

Through the dedicated work of the Marin Humane Society, 8,000 animals each year find refuge, rehabilitation, and loving homes. This has included efforts to rescue animals lost and injured in disasters, such as the Oakland firestorm of 1991.

It is particularly noteworthy that in 2005, the organization brought over 2,500 Hurricane Katrina animal victims to bay area shelters and out of harm's way through its rescue effort, "Orphans of the Storm." In partnership with commercial airlines, these pet airlifts were a first for the Nation and protected the lives of thousands of animals. Funded solely from private benefactors and coordinated by the Marin Humane Society, nine flights of lost animals arrived in the bay area in the 2 months following the disaster. Additional flights carried animals to southern California, Oregon, and Washington, where other animal shelters and rescue groups agreed to offer refuge.

The Marin Humane Society's admirable milestones continued in 2006, when it adopted its 250,000th animal to a loving home.

When in 1997 the Marin Humane Society staff felt they had made significant progress on controlling the pet overpopulation problem in Marin County, they decided to expand their services to neighboring counties through their Pet Partnership program. Volunteers brought thousands of dogs and cats from congested shelters in other communities to Marin to give them a second chance.

I am so pleased to acknowledge the Marin Humane Society's long and distinguished record of community service. Over the past century, the organization has educated children and adults on the importance of humane treatment of animals; provided comprehensive veterinary care and rehabilitation for neglected and abused animals; provided pet adoption services and dog training programs; and advocated for animal welfare policy on the local, State and Federal level.

I commend the Marin Humane Society staff and volunteers for their compassion and commitment to protecting and caring for our society's lost, neglected, and abused animals. They do a tremendous service to the greater community and are deserving of the highest recognition for their large hearts and generous ways. Please join me in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Marin Humane Society.●

HONORING DR. W. RON DeHAVEN

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I would like to take a moment to honor Dr. W. Ron DeHaven, Administrator of the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, APHIS, and to congratulate him on his retirement from public service. Dr. DeHaven has served the agency for 28 years during which he has contributed greatly to the agency's mission of pro-

moting and protecting U.S. agriculture.

Dr. DeHaven began his APHIS career working in a field office for the veterinary services program in 1979. He later joined the agency's animal care program, rising to the top position in 1996. From 2001 to 2002 he served as the APHIS acting associate administrator, and in 2002, became head of the agency's veterinary services program.

As the Nation's chief veterinarian, he played a leading role as the agency faced the first U.S. detection of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, BSE, in 2003. His handling of this situation—as well as other animal health emergencies—showcased his trademark straightforward leadership style and calm demeanor. These challenges prepared him well for the role of APHIS Administrator, which he assumed in 2004.

As Administrator, he has skillfully guided his agency and communicated with the public, Congress, and USDA's many stakeholders. He worked conscientiously to position APHIS to prevent and respond to such threats as highly pathogenic avian influenza, exotic Newcastle disease, sudden oak death, Asian longhorned beetle and citrus diseases.

Dr. DeHaven's dedication, work ethic, and personal commitment to excellence have served U.S. agriculture well and ensured a healthy and abundant food supply for U.S. consumers.●

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. DONOGHUE

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations to Michael J. Donoghue on his retirement from the Worcester Regional Retirement System. I commend him for his impressive service to the people of Worcester for the past 30 years, and I know he will be deeply missed by all those he helped and supported.

Mike's impressive career extends well beyond his time at Worcester Regional Retirement System. He served two terms on the Worcester City Council before being elected Worcester County treasurer in 1978, and his outstanding experience and knowledge of the issues made him a valuable member of many charitable organizations in our city.

Mike also has served on the board of directors of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Massachusetts Biomedical Initiatives, and he had an invaluable role over the years in establishing Worcester as a center for medical research.

All of us in our State owe Mike our gratitude for his skillful efforts on behalf of the less fortunate. Over the years, he has given his skills and impressive leadership to the board of directors for the Visiting Nurses Association Network Foundation, the Worcester Area Mental Health Association, the Worcester Area United Way, and Special Olympics of Massachusetts.

