

the Senate Agriculture Committee hearing room with diligence and insisted that its appearance always reflected the high esteem in which he held the committee and this august body.

During my first hearing as chairman, I remember reaching for the gavel to call the hearing to order. As I looked down at the gavel, I was shocked to find that someone had placed my name on it. Humbled by this kind act, I turned to my staff and quietly asked, "Who did this?" The answer was of course Bob Sturm. During my chairmanship, I could always depend on Bob to place a few bags of my beloved Georgia peanuts at the seat of each Senator attending the hearings. It is the little things like this that exemplify Bob's attention to detail and willingness to serve. I also remember when the Agriculture Committee traveled around the country in the summer of 2006 to eight different farm bill field hearings. Bob was on the front lines of every hearing—from educating staff on how to select an appropriate hearing site, traveling in advance to prepare for the hearing, arranging all the necessary travel, hotel accommodations and food, to running the actual hearing—Bob was in control. Even after being exhausted from continuous travel, Bob was always the first one to arrive and the last one to leave each hearing and I never heard one word of complaint. Bob, as in the performance of all his duties, was meticulous and saw things through to the end. I will always be grateful for his devotion.

Let me finish by saying, Bob, that the Senate will sincerely miss you and most of all we thank you for your loyalty and the model of service you leave behind. Best of wishes on a healthy and happy retirement with your family. It is certainly well deserved.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO CLAY PARK

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I have often said that one of my roles as a Senator is to reflect Hawaii, and show people the meaning of aloha through my own actions. Aloha is not passive, it is not easy, but it can make a difference in people's lives. I am reminded of just how inspiring and effective aloha can be by one of my constituents, William Clay Park. I remember seeing Clay at a Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing on the island of Oahu last year. I was impressed by how he exemplified the spirit of aloha. More recently, Clay was featured in Hawaii Business Magazine for his personal story, and his professional work for Hawaii's veterans. I will ask to have the text of this article in Hawaii Business Magazine printed in the RECORD following my statement.

Clay was born and raised in Hawaii, rooted in the Native Hawaiian values of his "ohana," or family. As a young

man he joined the Army, and served in the Vietnam war. The war took a toll on Clay, but after leaving the Army he joined the National Guard, and started what would become a 30-year career with VA as a dental lab technician.

In 2003, Clay had retired from VA and the National Guard, and that could have been the end of his career of serving his country and his fellow veterans. Instead, he answered a call from a friend and learned that Helping Hands Hawaii, a nonprofit social services organization, was in need of help. Once at Helping Hands Hawaii, he realized that Hawaii veterans needed someone like himself to help them through the bureaucratic maze of VA benefits. They also needed someone with his kind of aloha.

Although he has only been with Helping Hands Hawaii for a few years, Clay's colleagues can already tell scores of stories about the length he will go to in order to reach veterans and help them. Those stories include hiking through Hawaii's dense forests in search of disconnected veterans who have taken to the bush. While many people pass by homeless veterans on their city streets, Clay makes it his responsibility to reach out to them, and get them the help they need.

The greatest price of war are its human costs, and many veterans pay that price long after they have returned from service. Our Nation needs more people like Clay Park, to show veterans that a grateful Nation is not willing to let them be forgotten, and will provide a helping hand when they need one.

Mahalo Clay, for being an example of the resilience and power of aloha.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the aforementioned article from Hawaii Business Magazine printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

[From Hawaii Business, May 2007]

##### CASUALTIES OF WAR

(By David K. Chao)

Clay Park joined the Army on a whim. Fresh out of Waiialua High School, the 17-year-old was trying to support a friend, who didn't want to go to the recruitment office by himself. The friend wound up failing the physical, but Park passed. In 1966, after being trained as a combat medic and dental technician, he was shipped off to Vietnam, where he saw some of the heaviest fighting of the war, including the Tet Offensive in January 1968.

Park left the Army later that year and went on to a nearly 30-year career as a dental lab technician for the Veterans' Administration (VA). He also served as a National Guardsman for 24 years, retiring as a master sergeant in 2000.

Today, Park is a case manager for Helping Hands Hawaii, a nonprofit social services organization with a wide-ranging mission, which includes helping veterans in need of physical and mental health assistance. Earlier this year he was honored by Helping Hands Hawaii as one of the individuals "for whom service is as much a part of life as breathing . . ."

Park took some time off from his busy schedule to talk with Hawaii Business about veterans in need. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and the coming mental health crisis that may overwhelm Hawaii and the rest of the country.

Tell me about how you started at Helping Hands and what it is you do there?

