of the disease last year.

The NIH goal is that the sleep of people with asthma should not be disrupted by difficulty to breathe. But the report tells us that almost one in three asthma patients awoken with breathing problems at least once a week.

The NIH goal is that we have only a small need for emergency room visits or hospitalizations due to asthma attacks. But the report tells us that nearly six million Americans were hospitalized, treated in emergency rooms, or required other urgent care for asthma in the last year. One out of every three children with asthma—about 1.5 million of them—had to go to an emergency room because of asthma.

The NIH goal is that individuals with asthma should be able to maintain normal activity levels. But the Asthma in America survey shows that 48 percent of asthma patients say that asthma limits their ability to participate in sports and recreational activities, and 36 percent have difficulty maintaining their usual levels of physical activity.

Mr. President, all of this is simply unacceptable. If we know how to do better, we must do better. As a nation, we need to seriously evaluate why these shortcomings in the treatment of asthma remain—despite the fact that we do know better. All of us—policy-makers; doctors; health insurance companies and HMOs; people with asthma and parents of children with asthma—all of us need to look at this report and try to figure out what's going wrong.

The report released Tuesday should be viewed as a wake-up call. We knew there were some problems with how well we deal with asthma, but I don't think anybody realized it was this bad. We must and can do better.

For example, Asthma in America suggests that one of the reasons we are not meeting the national goals for asthma is lack of knowledge among patients. Many of the survey participants were not able to state what the underlying cause of asthma is, how asthma medication should be used, and how to prevent asthma attacks from occurring. It is clear that we should be doing a better job of educating patients, their families and health care providers about the importance of properly managing asthma.

As a United States Senator, as an American with asthma, and as the father whose children have had asthma, I intend to look at this issue to see what I can do personally and what the federal government can do to address the shortcomings in asthma treatment this

report reveals. We only have a day or two left in the 105th Congress. But if we need legislation—if we need greater resources to deal with this problem—I will do everything I can to make sure the 106th Congress addresses this issue and does what is necessary.

#### STRENGTHENING ABUSE AND NEGLECT COURTS ACT OF 1998

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill that will help protect America's abused children. The bill is called the Strengthening Abuse and Neglect Courts Act of 1998. I am very proud to be joined in this effort by Senators ROCKEFELLER, LANDRIEU, and CHAFEE. I realize that time is running very short in this Congress, so my co-sponsors and I will look to move this legislation during the next Congress.

Mr. President, last year Congress passed a historic piece of legislation called the Adoption and Safe Families Act. The purpose of that bill was to encourage safe and permanent family placements for abused and neglected children—and to decrease the amount of time they have to stay in the foster care system.

One of the requirements of that new law is more timely decisionmaking by the courts with regard to adoption and other permanent placements for children. The time-lines instituted by the Adoption and Safe Families Act, however, have increased the pressure on already overburdened courts that deal with abused and neglected children.

If we provide assistance to the courts—so that administrative efficiency and effectiveness are improved—the goals of last year's important legislation will be more readily achieved. Improved courts will help more children find permanent homes more quickly.

That is the purpose of the bill I am introducing today. While acknowledging that abuse and neglect courts are already committed to quality administration of justice, this bill would further strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the courts in the following five areas:

(1) Grants to State courts and local courts to automate data collection and tracking of proceedings in abuse and neglect courts. This would improve administrative efficiency and help evaluate overall performance—and it would also develop computer systems that can be replicated in other jurisdictions.

(2) Grants to reduce pending backlogs of abuse and neglect cases. These grants will go to courts in order to reduce and hopefully eliminate the backlog of cases awaiting disposition. The courts are given the flexibility to determine what method to use to reduce their backlog, but suggestions include establishing night court sessions, hiring additional court personnel or extending the courts operating hours.

(3) Development of "good practice" standards for agency attorneys. This would improve the quality of represen-

tation for children in the abuse and neglect system to ensure that their best interests are considered.

