

many occasions. All of her work in the area of GSE-related oversight and legislation by Congress demonstrated an extremely detailed understanding of the complex, significant policy issues surrounding these institutions and their operations. Her insights and perspective were plain, and understandable; the clarity and rigor of her analyses won praise from members and commendations at CRS.

In 2000, Ms. Miles assumed the position of Section Head of the Banking, Securities, Insurance, and Macroeconomics Section within the CRS Government and Finance Division. For the next five years she supervised eight to ten economists, ranging from experienced veterans to newly-appointed staff hired from the private sector, other government agencies, and from distinguished graduate programs. She was generous with her time and offered constructive advice working with staff through multiple revisions to produce the most useful products for members and staff. She challenged veteran staff to think and write in new ways to better serve Congress.

She emphasized the need for economists to write clearly and to connect the micro economic foundations of financial markets to macro economic policy to best assist Congress in its duties of scrutiny, oversight, and legislation. Ms. Miles' own broad expertise and depth of experience in her section's wide-ranging policy responsibilities provided her with unique tools during her period as a section manager in CRS. She conducted knowledgeable oversight of section written materials and was regarded by her staff and management as a skilled reviewer whose insistence on the highest standards was matched by her ability as a mentor and educator. She constantly worked with her staff to improve the precision and clarity of their writing and to produce accurate, balanced and insightful analysis of the issues of the day in a timely manner. Ms. Miles led her section to new levels of intellectual excellence and dedicated service to Congress, while gaining the unquestioned respect and genuine affection of her staff.

Ms. Miles was an invaluable resource in many ways that did not always attract notice. Throughout the course of her career, other analysts frequently consulted with her for her subject matter and economic expertise. She tirelessly peer-reviewed papers. Ms. Miles managed a long-running CRS cooperative "Capstone" project, initiated with students and faculty of the University of Texas, that examined corporate governance policy issues and questions for Congress. She initiated and nurtured a popular "Brown Bag Luncheon" series of lecture-discussions on policy issues. She selected topics and used her wide contacts to arrange for speakers for a program that has covered a very broad range of issues, and continues to draw standing-room-only audiences. Ms. Miles was honored by her colleagues when they elected her president of the

Congressional Research Employee Association.

CRS management recognized Ms. Miles for achieving and exceeding the organizational goals established for her section, leading her staff to new levels of excellence that could not have been attained without her steady and inspired guidance. Her mastery of technical skills, her understanding of and commitment to the mission and goals of the Congressional Research Service, coupled with her ability to communicate these to her staff, helped lead her section to significantly improved organizational performance.

After stepping down as section head in 2005, Ms. Miles continued to mentor new staff. In stepping down, she planned to spend more time analyzing and writing about government-sponsored enterprises, housing issues, and financial services. She also took on the role of division reviewer to ensure that all products met the highest CRS standards.

Ms. Miles won numerous awards and praise from members during her 32 years at CRS. In 1995, a Senator praised one of her products for "explaining that the debate between the direct lending and the guaranteed loan program is fundamentally a debate over political philosophy and not a debate over economics. . . . It is important to keep in mind that these economists at the Congressional Research Service are not individuals who work for the Republican Party, nor are they individuals who have some hidden agenda, who have some connection to the banks or the guaranty agencies. They are simply economists who work for the Congressional Research Service and provide us with objective, non-partisan analyses of the programs that Congress develops." In 1998, two Senators and a Representative praised her work on the Higher Education Amendments of 1998.

She wrote numerous concise and complete reports for CRS. She also contributed to the Joint Economic Committee's Demographic Change and the Economy of the Nineties with "Demography and Housing in the 1990s," which turned out to be a classic work on housing.

Ms. Miles also testified before Congressional committees numerous times on housing and mortgage issues. The members of the House Committee on Financial Services and the House Committee on the Budget were the most frequent beneficiaries of her insights and wisdom.

