

The missions of the 63rd Troop Command include maintenance, transportation, administration, Army aviation, and Airborne Ranger duties. One unit of the 63rd Troop Command is now serving in Iraq and—sadly—one of its servicemen was killed there last month.

Colonel Murray has had a remarkable career as both a civilian and an officer in her 22 years with the Army National Guard.

She joined the Guard when she was 17. At one time she juggled full-time duties as a neonatal intensive care nurse, full-time studies at the University of Detroit Law School, and her obligations to the military.

She is married to a fellow officer—LTC Martin Murray with the Michigan Army National Guard's State Area Command—and now outranks him.

But that is not a problem for this couple.

"My husband and I are truly in this as a team," Colonel Murray said recently. "Sometimes one has to step back for the other. He knows I wouldn't be here without him."

The Murray's have two children, and both hold demanding full-time careers. She works as a lawyer for the St. Joseph Health System, and he is an operations director of a 23-physician medical practice.

Our Nation is grateful to have such fine men and women willing to serve, and I am proud this couple hails from my home State.

Women have come a long way since 1778, when Mary Ludwig Hays—also known as Molly Pitcher—manned a cannon at the Battle of Monmouth in place of her wounded husband.

For her bravery, General George Washington made her a noncommissioned officer, and for the rest of her days she was known as Sergeant Molly.

Now, when the armed services are called to duty, almost 200,000 women from all branches of the armed services stand ready to defend their Nation—women like Colonel Murray.

I salute their bravery and their sense of duty as I do all who choose to wear our Nation's uniform with pride.●

#### HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ERIN M. MCCARTER

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the career of LTC Erin M. McCarter. She has served her country in the Air Force for more than 20 years and will be retiring in June.

Colonel McCarter grew up in Moline, IL, and was commissioned as an officer in the Air Force after earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1982. She has served in various logistics assignments during her time in the Air Force. She was the officer accountable for nuclear munitions at Ellsworth AFB, SD; she served as wing supply and headquarters staff officer at Spangdahlem and Ramstein Air Bases in Germany and Shaw AFB, SC. In addition, she served as Chief of the Pa-

cific Air Force's weapon system support at Hickam AFB, HI. From 1996–1997, Colonel McCarter commanded the 8th Supply Squadron at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of South Korea. She also served as Congressional Liaison to Capitol Hill. Colonel McCarter assumed her duties managing foreign military sales to the Royal Saudi Air Force in September 1999.

Colonel McCarter plans to return to her home State of Illinois upon her retirement. I know my fellow Senators will join me in thanking LTC Erin McCarter for her distinguished service to her country and wish her well in her future endeavors.●

#### IN APPRECIATION OF SISTER AUGUSTA JOHNSON

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to express my appreciation for Sister Augusta Johnson's many years of dedicated service to the Benedictine Sisters of the Mother of God Monastery in Watertown, SD. Sister Johnson has recently announced she will be retiring after 30 years in a leadership position at Prairie Lakes Healthcare System.

Sister Johnson currently serves as vice president of administrative services but began her career as the office manager at St. Ann's Hospital before it became Prairie Lakes Hospital. During her notable career, she has also served as the controller and chief financial officer of St. Ann's. When the organization was merged with Memorial Medical Center to form Prairie Lakes Healthcare System in 1986, Sister Johnson was named interim administrator. During this time, she was responsible for bringing a home-based health care program called Home Connections to Prairie Lakes. Prior to her entrance into the health care industry, Sister Johnson spent time as an elementary school teacher and principal in five South Dakota communities.

As vice president of administrative services for Prairie Lakes, Sister Johnson serves as the administrator for Prairie Lakes Care Center, the vice president overseeing the Lab, Radiology and Environmental Services Departments, and Prairie Lakes Cancer Center. Over her career with Prairie Lakes, she has been the organization's representative for four major construction projects, including the current \$11 Million dollar Prairie Lakes Medical Office Building and hospital expansion plan.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in education from Mount Marty College in Yankton, SD, Sister Johnson obtained a master's degree in administration from Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD. She went on to earn a certificate in hospital administration from St. Louis University before returning to South Dakota.

In addition to her countless obligations to Prairie Lakes Hospital, Sister Johnson is one of South Dakota's two delegates to the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging

and has served on that organization's board of directors. In addition, she is a member of Sioux Valley's long-term care finance task force and serves on the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations Long Term Care Council.

