

quality social services and outreach into communities across the Nation. Some of these organizations report a lack of coordination and collaboration with local VA facilities. Additionally, many small nonprofits and local organizations sometimes lack the additional resources needed to strategically develop guidance and partnerships with and across Federal, State, and local assets. More effective and localized outreach will better address the community-based needs of today's veterans and do so in a cost-efficient way.

This legislation goes beyond authorizing VA to issue grants. This legislation would also allow VA to enter into cooperative agreements and arrangements with various State agencies to carry out, improve, or enhance outreach activities for veterans. Simply put, if a State is already supporting our Nation's veterans, then this legislation would allow VA to reinforce the bond between Federal and State resources to ensure local veterans outreach activities are streamlined and cost-avoidances identified.

One thing is undeniable, and that is that VA should be making every effort to ensure veterans are aware of the benefits and services afforded to them. I recently held a committee hearing where we heard about some of the progress the Department has made in addressing the important issue of outreach. We also heard from community-based organizations that are coordinating and collaborating across Federal, State, and local levels to leverage resources in order to provide cost-effective programs. But what struck me the most was the steadfastness with which each of these community-based organizations identifies veterans and links them to the Federal, State, and local benefits and services they are entitled.

Widely available information and a clear understanding of the information are two basic components of effective outreach. If our Nation's veterans are to take full advantage of the benefits and service they have earned, effective outreach is indispensable. When our Nation's over 22 million veterans are able to take advantage of these benefits and services, they more often than not are placed on a positive path toward an encouraging future.

Mr. President, we have made a solemn commitment to aid veterans after they leave military service. We can only honor this commitment if veterans and their families are aware of the benefits and services available to them. This legislation would strengthen VA's outreach and support the organizations and agencies that seek to stand shoulder to shoulder with VA in support of our nation's heroes.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL HARTER, PH.D., M.S. ED.

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Dr. Michael Harter,

senior provost and chief executive officer of Touro University's Western Division. After more than three decades of dedication to excellence in higher education, Dr. Harter is retiring. My home State of Nevada has benefited tremendously from Dr. Harter's contributions as a researcher, educator and advocate. As he enters retirement, Dr. Harter leaves an inspiring legacy of leadership that will be long felt in the lives and careers of the countless medical professionals he helped to educate.

Since 2004, Dr. Michael Harter has shown exceptional commitment as the administrative and academic head of Touro University's Western Division, including its Nevada campus. He not only helped to establish Touro University Nevada, but his leadership and vision has also contributed to Touro's development as one of the fastest growing medical schools in the region. Despite significant challenges associated with rising costs and a difficult economic climate, Dr. Harter has shown remarkable perseverance and commitment, and he has enhanced Touro University's reputation as an institution.

Prior to his tenure at Touro University, Dr. Harter served as vice dean of the University of Nevada School of Medicine, and he was also the founding executive director of Family Development Programs, Inc. of Ohio. In addition to his educational experience, Dr. Harter has served Nevada's medical profession and health care community as a passionate and dedicated advocate, and has received numerous recognitions and awards for his service. The Nevada State legislature recently recognized Dr. Harter for his "dedication and contributions to the elevation of the educational system in Nevada to the highest caliber."

I want to acknowledge and thank Dr. Michael Harter for his many years of dedicated service as an educator, researcher, administrator, and community advocate. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Harter on his retirement, and in wishing him many successful and fulfilling years to come.●

REMEMBERING DANIELLE DUNLAP

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to honor in the RECORD Miss Danielle Dunlap of Atlanta, GA. A few weeks ago, I was very saddened to learn of the passing of this 25-year-old Peace Corps volunteer, who was known as "Dani" by her overseas community. Danielle was stationed in Ghana when her life was cut tragically short by illness. Like so many of our Peace Corps volunteers, she was a role model who dedicated her life to serving others. During her time in Ghana, Danielle touched the lives of individuals and families in Ghana by working with them to improve their lives in the areas of nutrition, HIV/AIDS, malaria, and sanitation. Her colleagues in Ghana said that she was proud of her role as a volunteer trainer, helping to mentor newly arriv-

ing volunteers in the projects to which she was so devoted.

Born in Germany, Danielle's love for all things international began long before her days as a Peace Corps volunteer. She studied abroad in South Korea and Haiti, where she learned Korean and Spanish.

Danielle was clearly a bright and gifted individual. She graduated from Brown University in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in neuroscience. She tutored young students at the Academy at Harvard Square in Cambridge, MA, and she was a swim instructor for students with asthma.

Danielle Dunlap was a model of service and character, and it is Americans such as her who make this country great. The Nation mourns the loss of an incredible individual at such a young age, and my heart and my prayers go out to Danielle's family and friends.●

RECOGNIZING KELO-TV

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to honor KELO-TV, a South Dakota institution, for 60 years of excellence in broadcasting. Since 1953, South Dakotans have turned to KELO for reliable news and information about their local communities.

Theater promoter Joe L. Floyd had a vision of providing all South Dakotans, even those in the most isolated parts of our State, with access to television programming. Volatile weather and vast distances made this no easy feat. Tornadoes caused towers to collapse in the early years, but the dedicated KELO team always restored service promptly.

On May 19, 1953, KELO-TV made its inaugural broadcast and South Dakota's first television station was born. Dave Dedrick signed KELO on the air for the first time. "Serving the mighty Sioux Empire, this is KELO-TV Channel 11 Sioux Falls," he boomed. Dedrick became the face of the network, not only as the station's long-time weatherman but as Captain 11, a fictional character in KELO's hugely popular afterschool children's program. Captain 11 ran for nearly 42 years, making it America's longest running children's program.

KELO has always grown with the times and strived to bring the latest technological innovations to their viewers. In 1955, KELO began to broadcast the news live from the second floor of the Hollywood Theater building. KELO aired the first live telecast of a sporting event in South Dakota in 1957. In 1968, KELO pushed the envelope yet again by becoming the first station in the area to broadcast live and in color. Every step of the way, KELO has gone to great lengths to provide the best programming for all South Dakotans. In 1991, as soon as the technology became available, KELO began to closed-caption of many of their programs to better serve deaf and hearing-