

Hailed by medical consumer groups as a significant advance in protecting the rights of consumers and the privacy of medical records, some have expressed concern that the regulations are cumbersome or don't go far enough. Before HIPAA, however, there were few rules in place to the coherence of patient safety. Consumers now will find great comfort in knowing significant protections are being undertaken to protect their personal medical information.

As we move forward with implementation of these new privacy regulations, I will continue to monitor these new rules and solicit feedback from consumers and health providers alike about medical and other privacy issues so critically important to our everyday lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM W. FENNIMAN, POLICE CHIEF OF DOVER, NH

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contribution to public safety and community building made by Dover, NH, Police Chief William W. Fenniman.

Chief Fenniman was first appointed as a Dover police officer in 1981. He rose through the ranks and in 1991, just 10 years later, was appointed the chief of police in Dover. Chief Fenniman has led his Department to become only the 49th police department in the country to be nationally accredited three times by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Under Chief Fenniman's leadership, the Dover police department has also had the distinction of being the first police department in the State of New Hampshire to be accredited through the State accreditation system. Chief Fenniman's success at the helm of the police department is a testament to his dedication, hard work and determination to strengthen the community through an expansive and effective law enforcement agency that truly is an integral part of the community.

Chief Fenniman has concentrated on fostering strong ties to and within the community. Chief Fenniman's focus on creating lasting and positive relationships between the community and law enforcement has brought crime levels down and improved community spirit. The creation of a youth safe haven and police ministration in partnership with the city housing authority to provide outlets and activities for children after school hours continues to flourish each year.

I am honored to participate in the Afterschool Alliance "Breakfast of Champions" event to present Chief William Fenniman with the 2003 Afterschool Community Champion award. Chief Fenniman has made a significant commitment to helping the children of his community find positive activities to do after their school days are over, and his work has helped to increase community ties and reduce crime.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CITIZENS BANK DOES THE RIGHT THING

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to commend Citizens Bank for the strong support it is giving to its employees who have been called up for active duty in connection with the Nation's military deployments in Iraq.

Many of us in Congress continue to be concerned that many members of the National Guard and Reserves have been activated with too little of this needed support, or even none at all. We have introduced legislation, S. 647, to deal with these urgent problems for all activated Guard and Reserve members and their families.

Citizens Bank deserves credit for strengthening its personnel policies to support its brave men and women called to serve. Unfortunately, too many Guard and Reserve families are not as fortunate, and I hope Congress will act quickly to provide this needed relief.

I ask that a statement by Citizens on February 10 announcing its impressive policy may be printed in the RECORD.

The Statement follows.

CITIZENS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. ENHANCES MILITARY LEAVE POLICY, FEBRUARY 10, 2003

Citizens Financial Group, Inc. announced today it has enhanced the company's existing military leave policy to offer additional support to any employee/reservist activated during Operation Enduring Freedom.

"These are difficult and uncertain times in our nation. The current situation in the Persian Gulf has made real the possibility that Citizens' colleagues or family members may be called to serve their country," said Lawrence K. Fish, Chairman, President & CEO.

"We are concerned about our employees and providing benefits that match their needs," said Fish. "We hope it won't be necessary for employees to use these benefits, but we are offering the support in the event it is needed."

In its new military leave policy, Citizens Bank will: Pay the difference between employees' Citizens pay and the military pay for the duration of the active duty. This benefit is currently only available for the annual summer camp; offer the continuance of medical, dental, vision and life insurance coverage; and provide a comparable job upon return.

Citizens will also offer support to employees whose spouse, domestic partner or child is called to duty. Citizens will grant a paid leave of absence for five consecutive days to coincide with an in-service leave by the family member. If travel is necessary, Citizens will also pay a portion of their travel expenses.

Citizens Financial Group, Inc. is a \$56.5 billion commercial bank holding company headquartered in Providence, RI. It is one of the nation's 20 largest commercial banks with 850 Citizens Bank branches, more than 1,700 ATMs and more than 15,000 employees in seven New England and Mid-Atlantic states. It operates as Citizens Bank in Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. Citizens is owned by The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc. •

TRIBUTE TO PULASKI COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the Pulaski County School System for receiving the Public Education Achieves in Kentucky Award from the Kentucky School Boards Association. The Pulaski County School System has distinguished itself through its outstanding efforts to promote gifted and talented students.

The Kentucky School Boards Association's Public Education Achieves in Kentucky Award was first awarded in 1997 to bring statewide attention to public school programs that enhance the impact that elementary and secondary schools have on young people. This award was well earned by the members of the Pulaski County School System under the leadership of Superintendent Tim Eaton.

The faculty of the Pulaski County School System have demonstrated excellence in the classroom by making a difference in the lives of their students. Their commitment towards improving the quality of education in Kentucky's schools has proven their roles as educators. Furthermore, credit is also due to the Pulaski County School Board for implementing the higher standards necessary to meet the demands of gifted education.

I am glad the faculty and administration of the Pulaski County School System chose to work and make their home in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. It is a source of great pride to call attention to their excellence. The citizens of Pulaski County should be privileged to be served by such fine professionals, and their example should be followed by educators across Kentucky. •

HONORING OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

• Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, I rise today with great pride to pay tribute to our Armed Forces involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Thanks to the dedication and valor of more than 200,000 of our brave men and women in uniform, the Iraqi people have been liberated from the oppressive and murderous grip of Saddam Hussein and, I believe, this Nation and the world are safer today than they were a few weeks ago.

The successes of our Armed Forces in Iraq are unprecedented. In 3 short weeks, our troops marched 300 miles to the heart of Baghdad, liberated fortified Iraqi cities along the way, and removed Saddam Hussein's entrenched, brutal regime from power. All the while, they worked honorably to minimize civilian casualties, preserve Iraq's infrastructure, distribute food and medical aid to innocent Iraqis, and treat enemy POWs with dignity and respect. In short, our troops engaged in battle with purpose, determination, and compassion. They not only defended but embodied American values.