

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEW JERSEY ALLIANCE FOR ACTION

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I congratulate The New Jersey Alliance for Action on its 30th Anniversary. For three decades the Alliance for Action has been New Jersey's foremost advocate of investment in infrastructure to benefit my home state's economy, environment, and overall quality of life.

New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation and we need to continually update infrastructure to help support our growing population. Most importantly, however, is that everyone at Alliance for Action understands how important their mission is. The organization is dedicated to working with legislators of both parties to accomplish their goals.

With the population of the United States and the world increasing rapidly, it is important to have organizations such as New Jersey Alliance for Action which works to support New Jersey's residents.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the New Jersey Alliance for Action on their 30th anniversary.●

HONORING CAPTAIN CHRIS CHRISTOPHER

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I speak today to honor the service of CPT Chris Christopher, who is currently the deputy director for future operations, communications and business initiatives at NMCI. Captain Christopher comes to this position after nearly 20 years of distinguished service to the Navy in the fields of aviation, public affairs, and intelligence.

Captain Christopher has spent most of his life in New Orleans, and he has made a wonderful home there with his wife Patti and their two daughters. He received undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of New Orleans, and his work with NMCI still brings him back to the UNO campus. Though he is now stationed in Virginia, his heart and family remain in New Orleans. As a Louisiana Senator, I like that.

Captain Christopher's work at NMCI has been truly outstanding. The Navy Marine Corps Intranet is a progressive project whose ultimate goal is to transform the Department of the Navy's computer networks. NMCI will revolutionize command and control efficiencies within the Navy, and between the services, to ensure that our forces are operating in unison. This will save American lives, increase combat readiness and effectiveness, and, ultimately, make us stronger. Under Captain Christopher's leadership, many of these goals have been brought closer to reality.

From June 20 to 23, Captain Christopher organized the 2004 Navy Marine Corps Intranet Symposium in New Orleans. This event was an opportunity

for all parties involved in NMCI to continue their dialogue on reshaping information technology in the Navy and Marine Corps. Captain Christopher made this event happen, and according to all parties involved, it was a complete success.

I once again thank my friend, CPT Chris Christopher, for his efforts on America's behalf. Future generations of sailors and marines will no doubt reap the benefits of his labor and America will be safer as a result. I am proud of your 'Louisiana-bred' success Chris, and I wish you well in your future endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING THE CONNECTICUT FOREST AND PARK ASSOCIATION

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the Connecticut Forest and Park Association of Rockfall, CT, on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the creation of its Blue Blazed Hiking Trail System. The Connecticut Forest and Park Association is Connecticut's oldest conservation organization and Connecticut's citizens owe this organization a great debt of gratitude for all it has done to protect Connecticut's precious natural resources.

Undoubtedly, the Blue Blazed Hiking Trail System is the crowning achievement in a long list of accomplishments that the Connecticut Forest and Park Association has realized since its founding in 1895. IN 1929, Edgar L. Heermance led a group of Connecticut Forest and Park Association members in establishing the Blue Blazed Hiking Trail System. Mr. Heermance and the dedicated group of volunteers that he led had a vision of a Statewide system of hiking trails that would serve to increase opportunities for all Connecticut residents to enjoy the outdoors and develop an appreciation for the immense beauty of the natural world. The first section of the Blue Blazed Hiking Trail system opened in 1931 and by 1937 the volunteers of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association had developed over four hundred miles of trails and published the Connecticut Walk Book; the first guidebook to the Blue Blazed Hiking Trail System.

Seventy-five years after Edgar Heermance made his vision of a Statewide hiking trail system a reality, the blue Blazed Hiking Trail System has over ninety volunteer Trail Managers and hundreds of active volunteers donating over 7,000 of their time each year to this spectacular system of hiking trails. Currently, the Blue Blazed Hiking Trail System encompasses over seven hundred miles of trails in 69 Connecticut towns. In a true testament to the spirit of cooperation that led to the founding of this hiking trail network, over seventy-five percent of the land included in the Blue Blazed Hiking Trail System is privately owned and exists only through the cooperation of private landowners who are interested

in promoting conservation and increasing outdoor recreational opportunities.

This dynamic organization has continually both literally and figuratively blazed a trail for other conservation organizations to follow. I have confidence that the Connecticut Forest and Park Association and the Blue Blazed Hiking Trail System will enjoy continued success for many generations to come.

Congratulations to the Connecticut Forest and Park Association on the creation of a remarkable legacy of leadership and excellence in the areas of conservation and outdoor recreation.●

RETIREMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL JOHN "GENE" PRENDERGAST

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today I honor and congratulate my friend MG Prendergast.

After 46 years of loyal military service to Montana and our Nation, the top officer of the Montana National Guard will step down from his post August 1, as age prevents Major General Prendergast from serving beyond his 64th birthday.

Some call him general, some call him husband, father, son. I call this outstanding individual, my friend. I have known Gene since the early years in our hometown of Helena, MT, where we both lived and played, studied and worked. In 1958, when Dwight Eisenhower was President, Major General Prendergast volunteered for his first of many military positions in the Montana Air National Guard while also working a civilian job at a local bank. I worked with him at the Union Bank during the summer months away from school. In 1960, he transferred into the Montana National Guard and received his commission in 1967 as an ordnance officer.

Major General Prendergast worked his way up through the ranks, and held various titles, including automotive platoon leader, instructor at the Montana Military Academy, assistant commandant and chief of staff of the Montana National Guard. He graduated from the Regents College of the State University of New York in 1993.

For his outstanding service and many years of commitment to our Nation, Major General Prendergast has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and the Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, among other medals.

Major General Prendergast is known among his colleagues, his friends, and all Montanans for his commitment to the American Nation. In his own words, "There is no higher calling than serving your country in uniform. What it's all about is the soldier in uniform."

Today I honor both the soldier and the man. I have been so fortunate to have this man as my friend over many years. In fact, my good friend shares with me a love for long-distance running, and I have enjoyed running many