

pledge you my support in this Herculean effort if you so choose to fully engage yourself in it.

KEITH, *Rigby*.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PETER FITHIAN

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, as Hawaii celebrates its 50th anniversary of statehood, I would like to recognize Mr. Peter Fithian for his illustrious career of 50 years and invaluable service as founder and director of the Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament.

Peter has been a dear friend of mine for many years, and I am honored to have this opportunity to share with you the profound impact he has had on my home State of Hawaii. His tremendous commitment to the people of Hawaii has led to the establishment of the internationally renowned Billfish Tournament, which truly put Hawaii on the map of sport fishing, drawing both spectators and competitors from all over the world. I commend him for his tireless efforts in building a long-standing tradition while promoting tourism and marine conservation in our island community. Through Peter's unwavering passion in cultivating Hawaii's proud heritage of recreational fishing, he has founded not only an event that encourages warm fellowship, but has created an educational opportunity that deserves our highest praise.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the great service and accomplishments of Mr. Peter Fithian.●

BOSTON AREA RAPE CRISIS CENTER

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, next week is National Crime Victims' Rights Week when our country honors the heroism of crime victims and shows our gratitude to advocates who work to protect those who have been victimized. I am proud to say that as part of this commemoration Attorney General Eric Holder will be honoring the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, BARCC. I would like to add my congratulations and sincerest thanks for the important work that is done at BARCC.

BARCC has been helping victims of rape and sexual assault in Boston since 1973, making it one of the first such centers of its kind. Highly trained counselors and advocates team with volunteers from the area to create a nurturing, and supportive, environment for these victims. Through their hard work and selfless dedication, they serve over 4,000 victims a year providing critical services to the people of Boston. Additionally, they participate in statewide and national training in best practices and education sharing their knowledge and experiences. BARCC is also committed to preventing future victims by doing out-

reach in the community on sexual assault awareness, particularly on the many college and university campuses in Boston. Their comprehensive expertise in violence prevention, victims' rights, and victims support is what makes BARCC such an exceptional facility.

I join Attorney General Holder, the people of Boston, and Janet Yassen, director of the Victims of Violence Program, Cambridge Health Alliance, who nominated BARCC for this honor, in expressing our gratitude to the staff and volunteers at BARCC for the incredible service they provide.●

TRIBUTE TO LOUISIANA WWII VETERANS

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I am proud to honor a group of 98 World War II veterans from all over Louisiana who will travel to Washington, DC, on April 25 to visit the various memorials and monuments that recognize the sacrifices of our Nation's invaluable service members.

Louisiana HonorAir, a group based in Lafayette, LA, sponsored this trip to the Nation's Capital. The organization is honoring each surviving World War II Louisiana veteran by giving them an opportunity to see the memorials dedicated to their service. The veterans visited the World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Iwo Jima memorials. They also traveled to Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknowns.

This is the second of four flights Louisiana HonorAir is making to Washington, DC, this spring. It is the 15th flight to depart from Louisiana, which has sent more HonorAir flights than any other State to the Nation's Capital.

World War II was one of America's greatest triumphs but was also a conflict rife with individual sacrifice and tragedy. More than 60 million people worldwide were killed, including 40 million civilians, and more than 400,000 American service members were slain during the long war. The ultimate victory over enemies in the Pacific and in Europe is a testament to the valor of American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. The years 1941 to 1945 also witnessed an unprecedented mobilization of domestic industry, which supplied our military on two distant fronts.

In Louisiana, there remain today more than 33,000 living WWII veterans, and each one has a heroic tale of achieving the noble victory of freedom over tyranny. This group had 31 veterans who served in the U.S. Army, 23 in the U.S. Air Force, 35 in the Navy, 1 in the WAVES—Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service—7 in the Marines, and 1 in the Merchant Marines.

Our heroes trekked the world for their country. Their journeys spanned Europe, the Utah and Omaha Beaches, France, the Rhineland, Central Europe,

Holland, Italy and North Africa. They fought in the Pacific as well—at Russell Island, Gilbert Island, the Philippines, Tarawa, Luzon, New Guinea, Tinian, Guam, Okinawa, Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal, New Hebrides, Saipan and Bougainville. Their fight for freedom extended to Alaska, Azores, Iceland, and the Aleutian Islands.

One of our Army Air Corps veterans received the Croix de Guerre Avec Palm and the Bronze Service Star for campaigns in Northern France, Central Europe, and the Rhineland. He also fought at Utah Beach on D-day. Another of our Army Air Corps veterans fought in the Mediterranean Theater and completed 50 missions as a ball turret gunner.

One of our marines received the South Pacific Purple Heart, and an Army veteran fought at Omaha Beach with GEN George Patton. Yet another Army veteran was on GEN Douglas McArthur's staff.

I ask the Senate to join me in honoring these 98 veterans, all Louisiana heroes, who will visit Washington, and Louisiana HonorAir for making these trips a reality.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL ELDER GRANGER, M.D.

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the outstanding service that MG Elder Granger has given to Arkansas and our great Nation through his work in the military medical services.

Since 2005, MG Elder Granger, M.D., has served his country as the deputy director of the TRICARE Management Activity in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. Prior to joining TRICARE, Major General Granger led the largest U.S. and multinational battlefield health system in our Nation's recent history as Commander of the Task Force 44th Medical Command and Command Surgeon for the Multinational Corps in Iraq.

Major General Granger also brilliantly implemented TRICARE's \$22.5 billion Defense Health Program that benefitted over 9.2 million people worldwide. With his compassion and dedication, Major General Granger improved patient care for the entire military health system by managing the TRICARE benefits for an international network of 75 military hospitals, 461 service clinics, and a network of civilian providers and hospitals. An enthusiastic advocate for the military health system, Major General Granger directed the launch of a TRICARE Web portal which improved communications between beneficiaries and enhanced health benefits information services. This technology is projected to reach 23 million individuals by 2009.

Through the TRICARE's mail order pharmacy program, Major General Granger increased the number of users utilizing mail-order pharmacy prescriptions by 16 percent, as well as increasing total prescription volume by