

time there, JERRY served with distinction as chairman of the powerful Joint Finance Committee and as assistant majority leader.

In 1984, JERRY was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives where he would go on to serve 10 terms. During his tenure, JERRY successfully passed legislation banning “drive-thru” baby deliveries and worked hard to protect seniors living in public housing from physical harm. Thanks to his hard work, Milwaukee became the first city in the Nation to provide elderly-only public housing. JERRY leaves the House as a member of the influential Committee on Ways and Means, where he fought for Social Security and affordable health care.

JERRY has embodied Wisconsin’s progressive tradition during his 35 years of public service. The son of a factory worker, JERRY always stayed true to the hardworking Wisconsin families who counted on him to fight for them in Congress. He developed a trusting and open relationship with his Milwaukee constituency and is widely known for his superior constituent services. JERRY’s unquestionable dedication and hard work will be truly missed. Not only am I thankful for the time we have served together in the U.S. Congress, but I am grateful for our friendship that goes back to our days spent together in the Wisconsin Legislature. Wisconsin will forever appreciate JERRY’s 35 years of public service. I wish him the best of luck in all of his future pursuits.

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#### OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING INTEGRATION ACT OF 2004

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise in support of my bill, S. 2489, the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act of 2004, which is being considered by the Senate. This bill which was reported unanimously from the Commerce Committee, addresses the nearly 90 percent of the U.S. Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone that remain unmapped by modern technologies. I am pleased to be joined by my friends and colleagues, Senators TED STEVENS, FRITZ HOLLINGS, JUDD GREGG, OLYMPIA SNOWE, TRENT LOTT, JOHN BREAUX, FRANK LAUTENBERG, and DAN AKAKA, who are cosponsors of the bill.

There was a time in the history of our Nation when our best efforts to map the seas meant lowering weights tied to piano wire over the side of a vessel, and measuring how deep they went. These efforts led to the development of rudimentary nautical charts designed to help mariners navigate safely. The rapidly increasing uses of our coastal and ocean waters, however, call for development of a new generation of ecosystem-oriented mapping and assessment products and services.

The technologies of today create richly layered mapping products that expand far beyond just charting for safe navigation. Now, by combining

such information as mineral surveys of the U.S. Geological Service, habitat characterizations of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, and watershed assessments of the Environmental Protection Agency into a single product, map users are able to consider the impacts of their actions on multiple facets of the marine environment.

The recent draft report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy has highlighted the urgent need to modernize, improve, expand, and integrate federal mapping efforts to improve navigation, safety and resource management decision making. By employing integrated mapping approaches, urban and residential growth can be directed away from areas of high risk from ocean-based threats such as tsunami and tidal surge. The risks of maritime activities can be minimized by identifying hazards that could impact sensitive ecosystems, and devising appropriate mitigation plans. Managers of living marine resource can also gauge where and how best to focus their efforts to restore essential marine habitats.

My bill will lay the foundation for producing the ocean maps of the 21st century. It mandates coordination among the many federal agencies with mapping missions with NOAA as the lead in developing national mapping priorities and strategies. The bill will also establish national ocean and coastal mapping centers to manage comprehensively the mapping data produced by the Federal Government, encourage innovation in technologies, and authorize the funding necessary to implement this comprehensive effort.

Perhaps the most important lesson that comprehensive, integrated mapping can afford is an awareness of a web of human marine communities as rich and varied as the ocean itself. From awareness grows understanding, respect, and cooperation.

I am extremely proud to be the author of this legislation, and hope you will join me in supporting enactment of the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act of 2004. This bill will provide the United States with the programs and resources necessary to improve maritime commerce and national security, and develop healthy coastal communities across the Nation.

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#### VETERANS DAY 2004

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, last week, on November 11, the Nation paused to honor those brave Americans who have so selflessly served our country in the Armed forces. For more than 200 years, men and women have proudly worn the uniform of the United States. In peacetime and in wartime, these men and women have served and sacrificed on our behalf, often far away from their homes and from their families. Too many of them have made the ultimate sacrifice. We owe them—and their families—our deepest, heartfelt gratitude.

As we marked Veterans Day here in the United States with appropriate ceremonies and recognitions, men and women from Wisconsin and across our country were serving on our behalf in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. Their dedication to this great country—like that of those who served before them—should inspire us all.

We owe these brave men and women our gratitude, and we also owe them our best efforts to ensure that they know about and receive the Federal benefits and services that they have earned through their service to our country. I have long been concerned that to many veterans and military personnel are unaware of benefits and programs that are available to them through the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense and a number of other Federal agencies. I will continue my work to ensure that all veterans know about the benefits for which they may be eligible. I will also continue to support efforts to fully fund VA health care programs so that all veterans who wish to take advantage of their health care benefits are able to do so. No veterans should have to wait months to see a doctor or should be told that he or she is barred from enrolling in the VA health care system because of a lack of funding.

In addition, I am committed to ensuring that our current military personnel receive adequate health care and transition services, including mental health services, as they return from deployments and when they return to civilian life. I am pleased that the recently enacted defense authorization bill for fiscal year 2005 includes a provision that I authored which represents a first step toward enhancing and strengthening transition services that are provided to our military personnel. My provision requires the Government Accountability Office to undertake a comprehensive analysis of existing transition services for our military personnel that are administered by the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Labor and to make recommendations to Congress on how these programs can be improved. This study will focus on two issues: how to achieve the uniform provision of appropriate transition services to all military personnel, and the role of post-deployment and pre-discharge health assessments as part of the larger transition program.

I have heard from a number of Wisconsinites and members of military and veterans service organizations that our men and women in uniform do not all have access to the same transition counseling and medical services as they are demobilizing from service in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. I have long been concerned about reports of uneven provision of services from base to base and from service to service. All of our men and women in uniform have pledged to serve our country, and all of them, at the very least, deserve to have access to the same