(4) Improved training (and cross-trainings) for judges, abuse and neglect attorneys, and court personnel. In this, as in so many areas, it's crucial that people with a special task receive special training. This bill would partially reimburse States for training of judges, judicial personnel, agency attorney's and attorneys representing children and parents in abuse and neglect proceedings. It would also help fund cross-training between court and agency.

(5) Technical assistance for the development of and education on "good practice" standards for attorneys practicing in abuse and neglect proceedings. The bill authorizes technical assistance funding to support abuse and neglect courts in the implementation of the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

(5) Expansion of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program into underserved areas. The CASA Program has proven to be effective in ensuring that children in the foster care system are protected and receive appropriate services. This bill would help CASA expand its programs in the 15 largest urban areas and develop multi-jurisdictional programs in under-served rural areas, so that more children receive the benefit of their services.

When we passed the Adoption and Safe Families Act last year, I said that the bill is a good start, but that Congress will have to do more to make sure that every child has the opportunity to live in a safe, stable, loving and permanent home. One of the essential ingredients in this process is an efficiently operating court system. After all, that's where a lot of delays occur—for children who need permanent homes. The courts have been neglected throughout the years and while other areas of child welfare have been emphasized and funded, the courts have been left out of the process almost entirely.

It is my hope that with the introduction of this bill, we will start to change that syndrome—and make sure that courts will finally receive the funding and training they need to make a positive difference in the lives of some of America's most at-risk young people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is reminded of the 5-minute rule.

Mr. DEWINE. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

#### RETIREMENT OF DAN COATS

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, at this desk on the floor of the Senate, I am surrounded by Indiana—the senior Senator from Indiana on my left, the junior Senator from Indiana on my right. Together, they have come to reflect the character of their sober, peaceful, and productive section of middle America. So close are the two Senators to one another, almost alone among Members of this body, they share offices in

the State of Indiana, they share a strong and calm temperament, and they share a commitment to the people they represent and to the people of the United States.

When this Congress adjourns in a few short hours, however, we will be losing one of those Senators, DAN COATS. DAN COATS has grown in wisdom and in the respect that his fellow Senators have for him in each of the 10 years during which he has served in the Senate—10 years that seem to me, in retrospect, to be all too short. With DAN COATS, what you see is what you get, a man who lives and defends and projects solid American values, a love of family, a love of country, a love of God, a man who works hard, a man whose convictions are strong and unshakeable but who combines with those convictions a willingness to listen to views different from his own and to reach accommodations on matters of policy when those accommodations do not shake his solid philosophical foundation.

During the course of his 10 years in the Senate, DAN COATS has become a good friend. I do not believe I can say that he is my closest friend in the Senate, nor I his. I can say, however, that I will greatly miss his calm good humor, his ability to get to the central point of any debate over policy or political philosophy, his rich dedication to the Constitution of the United States, to this body, and to the friends he has made in this body.

We are only 100 men and women in the Senate, Mr. President. We see a great deal of one another, and we see ourselves and our colleagues under great stress and under high pressures. As a consequence, it is very difficult for any of us to hide the vital features of our character or our personality from one another. DAN COATS, I must say, has never attempted to hide anything about his character or about his personality, and with me and with all of us it has worn well. He is the kind of individual whom you like and respect more and more with each passing day, and it is for just that reason that even if this Congress ends up by accomplishing many of the purposes that each of us as individuals set out to accomplish at the beginning of this Congress, we will still go home with an empty heart, knowing that those of us who return in January will return without the daily advice, counsel, and friendship of a magnificent U.S. Senator, DAN COATS of Indiana.

#### CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, there is an old saying that "where there is a will, there is a way." That is very true of this Congress.

Congress can work together when it wants to get a job done, when Members focus on resolving issues rather than sound bites for the nightly news. I was pleased for example, to have worked with Senators BENNETT, HATCH, DODD,