In 1993, she received a CRS special achievement award for "extraordinary contributions to debate over the student loan program including the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993." In 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2004 she received incentive awards for sustained high performance. In 2001 and 2002 she received honorary superior service awards. Upon her retirement, Ms. Miles received a meritorious service award.

Ms. Miles was active in professional associations, conferences and meet-

ings. She participated in conferences sponsored by the Chicago Federal Home Loan Bank, the Chicago Federal Reserve, the American Economics Association, the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association, and Women in Housing and Finance. In her private life, Ms. Miles remains an avid bicycle rider who has raced competitively. One of her goals after retirement is to ride a "century" or 100 miles. She is also an active member of the Episcopal Church, in which she served with distinction on the Diocesan Council Episcopal of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.

For the 32 years of her career at CRS—and her six years of previous federal service—Ms. Miles won the respect, admiration, and thanks of her colleagues. Her steadfast dedication to service to Congress and the nation and her commitment to the highest standards of unbiased and timely response to Congressional requests for information have made a positive and lasting contribution.

On behalf of the members of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Senator SHELBY and I express our deep appreciation to Ms. Miles for her many years of dedicated public service and wish her well as she goes on to other endeavors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING KATHLEEN MCNAMARA

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I believe deeply that the well-being of our society depends on the contributions of committed individuals. With that belief in mind, today I pay tribute to an individual who has given much to many, most especially to veterans in my home State of Hawaii, Dr. Kathleen McNamara.

Dr. McNamara is a psychologist who has spent 18 years working full time for veterans, with most of that time spent in Hawaii. Her full career spans longer than that, and includes impressive service across a range of issues in psychology. Recently, the American Psychological Association presented Dr. McNamara with a Presidential Citation in recognition of the more than 30 years she has dedicated to the American people, including veterans. Dr. McNamara has served on many of the APA's volunteer boards, including their board of directors.

I have interacted with Dr. McNamara both in her role as psychologist and in her work with the veterans' community. I have found her to be thorough and of strong conviction.

I recall a witness who was testifying at a January 2006 hearing of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. This witness was speaking on behalf of veterans from the Hawaiian island of Molokai, where it can take over 3 months to get an appointment with a visiting VA psychologist. This witness told the committee about Dr. McNamara, who routinely travels to Molokai from a neighboring island. He called Dr. McNamara

the "Mother Theresa for the veterans," and noted that Molokai needed more psychologists, because the demand to see Dr. McNamara was just so great.

I humbly offer Dr. McNamara my gratitude for what she has done for veterans, for Hawaii, and for our Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO TERESA KIRKEENG-KINCAID

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Teresa Kirkeeng-Kincaid, a remarkable civil servant who dedicated her entire career to making her community, the Upper Mississippi River Region and our Nation a better place. Teresa passed away last week at the young age of 48, after a courageous battle against cancer. Her legacy, however, will continue long into the future. Teresa dedicated her entire professional life to working for the Federal Government. Teresa joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a civil engineer with the Rock Island District in 1981, and continued with the Corps for 26 years. In that time, she served in many roles, including assistant chief of the planning, program and project management division.

During her two and a half decades of service, Teresa earned a reputation on the Upper Mississippi Region and across the Nation as a person of great dedication and integrity. She played a leadership role in important projects including formulating navigation, flood damage, and ecosystem restoration projects throughout the entire Upper Mississippi River basin. She was the "go to person" throughout the Corps of Engineers on numerous planning issues. The team she led reestablished the Corps' Planning Associates program to train future planners for the Corps, a legacy that will last for many decades.

I had the occasion to meet Teresa several times, and know the very high regard in which she was held by her co-workers, her countless friends, and her loving family. She will be missed.●

RECOGNIZING MONROE CITY, MISSOURI

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Monroe City, MO, on the 150th Anniversary of its founding.

Monroe City has had a long and proud history. The city was founded on July 4, 1857, by E.B. Talcott and John Duff at a picnic where town lots were sold. In 1869 Monroe City became an incorporated town, owing its existence to the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad and the Wabash Railroad. Due to the drive of the community's many entrepreneurs Monroe City enjoyed continued economic, agricultural, and structural growth.