I commend Sister Johnson for her selfless commitment to the service of others and thank her for all of the work she has done for her community, her State, and her Nation. Her efforts have truly made a difference in countless numbers of lives of people she has never even met. I extend my very best wishes to her upon her retirement and predict that she will find peace and fulfillment in whatever lies ahead.●

#### HONORING MISS KACEY REYNOLDS

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I have the privilege and honor of rising today to recognize Miss Kacey Reynolds of Calvert City, KY. Kacey was selected as first place district winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the Ladies Auxiliary's Voice of Democracy National Essay Competition Program.

Kacey's essay submission detailing her commitment and responsibility to America caught the eye of the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary. Along with a college scholarship, the national scholarship recipients were rewarded with a trip to Washington, DC.

Currently participating in Paducah Christian Homeschool, Kacey was recognized earlier this year as a Focus on the Family 2003 Brio Girl of the Year finalist and is a member of the National Honor Society. Outside of academics, she is an active teen who enjoys acting, rappelling, scrapbooking, and horseback riding. She hopes to study music and business management when she attends college.

I am pleased that Kacey takes such pride in her community and Nation. She recognizes the sacrifices made by others in order to secure her freedom. Respect and appreciation, as shown by Kacey, can sometimes get pushed to the side during the daily routines of life. I am pleased this young lady has taken time to reflect on the meaning of freedom and the price of it. Please join me in congratulating Miss Kacey Reynolds and wishing her the best of luck.●

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH AN- NIVERSARY OF THE ST. THOMAS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF INDIA

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the anniversary of the St. Thomas Orthodox Church of India for 25 years of dedication and service to my home State of Michigan and specifically the Southfield and metropolitan Detroit communities.

St. Thomas Orthodox Church was the first Indian church established in Southfield, MI. In addition to being a source of spiritual guidance, the church also celebrates and preserves Indian culture and heritage in the

United States. The church has shared its Indian heritage with the city of Southfield through participation in several ethnic festivals. The parish has also held numerous fundraisers to benefit the Missions of Charity, the American Red Cross, the Gujarat Earthquake Relief, and various other charities in India. In addition, St. Thomas Orthodox Church has also provided service to the city of Southfield by participating in city beautification efforts.

The Apostle Thomas brought Christianity to the southern Indian state of Kerala in 52 A.D. The people of the region founded the Malankara Orthodox Church to maintain his teachings. During the 1970s, many people from this region emigrated to the United States. Settling in the Detroit area, these industrious immigrants formed a congregation and began to hold prayer meetings in their homes.

In 1978, the Senior Metropolitan of the American Diocese, His Grace Dr. Thomas Mar Makarios, welcomed the congregation into the Malankara Orthodox Church as the St. Thomas Orthodox Church of India, Detroit. Since then, Rev. Father Philip Jacob, vicar of the parish, has led the congregation, and under his leadership the congregation has grown and prospered. On September 26, 1990, they bought a building of their own, and the congregation has grown to over 460 members.

I would like to commend the vicar of St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Rev. Father Philip Jacob, for his excellent leadership in maintaining the spirit and unity among the congregation. I take great pride in recognizing the contributions that St. Thomas Orthodox Church has made to its community, and I know my colleagues will join me in saluting the accomplishments of St. Thomas Orthodox Church of India and in wishing it continued success in the future.●

#### COMMENDING THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD HONOREES

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I recognize Sonide Blanchard and Jeffrey Lawson for being selected as two of the Nation's top youth volunteers in the eighth annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. This is an extraordinary honor. More than 24,000 young people across the country were considered for this recognition this year.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, NASSP, constitutes America's largest youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteerism. The awards are designed to emphasize the importance that our Nation places on service to others and to encourage young Americans of all backgrounds to contribute to their communities.

Sonide Blanchard of Seaford and Jeffrey Lawson of Newark have been

selected as Delaware's top youth volunteers for 2003. As State Honorees, each received a \$1,000 award, an engraved silver medallion and a trip to Washington, DC from May 3, 2003 to May 6, 2003 for the program's national recognition events. I am proud that they represented the State of Delaware.