I retired from the VA in 2003 and shortly after Dr. Luke [Helping Hands Hawaii senior program director Dr. Stanley Luke] called me and told me he needed some help. I used to work with him at the VA. I didn't have any training in social work or mental health, but he thought that I could help with cultural competency [assisting with the Native Hawaiian clients]. I was only supposed to work for six months, but that was three years ago and now I help all veterans and their families.

As a case manager, I walk a veteran through the system—how to apply for VA benefits. I find them housing and food. I always carry canned goods in the back of my truck, just in case. For me, it's about being an advocate for vets, who really don't want to go through the system, but they need to talk to someone. I've gotten a few calls from wives, who say, "I want my husband back. This is not the man I married."

You've gone to some unusual lengths to find veterans and get them help. Can you tell me about that?

The last vet that I found was on the side of the Pali. He wasn't very high up, somewhere between Pali Highway and Kamehameha Highway, but in the deep, thick stuff. I'm an avid pig hunter, so it wasn't very hard tracking him down. I found a guy on Diamond Head once and I only had a brief description: Caucasian male, who lives under a blue tarp. That wasn't very hard either, once the police told me where the homeless are. Most of the time, they aren't in the mountains. They're in the city or on the beach. But I find them, and we talk and I bring them in.

What has happened to these veterans?

No one walks away from war unaffected. Everyone is wounded. You may not be hurt physically, but you are definitely affected mentally. Why is that? Why is it that a guy comes back and gets married and lives the Great American Dream—the house, the dog, the kids. But then, in his 50s or 60s, he takes a shotgun and blows his brains out. Why is that? It is because, when you are young, you stay busy. But as you get older, your body slows down, but your mind doesn't. And you can't cope. The ghost is always there and he comes to bite you every once in a while. Sometimes you just can't keep him in the closet.

Look what's happening now. The American forces are low, so they are sending these guys on two or three tours of duty. They come back with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), and they think they have fixed them up. And then they send them on their second tour. And they come back and they are worse, and they send them out for a third time.

Are you seeing a lot of Afghanistan and Iraq veterans?

I've seen a few, guys from my National Guard unit. But it's really too soon. But we'll see them, and it's going to get nasty.

How so?

The problem is that they activated units that have soldiers in their 40s and 50s. They are married and have children and jobs. When we went, we were full of piss and vinegar. We were wet behind the ears and we didn't give a damn about anything. When you go to war when you're older, your body isn't as strong as the young guys and your thinking is much different. It [your mind] can be damaged more easily and more deeply. They are saving limbs and putting in

glass eyes, but what are they doing for these soldiers' mental instabilities? They are trying, but there isn't enough. They can't keep up. It is ugly. An ugly picture.

Do you have a ghost?

Big time. But it is how you deal with it. And what you do with it. When that ghost comes out, do you let it drag you down, or do you put it back? When I came back [from Vietnam] I was angry. I was angry at the world. People were protesting the war, but they didn't know what war was really like. All they knew was what they saw on TV. Eventually, I got busy, very busy. I learned how to drive all kinds of things, big trucks, planes, so I could be in control. I looked for natural highs, like flying. Helping people is another high.

When I'm with a vet on the beach or in a park, I'll ask him: "What do you see?" They don't know what I'm talking about. I tell them: "I see life. I see birds, trees and the sun. Today is today. Tomorrow may never come and yesterday is gone."

You're just one person. What you're describing is a potential mental health crisis of epic proportions. Won't you be overwhelmed?

I may be one guy from Helping Hands but, I've got "the Uncles," Victor Opiopio, Sam Stone, Charles Kanehailua, James Oplana and all their wives. These are all guys who are part of my core group of veterans, who are willing to sit down and talk to these guys [fellow veterans in need]. They [the Uncles] aren't getting paid. They are a network of people out there, who are willing to take a guy by the hand and walk them through the system. I've also got a gal at the VA who wants to help our group, as well as a VA doctor. We're a small group but we're thinking about the big picture. Are we prepared for what is going to happen? No. But if you can help one vet at a time, you're doing something. We can't just sit back and do nothing. I don't have time to do nothing. I don't.●

#### CONGRATULATING DR. RAMON SY

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I congratulate and extend my warmest aloha to Dr. Ramon Sy, who was selected as Hawaii's national recipient of the Jefferson Award. The Jefferson Award is a prestigious award recognizing and honoring individuals for their contributions to community and public service. Dr. Sy, through his Aloha Medical Mission, has helped to provide medical treatment to thousands of individuals in the Pacific and Asia, who are unable to access modern medical care due to cost or availability.

A native of the Philippines, Dr. Sy and seven other members of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii established the Aloha Medical Mission in 1983. The Aloha Medical Mission provides voluntary medical, surgical, and other health-related services, which include the donation of supplies and equipment, to medically indigent areas of Southeast Asia and the Pacific. In addition to providing access to health services, the Aloha Medical Mission also provides training to physicians overseas and through an exchange fellowship program in Honolulu, HI.

