

50TH BIRTHDAY OF THE GIRL
SCOUTS OF CONESTOGA COUNCIL

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on the occasion of the 50th Birthday of the Girl Scouts of Conestoga Council, I would like to congratulate this fine organization.

Conestoga Council was formed in 1951 and presently serves nearly 4,000 girls in a twelve-county area in Northeast Iowa. The Council delivers traditional Girl Scout programming through troop meetings and activities, camp opportunities and educational learning. In addition, the Council supports eight in-school out reach programs for girls of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The Council has broadened its delivery approach by partnering with the Winnebago Council of Boy Scouts of America to offer day camp activities and experiences through Camp Quest to hundreds of children who would not otherwise have the opportunity to participate.

The Council continues to fulfill its mission of helping girls grow strong with the assistance of hundreds of volunteers throughout Eastern Iowa. Thousands of girls' lives have been touched and enriched through their experience with the Conestoga Council.

Again, I would like to express my congratulations to the Girl Scouts of Conestoga Council for reaching this milestone and I wish them all the best as they continue to serve girls in Northeast Iowa.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL PAUL W.
ARCARI, U.S. AIR FORCE, RETIRED

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Paul Arcari, United States Air Force, Retired—in recognition of his distinguished service to his country.

For nearly 46 years, first for 30 years in the Air Force, and later for The Retired Officers Association, Colonel Arcari has worked tirelessly for the men and women of the military.

Born in Manchester, CT, he entered the Air Force as a second lieutenant in 1955 and earned his navigator wings the following year. He amassed 4,400 flying hours with the Military Airlift Command, including 418 combat missions in Southeast Asia in the late sixties.

In 1969 Colonel Arcari was assigned as legislative analyst in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Headquarters, U.S. Air Force. During the next 17 years, including 13 years as Chief of the Air Force Entitlements Division, Colonel Arcari earned the reputation as the Department of Defense's preeminent authority on military compensation matters. In addition to helping craft the All-Volunteer Force pay table and the military Survivor Benefit Plan, his inputs to the Senate Armed Services Committee proved invaluable in crafting the Nunn-Warner compensation enhancements that assisted in turning around the retention and readiness crisis of the late 1970's and early

1980's. He retired from active duty in February 1985.

Following retirement, Colonel Arcari joined The Retired Officers Association and served as Deputy Director and since 1990 as Director of Government Relations.

Under Colonel Arcari's professional stewardship, The Retired Officers Association has played a vital role as the principal advocate of legislative initiatives to improve readiness and the quality of life for all members of the uniformed service community—active, reserve, and retired, as well as their families.

Colonel Arcari has worked closely with, and has been a valuable resource for, the Senate Armed Services Committee as we enacted a wide range of much-needed improvements for our military personnel. His efforts in the areas of military compensation, retirement benefits, health care and fair cost-of-living adjustments, COLA, for retired personnel and their families has been invaluable in improving long term retention of our armed forces. I am particularly gratified that during the past two years in which I have been privileged to serve as Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee I have been able to enact some of the most substantial quality-of-life enhancements for active, reserve, and retired service members and their families in decades. Colonel Arcari played an important role in this effort.

Colonel Arcari's long and unique career of leadership and personal dedication to fostering readiness by protecting every service member's welfare is an inspiration and a continuing lesson to all who care about our men and women of our military. My best wishes go with him. Colonel Arcari, I salute you on behalf of all the men and women, past and present, who wear the uniform.●

COAST GUARD CUTTER
"WOODRUSH"

• Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the men and women who have served aboard the United States Coast Guard Cutter *Woodrush*, WLB 407, homeported in Sitka, in my own state of Alaska.

On March 2, 2001, the USCGC *Woodrush* will be decommissioned, departing for Baltimore, MD. There, she is to be transferred to the navy of the Republic of Ghana.

Although she is the youngest of the 39 seagoing buoy tenders constructed during World War II, the *Woodrush* has logged nearly 57 years of service to our nation.

She was built for less than \$1 million in Duluth, Minnesota, and commissioned on September 22, 1944. For thirty-five years she sailed from Duluth, servicing aids to navigation, conducting search and rescue missions, and icebreaking on the Great Lakes.

In 1979, she began a major refit at the Coast Guard shipyard in Baltimore.

She has been homeported in Sitka since leaving the shipyard in 1980.

Woodrush's primary mission has been keeping aids to navigation in good condition. Her crew maintained 165 shore lights and 69 buoys throughout the 2,000 square-mile Southeastern Alaska panhandle. The work of the *Woodrush* has been crucial to the safety of the thousands of tugboats, fishing vessels, ferries, pleasure boats and cruise ships that navigate those sometimes treacherous waters each year.

USCGC *Woodrush* also participated in several notable search and rescue missions. She was one of the first ships to arrive on the scene of the wreck of the *Edmond Fitzgerald* in 1975, when the ore freighter went down with all hands in a violent storm on Lake Superior. Her sonar located two large pieces of wreckage, and she served as a platform for the U.S. Navy's Controlled Underwater Recovery Vehicle, which found the sunken hull.

In 1980, *Woodrush* responded to the uncontrolled fire and eventual loss of the cruise ship *Princendam* off Graham Island, British Columbia. The efforts of *Woodrush* and her crew, as well as other rescue units, led to the successful rescue of all passengers and crew, with no loss of life.

In August 1993, *Woodrush* assisted the 248-foot cruise ship, M/V *Yorktown Clipper*, after it ran aground. *Woodrush* crewmembers helped control the flooding and ensured that all 130 passengers were taken safely off the vessel.

Not all of the crew's adventures were at sea. In the summer of 1994, personnel from *Woodrush* helped extinguish a dangerous fire in the small community of Tenakee, Alaska. Their efforts helped keep the fire from spreading out of control in the 30-knot winds.

Protection of the environment is yet another of the Coast Guard's many missions. Over the years, *Woodrush* has contributed in many ways, including service as one of the numerous Coast Guard vessels that responded to the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound. Each year, the *Woodrush* crew has trained to handle future accidents. It is reassuring to know that their skills have not been needed to date, but even more so to know they have been, like the Coast Guard's motto, "Always Ready."

During her 57 years of service, the *Woodrush* and her crew earned several awards, including the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the American Campaign Service Ribbon, the World War II Service Ribbon, and the National Defense Medal. *Woodrush* was a Bronze Winner of the Coast Guard Commandant's Quality Award in both 1997 and 1998 and, in 1997, she also won the Coast Guard Foundation's Admiral John B. Hayes Award. The Hayes Award honors the Pacific Area unit that best demonstrates the commitment to excellence and professionalism embodied in the traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

USCGC *Woodrush* will service her last aid to navigation on February 27. To