

Today, Montana veterans still rely on the hospital in Fort Harrison for their basic medical needs.

During his work, Jack met the acquaintance and earned the respect of Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, and Gerald Ford.

Jack had a truly remarkable life and career of service to our country. He served as the national commander-in-chief of Veterans of Foreign Wars from 1958 to 1959.

He served as the national chairman of the Veterans for John F. Kennedy's Presidential campaign committee in 1960. He also served as the under secretary to the VA Memorial Services and Director of the National Cemetery System in the Nixon administration.

On this very day, we have brave Americans patrolling the mountains of Afghanistan. May Jack's memory be a reminder of the obligation we owe to these brave warriors when they come home. His legacy is a reminder of what dedicated public service can deliver for our Nation's finest. We will miss you, Jack.●

TRIBUTE TO DES R. GOYAL

● Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Des R. Goyal as he completes a long and distinguished career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USACE. Mr. Goyal was born and educated in India, where he eventually received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering. In 1970, he came to the United States to further his studies while earning his U.S. citizenship. Mr. Goyal started his career with the Corps in 1978 as a project engineer on navigation locks in the Corps of Engineers Huntington District. Since that time, he has held numerous assignments with the Corps of Engineers, including working on military construction projects in Saudi Arabia and serving in Germany as Chief of the Mechanical/Electrical design branch for the Corps of Engineers Europe Division. In 1999, he was assigned the job of Chief, Operations Division, Kansas City District of the Corps of Engineers.

2011 was arguably the most challenging year in the 114-plus-year history of the Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District. While executing the challenging Operations and Maintenance program, the District battled an epic 145-day flood in the Missouri River Basin and established a Recovery Field Office in Joplin, MO to respond to the fifth deadliest tornado in U.S. history. As an integral part of the Operations Division, Mr. Goyal led the effort to ensure his Emergency Management and Contingency Operations were fully manned by competent personnel from throughout the District. These additional missions comprised approximately 25 percent of the Kansas City District's workforce at various times, placing significant stress on the organization. However, Mr. Goyal remained

poised and calm, responding with a plea for volunteers, and was instrumental in the success of these efforts. During these challenges, he clearly demonstrated strong leadership and technical competency. His past experiences significantly augmented the success of the mission during this time-frame.

Throughout his career, Des Goyal has promoted leadership and mission execution. He has mentored many USACE employees and military personnel while leading the efforts on large, complex projects and programs throughout the world. He has tremendous passion for the advancement of his colleagues and those they serve. He championed the use of the Student Career Employment Program, SCEP, in the Corps of Engineers Northwest District, which serves as a valuable tool in providing college students the critical experience and networking opportunities to encourage employment in a public service career. Mr. Goyal continues to press for positive change through a focus on good government, professional organizations and community service.

I thank Des Goyal for his service to his adopted country and wish Des and his wife, Usha, an enjoyable retirement.●

NORTHWEST KIDNEY CENTERS

● Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Northwest Kidney Centers on its 50th Anniversary. Northwest Kidney Centers was established as the first out-of-hospital dialysis program in the world, opening its doors in Seattle, WA, on January 8, 1962.

Just 2 years after the development of the Teflon shunt at the University of Washington, community leaders in Seattle came together to raise money and find a space to establish a center to deliver dialysis treatments outside of a hospital, which led to the creation of the community-based Northwest Kidney Centers.

Chronic kidney disease is now an epidemic, affecting one in seven American adults. Northwest Kidney Centers is working to reverse this trend, focusing on community education and prevention. Each year, Northwest Kidney Centers allocates funding toward public health education about kidney disease and organ donation, participating in outreach events and reaching more than 12,000 people with kidney information. It also developed a "Living Well with CKD" program which offers classes on treatment options and good nutrition. This program reaches nearly 1,000 pre-dialysis patients and family members each year, at no cost to the participants.

I take great pride in the fact that Seattle is the birthplace of chronic dialysis treatments and that Northwest Kidney Centers continues to take the lead on developments in the field. Northwest Kidney Centers hosted clinical trials to develop the anti-anemia drug

Epogen, and set up the Northwest Organ Procurement Agency. In 2008, Northwest Kidney Centers spearheaded the creation of the Kidney Research Institute, a collaboration with the University of Washington Medical School which has become a scientific leader focusing on ways to prevent, detect, treat, and eventually cure kidney disease.

I applaud Northwest Kidney Centers for its contributions to the State of Washington and the kidney disease and dialysis field as a whole. As the organization celebrates its 50th Anniversary, I extend my congratulations to the entire Northwest Kidney Centers community—patients, physicians, employees, supporters and volunteers—and thank them for their dedication and commitment to improving the lives of kidney patients in my State.●

RECOGNIZING THE MIDCOAST AREA VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor and recognize with the highest esteem the many volunteers, veterans' organizations and civic and municipal entities responsible for establishing the Midcoast Area Veterans Memorial Wall in Rockland, Maine, that honors the extraordinary service and sacrifice of all our Nation's military veterans.

Established and managed by the Midcoast Area Veterans Memorial Corporation, a nonprofit corporation comprised of members from the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the Marine Corps League, Rockland Rotary, Rockland Kiwanis, the Benevolent and Protective Order (BPO) of Elks, and the City of Rockland, the Memorial Wall is located on upper Limerock Street in Rockland on property owned by the American Legion Post No. 1. The location of the Memorial is, appropriately, also the site of an 1861 Civil War encampment of the local Fourth Regiment of Maine Volunteers.

Undeniably, nothing unites us more as Mainers and Americans than the limitless pride we take in our revered and noble veterans. Indeed, in Maine, we also cherish the tremendous distinction of having, on any given day, the second most veterans per capita of any State in the Nation. Such devotion to country is the embodiment of the self-sacrificing principles that Mainers live by and have passed down from one generation to the next. This selfless way of thinking also inspired and motivated a small group of individuals more than 16 years ago to begin formulating plans to establish a memorial to honor our veterans in Midcoast Maine. After a long, dedicated effort and several site location changes, the Midcoast Area Veterans Memorial Wall has finally secured a permanent home.

The Midcoast Area Veterans Memorial Wall is by all accounts a beautifully designed and landscaped tribute