Seventeen-year-old Sonide, a senior at Seaford High School, devotes a significant amount of her time to tutoring Haitian students in the English as a Second Language, ESL, program at her school. She also serves as a translator for both students and adults. When she was younger, Sonide began translating for her mother and realized how much that helped her. She soon was translating for people throughout the Haitian community. "I feel that I am helping the community rise, and I am helping the Haitian people adapt to a new culture," she said. Later, she was inspired by her French teacher not only to translate, but to tutor other students as well. She now spends 2 hours a day working with ESL students to help them succeed in school despite their limited English skills. Dedication and a strong sense of responsibility have been key to her accomplishments.

Jeffrey Lawson, a 13-year-old seventh grader at St. Edmonds Academy in Wilmington, is a peer mentor to second-grade children who are in special education. He also volunteers with the Delaware Special Olympics. While attending elementary school, Jeffrey volunteered in a special education class by reading books to students and giving up his recess time to mentor the children. After Jeffrey transferred to a private school, he missed the kids with whom he had worked and decided to go back and volunteer. Jeffrey was able to volunteer 20 days last year. "Volunteering is important because it teaches kindness and good citizenship," said Jeffrey. He receives much of his inspiration from the children he mentors.

Today, I rise to congratulate Sonide and Jeffrey. These two youngsters are fine examples of community spirit and leadership. They serve as role models not only to their peers, but to all of us, as well as to the people they've touched through community service.●

#### IN MEMORY OF ISADORE LOURIE

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, last month the citizens of South Carolina lost a legend with the passing of Isadore Lourie, and I wish to recognize the most progressive lawmaker our State has ever known.

Izzy served three decades in the South Carolina statehouse. He came in 1964, right after my term as Governor was up, and back then the statehouse was made up of a bunch of segregationists and right wingers. But Izzy had a conscience, and he had a heart. He came in with this passion to turn things around for African-Americans and poor white citizens, and nobody was going to stop him.

He led a group with Dick Riley and Joe Riley that became known as the

Young Turks. They backed school integration and smoothed the road for bringing blacks and whites together in a calm way. Then they passed legislation in education, in health care, in economic development, in consumer protection, and the like. They may have been up against a brick wall of old-time thinking, but that didn't stop them from passing a progressive agenda that has had a profound impact on my State.

This Senator will miss this very generous gentleman, and I want to share our Nation's sympathy to his wife Susan, and their children and grandchildren. To share with my colleagues just how much Izzy meant to all of us back home, I ask that this article about Izzy from The State, in Columbia, SC, be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the State, Apr. 26, 2003]

HUNDREDS SAY GOODBYE TO BELOVED LEGISLATOR; LOURIE REMEMBERED AS S.C. PROGRESSIVE WHO FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

(By Valerie Bauerlein)

Only in America, Isadore Lourie would say. Only in America would the son of immigrants become one of the most powerful men in a state, by knowing the law and by loving justice.

Only in America would a freshman legislator in the segregated 1960s stand up to the General Assembly's status quo, and say "enough"—if we introduce white students who come to our gallery to watch justice work, we must introduce black students as well.

And perhaps only in America—his favorite phrase—would almost a thousand people arrive two hours early, park in the middle of the road, and pack Beth Shalom Synagogue to say goodbye to Isadore Lourie, a man who never said "no" to someone in need, not the elderly, the poor, strangers, friends.

Lourie, 70, died Thursday after a trying battle with progressive supranuclear palsy, a rare brain disorder related to Parkinson's disease. He suffered but he endured, his family said at his funeral, living life throughout.

Three weeks ago he was spotted at his grandson Sam's baseball game, screaming at the ref.

He was still enjoying a history class that he helped start. Lourie's imagination took him back with Daniel in the lion's den, Moses in Egypt.

"Confined to a wheelchair, he still soared," said Rabbi Hesh Epstein of Chabad of South Carolina, an outreach and educational organization.

Lourie was a state House member and state senator from 1964 to 1992, lauded as a progressive who forced the state forward on civil rights when it preferred not to move. He authored legislation on public housing, affirmative action and aging.

He also was a loving husband to his wife, Susan, a devoted father and grandfather, and a dedicated believer.

"He was a great gentleman from a great state, but let us not forget, a great Jewish gentleman from a great state," said Rabbi Philip Silverstein of Beth Shalom.

Lourie's sons had hoped to take him on a vacation last August for his 70th birthday. He knew his time was drawing short.

They talked of taking him somewhere special, perhaps the Bahamas. But his son Lance told mourners that his father preferred to stay in Columbia and come to Beth Shalom: "He said he wanted to stay here, in this room, and that's what he did, and he was happy."