In the early 1870s an educational system was created with both public and parochial schools. In 1918, a Carnegie Library was built that is still owned and supported by the city of Monroe City.

Throughout its 150-year history, Monroe City has continued to flourish and has striven to maintain its concern for, and involvement in, the lives of its citizens. Members of this community have often assumed leadership positions in the community through participation in fire, police, and administration departments, as well as with their work with a variety of civic and church groups.

I am pleased to join with the State of Missouri in congratulating Monroe City on this important milestone and wishing them continued growth and success for the next 150 years.●

RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL DONALD WETEKAM

● Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a great military leader, officer, and good friend, LTG Donald Wetekam. After 34 years of distinguished and honorable service, General Wetekam, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Air Force for Installations and Logistics, will retire from the U.S. Air Force.

General Wetekam began his active duty service in 1973 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. As a career logistics officer, he commanded three maintenance squadrons, a logistics group and a logistics center, and has served staff tours at both the major command and air staff levels.

General Wetekam's noteworthy service and responsibilities have been widely recognized. He received the Distinguished Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Legion of Merit with an oak leaf cluster, and the Air Force Commendation Medal with an oak leaf cluster.

Prior to serving as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics, General Wetekam served as Commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, at Robins Air Force Base, GA. He also served both as Director of Maintenance and Logistics and Deputy Director of Combat Weapon Systems at Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, VA; and as Director of Logistics, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Hickam Air Force Base, HI. Prior to that he served as Vice Commander and Director, Aircraft Management Directorate at the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center, Tinker Air Force Base, OK; and commanded the 49th Logistics Group at Holloman Air Force Base, NM.

General Wetekam has been a visionary leader, and among his most significant accomplishments, championed initiatives including Repair Enterprise 21, establishing a single enterprise-wide maintenance repair network. He was a driving force behind the Global Logistics Support Center moving from a base centric supply process to a centrally responsive approach to improving supply chain management. During General Wetekam's tenure, the Air Force saw the implementation of Cen-

tralized Asset Management, culminating in a \$14 billion savings and the elimination of complex and redundant financial processes. General Wetekam worked extensively to increase the number of Security Forces available for deployment and through this effort provided much needed support to our warfighters. He was successful in reducing career field operations tempo, and forged a ground breaking path for both privatized housing and joint basing.

General Wetekam's leadership was instrumental to air and space forces engaged across a breadth of support activities in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. As the prime architect of Lean implementation, his guidance enabled the Air Force to increase efficiency in a resource constrained, high operations tempo environment. His efforts provided the foundation for Air Force Smart Operations 21 and the ability to fund the recapitalization of an aging fleet and build the Air Force of tomorrow while fighting today's war.

The Nation will miss General Wetekam's commitment to duty, ceaseless drive for improvement, and unwavering support to the U.S. Air Force. I will miss having him in the U.S. Air Force, although I know he will continue to serve his Nation wherever he goes. I know I speak on behalf of a grateful Nation in saying thank you to General Wetekam for his years of service and sacrifice. I hope my colleagues will join me in wishing him well in all his future endeavors and hope that those who follow in his footsteps will continue his legacy of unprecedented support to our great Nation. Good luck and Godspeed.●

TRIBUTE TO JONESBORO HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Jonesboro High School Mock Trial team of Clayton County, GA, for winning the 2007 National High School Mock Trial Championships in Dallas, TX. The championship consisted of 44 teams representing 40 States, South Korea, and the North Mariana Islands.

The mock trial program is an excellent experience for students, allowing them to further their understanding of court procedure and the legal system; to improve proficiency in basic skills such as listening, speaking, reading and reasoning; to promote better communication and cooperation between the educational and legal community; to provide a competitive event in an academic atmosphere; and to promote cooperation among young people of various abilities and interests.

Jonesboro's long journey to the national championships began by practicing 3 days a week under the tutelage of prominent judges and lawyers in Clayton County. The team qualified for the National High School Mock Trial Championships by winning their fifth