

as commander in chief of U.S. Air Forces Europe and commanding general of Tactical Air Command. During his service, General Cannon earned four Distinguished Service Medals, a Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star, and the Air Medal. He also received decorations from Great Britain, France, Italy, Poland, Yugoslavia, and Morocco.

For the last 50 years the service men and women who called Cannon home have been deployed numerous times around the world to ensure the national security of our country. They have performed their duty faithfully and in a manner that I am sure would make General Cannon proud.

This year we will see major changes at Cannon as the 27th Fighter Wing is deactivated in preparation for the impending arrival of the 16th Special Operations Wing in October. While we are excited for the arrival of the 16th Special Operations Wing, we are sad to see the men and women of the 27th Fighter Wing go.

In the coming years I am sure the 16th Special Operations Wing will continue the 27th Fighter Wing's long tradition of excellence at Cannon. Again, I would like to thank the men and women, past and present, who have made Cannon a source of national pride.●

RECOGNITION OF JEFFREY S. MERRIFIELD

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, the Honorable Jeffrey S. Merrifield will be leaving the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, NRC, on June 30, 2007. Originally from Antrim, NH, Jeff Merrifield has served as a member of the Commission since October 23, 1998. First appointed by President Clinton, Jeff was reappointed by President Bush and was sworn in for a second term on August 5, 2002. After a distinguished government career at the NRC and on Capitol Hill, Jeff Merrifield has chosen to pursue endeavors in the private sector.

Throughout his tenure at the NRC, Jeff Merrifield has invested considerable time in familiarizing himself with the operations of NRC licensees, visiting all 104 operating power reactors in the United States, as well as numerous nuclear materials facilities and sites undergoing decommissioning. Jeff actively supported initiatives to improve the transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of NRC regulatory programs. He headed an NRC Communications Task Force charged with initiating and implementing many recommendations to improve agency internal and external communications. Jeff also led an interagency task force of fifteen departments and agencies to identify gaps in the control and use of radiation source materials as required by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Recommendations of this task force were detailed in a report to the President and Congress.

Jeff Merrifield has advocated a vision of excellence in regulating the safe and

secure uses of nuclear material for the public good. A participant in the development of NRC's Strategic Plan, he championed a number of significant regulatory improvements, including efforts to risk-inform regulations, provide discipline in staff review of applications for license renewal, and prepare the agency for potential new power reactor applications. Recently Jeff chaired a Combined License Review Task Force which made a number of recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the review of new reactor applications. He was the leading advocate for the use of the alternate dispute resolution process in agency enforcement actions and has taken a special interest in improving the management of decommissioning funding.

As an NRC Commissioner, Jeff Merrifield was actively involved in the agency's post September 11, 2001, response activities. These actions resulted in a significant improvement in security at NRC licensed facilities. Both before and since the terrible events of 9/11, NRC licensed power reactors are some of the best protected facilities in the civilian community.

Recognizing the NRC's influence in the international regulatory community, Jeff has traveled abroad to discuss policy issues with nuclear regulators and foreign dignitaries in more than 35 countries and has toured more than 140 nuclear reactors overseas. In 2005, he led an NRC delegation to India for the fifth bilateral exchange between the Indian Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and the NRC. This was the first visit to India by a member of the Commission following President Bush's initiative "Next Steps in the Strategic Partnership" with India. Jeff was also the major advocate for the establishment of a three-nation agreement with Canada and Mexico on nuclear materials and waste issues through periodic trilateral meetings.

Mr. President, please join me in thanking Jeff Merrifield for his dedicated service to the American people and in wishing him and his family all the best in their future pursuits.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT B. MEHNERT

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to Robert B. Mehnert, who is retiring after 48 years of dedicated service to the Government and people of the United States of America.

Mr. Mehnert began his public service in 1958 with the U.S. Army, continuing in uniform until 1962. In 1963 he reentered Federal service, this time as a management intern with the then-Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He rose quickly through the ranks and, in 1971, Mr. Mehnert became Chief of the Office of Public Information at the National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health. Since 1998 he has directed the Office of Communications and Public

Liaison at the library. For more than a quarter century, Mr. Mehnert's keen editorial and literary talents have helped library's director, Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D., and his predecessor, Martin M. Cummings, M.D., to communicate the most current and reliable medical and consumer health information to medical professionals, researchers, patients, families, and the public.

During his tenure at the National Library of Medicine, Mr. Mehnert has been in the vanguard of a revolution in health information. The introduction of the Internet and the Web environment vastly increased the number and extent of NLM services and audiences. In 1997, after more than a century of serving the library and medical communities exclusively, the National Library of Medicine launched Medline freely on the Web and declared that it would seek to serve the general public as well. With Mr. Mehnert's help, other NLM services for the consumer public quickly followed. In 1998, MedlinePlus.gov, a source of authoritative full-text health information written for the consumer was unveiled. In 2000, ClinicalTrials.gov—an NLM Web site that provides consumers with information on medical research studies that are recruiting patients—was launched. Other NLM consumer-oriented databases were introduced in the last decade as bandwidth and the power of personal computers increased. They have included NIHSeniorHealth.gov, a talking Web site with topics and formats tailored to the needs of older persons; Genetics Home Reference, a Web site that makes genetics and its relationship to disease more understandable to the public; the Household Products database that provides easy-to-understand information on the potential health effects of ingredients contained in common household products; and many others.

One of Mr. Mehnert's most tangible legacies has been his recent service on the editorial team responsible for producing a new quarterly NIH magazine, NIHMedlinePlus, which is sent to doctors' offices nationwide for their patients to read. The production of this consumer-oriented magazine fulfills Congress's call to publicize the fruits of NIH-sponsored research to patients, their families, and the public at large.

Mr. Mehnert has been recognized by the National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health for his exceptional leadership and achievements. Aside from numerous merit awards, his honors have also included being the recipient of both the NLM Director's Award and the NIH Director's Award on several occasions.

As someone who has worked for many years to support medical research, I am especially grateful to people who have dedicated their lives to this crucial public health mission. Bob Mehnert has done that and is a great testament to what public service is all about. Bob and his wife, Helene, have three daughters, seven grandchildren,