It has been an honor to call Mike a friend, and I am especially grateful for his decades of kindness to the Kennedy family. I have relied often on Mike over the years for his advice and wise counsel, and I commend him for his service and dedication. It is a special privilege to join his wife Maureen, their children and grandchildren in congratulating him for all he has achieved in his many years of outstanding service to our Commonwealth, and I wish him well in the years ahead.●

ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, today, on behalf of the Greek Cypriot population of Rhode Island and Greek Cypriots around the world, I recognize the 33rd anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

At 5:30 a.m. 33 years ago today, heavily armed Turkish troops landed on a narrow northern beachhead in Cyprus 5 days after Greek Cypriot nationalists ousted then-President Archbishop Makarios. The invasion and subsequent occupation was described by Turkey as a "peace operation" to protect the minority Turkish population living in Cyprus from being victimized in the aftermath of the coup.

However, during the next 2 months, over 200,000 Greek Cypriots fled south or were expelled by Turkish forces. The Turkish Cypriots took over 37 percent of the island and then called a ceasefire, leaving the Greek Cypriots, 82 percent of the population, with under two-thirds of Cyprus. In 1983, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus declared itself a country. Currently, Turkey is the only nation that recognizes this self-declaration of statehood.

Despite international efforts over the last 30 years to reunify the island, Cyprus has remained divided with more than 40,000 Turkish troops occupying its northern third. The United Nations Security Council and General Assembly have worked to determine an equally agreeable solution, but talks between the Greek Cypriot south and the Turkish Cypriot north consistently end in a stalemate.

A survey completed in February 2007 by the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus found that a majority of both Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities view the United Nations' presence on the island as a positive. Both see any withdrawal scenario involving the U.N. departing before restoration of normal conditions and a settlement being reached as a negative. We must applaud the continued efforts of the United Nations and the focus of Cypriot leaders to reunite a divided Cyprus and remain, ourselves, committed to ushering the settlement process forward. Cypriot, Mediterranean, and United States interests will benefit from a settlement that addresses all legitimate concerns of both sides and promotes the stability of a hostile region.

Sirens wailed across the southern half of Cyprus today, in memory of the day known as “black anniversary” among the Greek Cypriots. Cypriot leaders, on both sides of the divide, must take forward steps to wash away the darkness of this day and replace it with peace and tolerance.●

REMEMBERING GENERAL WAYNE A. DOWNING

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, today, with a heavy heart, I recognize an American patriot and public servant who passed away on July 17, 2007: GEN Wayne A. Downing, U.S. Army, Retired.

Born on May 10, 1940, in Peoria, IL, General Downing graduated from the Spalding Institute in 1958 and was then appointed to the U.S. Military Academy. Following his graduation from West Point in 1962, General Downing served two combat tours in Vietnam as a junior infantry officer.

General Downing served his country for 34 years in a variety of command assignments in infantry, armored, special operations, and joint units, culminating in his appointment as the commander-in-chief of the U.S. Special Operations Command. As a general officer, he commanded the special operations of all services during the 1989 invasion of Panama and commanded a joint special operations task force operating deep behind the Iraqi lines during Operation Desert Storm.

General Downing’s reputation was that of a smart, decisive, forceful, and caring leader, known in particular for his unwavering determination to accomplish any mission assigned and provide his soldiers the best possible support. His personal courage and leadership by example inspired fierce loyalty from all the soldiers who worked for him.

Following his retirement from the U.S. Army in 1996, General Downing had repeatedly answered the call of public service. After the terrorist attack on the U.S. base at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, he was appointed by President Clinton to assess the attack and to make recommendations on how to protect Americans and U.S. facilities worldwide from future attacks.

From 1999–2000, General Downing was a member of the congressionally mandated National Commission on Terrorism charged with examining the terrorist threat to the U.S., evaluating America’s laws, policies, and practices for preventing and punishing terrorism directed at U.S. citizens, and recommending corrective actions.

In the wake of 9/11, General Downing served for almost a year in the White House as national director and deputy national security advisor for combating terrorism. As the President’s principal advisor on matters related to combating terrorism, he was responsible for coordinating the military, diplomatic, intelligence, law enforcement, information, and financial operations

of our war on terror, and for developing and executing a strategy that integrated all elements of national power.