Dr. Sy is responsible for furthering the development of the Aloha Medical Mission from a small group of doctors to an organization well known within the international community. Since

the establishment of the Aloha Medical Mission, Dr. Sy and his colleagues have served in 11 countries, treated 200,000 patients, and performed over 9,000 operations. His commitment to ensuring that medical care is accessible in both Hawaii and abroad demonstrates his compassion and undying concern for others. He is an inspiration to all because of his willingness to embrace the problems of those less fortunate. I hope that many will aspire to follow Dr. Sy's example by making a commitment to making a difference.

I thank Dr. Sy for his dedication and quality efforts and extend the same gratitude to all the members of the Aloha Medical Mission. I wish Dr. Sy and his family the best in their future endeavors.●

#### GILA CLIFF DWELLINGS CENTENNIAL

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to honor and give special attention to the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument in my home State of New Mexico. On November 16, 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the proclamation that recognized the Gila Cliff Dwellings and 533 surrounding acres as a national monument being what he called, "of exceptional scientific and educational interest . . . as the best representative of the cliff-dwellers' remains of that region." This unique monument, nestled among the spectacular scenery of the Gila National Forest, was once the home to the people of the Mogollon, who lived along the East fork of the Gila River during the late 13th and early 14th century. It is at that place where these impressive builders constructed a 42-room collection of homes in 5 spacious sandstone caves high along the face of a small creek-canyon. Today, this monument gives Americans a glimpse of the great cultures and societies that once occupied the North American Continent prior to the arrival of European settlers.

This year-long centennial celebration is more than just an appreciation for the unique beauty that is defined by the many special places like this in New Mexico. In commemoration of this special centennial event, an unexcavated surface site referred to as the TJ Ruin will be open for a limited number of guided tours. Over the next few weeks other exciting events such as Stories in the Stars, Stories in the Shards, Rock Art and Storytelling will be taking place. There will be a number of other events, including an exhibit opening at the Silver City Museum, cowboy poetry, music, Dutch oven cooking, and Chiricahua Apache Culture Days that will be held throughout the remainder of the year to entertain those visiting the area and to celebrate the 100th anniversary.

The attractive weather and abundance of forest and desert flora and fauna in the Gila region of southwest

New Mexico attracts over 60,000 visitors every year who contribute to the economies of southwestern New Mexico cities and towns such as Silver City, Cliff, Deming, Bayard, and Lordsburg. With over 1,500 miles of trails, the opportunities for mountain biking, hiking, and horseback riding are endless. There is also a great abundance of wildlife that roam the Gila region. For the fisherman, there is over 360 miles of mountain streams, creeks, rivers, and lakes that are a precious resource in the Southwest.

The outdoors reminds us all of the things we hold so dear. Public lands make up over one-third of the United States, most of which is in the West. Those of us from the State of New Mexico cherish the open spaces afforded by the West. Like the Mogollon, we are reminded daily of our dependence on the land and therefore take a devout interest in its health and management. The Gila Cliff Dwellings and the Gila National Forest remain much the same as so many years ago, and I am glad this will be the case for generations to come.

The next time you happen to be in New Mexico, I encourage you to come visit and take some time to enjoy all New Mexico has to offer. From the many beautiful mountains, to the rivers, the canyons, the wildlife, the culture and the history—the marvelous place we call the Gila has it all. New Mexico is a great place, and the Gila Cliff Dwellings help make it so. To all, past and present, who have worked hard to preserve the Gila Cliff Dwellings, I extend a heartfelt thank you and honor you this centennial year.●

#### RECOGNIZING B. BENEDICT GLAZER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to take this opportunity to commemorate the 40th anniversary of B. Benedict Glazer Elementary School and to congratulate the principal of Glazer Elementary, Florene McMurtry, on her retirement after 20 years of dedicated service and leadership. B. Benedict Glazer Elementary School celebrates this milestone today as a part of its annual 5th Grade Class Day.

On May 5, 1967, the Michigan House of Representatives passed Resolution No. 99 in honor of Dr. B. Benedict Glazer, Rabbi of Temple Beth El in Detroit, to formally recognize his 11 years of outstanding service to the congregation of Temple Beth El and to the State of Michigan. The resolution also paid tribute to the decision to name an elementary school in his honor. Dr. Glazer was nationally recognized as an exceptional scholar, teacher, and leader, and was well known as an advocate for uniting people of different faiths. Dr. Glazer was also at the forefront of many struggles for basic human rights, fighting for improved conditions in Michigan's mental health facilities and against various forms of racial and religious discrimination, among other noble causes.