Following his assignment at the White House, General Downing returned to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point when he assumed the position of “Distinguished Chair” of the Combating Terrorism Center, CTC. Under his leadership, the center sought to better understand foreign and domestic terrorism threats, to educate future leaders, and to provide political analysis and advice to counter future terrorist activities.

In addition to his duties at the CTC, General Downing was a visiting faculty member at the University of Michigan Business School conducting seminars on leadership and transformation management and was military and terrorism analyst for NBC News.

General Downing’s career has epitomized the phrase “lifetime of service to the Nation” and exemplified ideals inherent in duty, honor, and country. He was a true warrior who always spoke the truth, insisted on complete honesty from all he worked with, and was the epitome of honorable behavior. As a combat leader, educator, global strategist, and national security expert, General Downing’s contributions to our national defense and security are immeasurable.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Kathryn, his daughters Laura and Elizabeth, and the entire Downing family in this time of sorrow. He will be missed dearly by his many friends, colleagues, and an extremely grateful Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO JULIE SITTASON

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Julie Sittason, who has dedicated over 20 years of her life to caring for others. On August 16, 2007, when Julie steps down as the executive director of Hospice of West Alabama, she will leave behind a legacy of service to others.

Julie and I have been friends for many years. She graduated from my alma mater, the University of Alabama, with an undergraduate degree in sociology and a master’s degree in counseling and guidance from the University of Alabama. Soon after, Julie decided to pursue a rewarding career of serving and caring for others.

For 7 years, Julie worked as a counselor at the Alabama State Department of Industrial Relations, providing guidance to the blind, the hearing impaired and recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children. Later, Julie returned to the University of Alabama to work as the program administrator for the West Alabama Comprehensive Services program.

In 1986, Julie was named executive director of Hospice of West Alabama. When she was hired, the Agency only employed three full-time staffers, operating on an annual budget of \$86,000. Today, the budget has grown to \$5 mil-

lion a year and Hospice of West Alabama has 70 employees, serving 600 patients a year in Tuscaloosa, Greene, Hale, Bibb and Pickens Counties.

Over the past two decades, Julie has overseen many changes at Hospice of West Alabama. It was under her direction in 1997 when the Agency became the first community-based hospice in the State of Alabama to be officially recognized by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. In 2004, it was Julie’s vision that led to the construction of the \$5 million facility that includes the State’s first community-based inpatient hospice facility.

While many people think that the service Julie contributes each day through her work at Hospice of West Alabama is enough, she thinks otherwise. As an avid volunteer, Julie continues to serve with organizations such as the March of Dimes, the MS Walkathon and Soup Bowl. She has served as an adviser for Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority, is on the administrative board for First United Methodist Church, and the board of directors for United Cerebral Palsy, Castle Hill Clinic and the Maude Whatley Clinic. Julie has also held several leadership positions in the Alabama Hospice Organization.

Julie is married to Chuck Sittason. She has two daughters, Katherine Cramer, who served with distinction as my first Senate page in 1995, and Meredith Cramer.

As Julie embarks on another phase in her life, she will remain an inspiration to many and will be remembered for her dedication and many contributions to Hospice of West Alabama. I wish her much luck in her future endeavors, and I ask this entire Senate to join me in recognizing and honoring the life and career of my good friend Julie Sittason.●

RECOGNIZING THE 114TH FIGHTER WING

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the 114th Fighter Wing of the South Dakota Air National Guard for being awarded the 2007 Outstanding Air National Guard Flying Unit Award.

Since 1956, the 114th Fighter Wing has been an outstanding unit and has played an important role in the South Dakota National Guard. The unit has a proud history of accomplishment and this award is in keeping with that tradition. Over the years, the 114th has received numerous unit citations such as the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamer for combat duty as a part of Operation Just Cause in Panama. The 114th Fighter Wing has trained with the Navy, Marines, and the Air Force during Operation Provide Comfort II in Turkey, Commando Sling in Singapore, Operation Southern Watch in Al Jaber, Kuwait, and numerous others. Today, the unit is continuing to uphold its