TRIBUTE TO SERVICE CORPS OF RETIRED EXECUTIVES CHAPTER NO. 38 ON THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Service Corps of Retired Executives Chapter No. 38. This year, Chapter 38 celebrates 30 years of service to the Laconia area. As a former small business owner myself, I am proud to extend my warmest congratulations to this outstanding business advocacy organization on this momentous occasion.

SCORE is an volunteer program sponsored by the Small Business Administration which helps New Hampshire’s small businesses to establish themselves, expand, and create jobs in our communities. It is a nationwide service organization with 13,000 volunteers. There are 383 locally organized and self-administered chapters, all of which work in or near their home communities and offer their services at no charge. SCORE has been helping American small businesses to prosper since 1964.

SCORE matches volunteers with small businesses that need expert advice. They share management skills and technical advice with prospective and present small business owners. Their in-depth counseling and training helps business owners identify management problems and find solutions. Most of SCORE’s volunteers are retired executives, but some are still employed full time. New Hampshire Chapter 38’s 24 active members have worked tirelessly, handling one of the largest caseloads in the state. One member, Horace Walsh, for example, has been with Chapter 38 for 25 years. This outstanding record of service is the epitome of the Granite State community spirit and entrepreneurship.

SCORE is an excellent example of community service at its finest. It gives people the opportunity to share their talents with others, that they may find the same measure of success. Such service allows executives to give back to the community that supported them. By helping small businesses grow, they are contributing to the growth of their local economy and providing more opportunities for the community.

New Hampshire is fortunate to have an organization like SCORE helping small businesses. I commend SCORE and each one of their committed and dedicated volunteers for their tremendous community service as they celebrate their 30th anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PATRICIA MACK

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to my constituent, Patricia Mack, an outstanding Housing and Urban Development (HUD) employee and housing activist. Over the years, she has accomplished a great deal in her work in the area of public housing.

In 1971, Patricia began her first job in the housing field in the Chicago Regional Office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She worked as an Urban Renewal Representative, advocating for and advancing the public interest in civic renewal projects in the Chicago area.

In October 1971, HUD established an office in Patricia’s home State of Minnesota. Patricia moved back to the Twin Cities to serve as a Metropolitan Development Representative where she worked closely with metro-area communities to use HUD grant funds for water and sewer projects, neighborhood facilities, parks, and historical preservation initiatives. She played crucial roles in both the Minnesota Valley Restoration Project and the Hennepin County Park Reserve District.

In July 1974, Patricia’s career path took her to Alexandria, VA, to serve as Assistant Director of the Alexandria Development Work Plan. Focusing primarily on housing issues, she helped to lay the groundwork for Alexandria’s Housing Assistance Program.

In February 1976 she returned to Minnesota to serve as a HUD Office Housing Assistance Specialist. She worked with Minnesota communities on the implementation of the Housing Assistance Program much as she had in Virginia.

In 1985, Patricia was named Special Assistant to the Field Office Manager, a position in which she handled responsibilities ranging from public and congressional affairs to HUD special projects like affirmative action plans. In this capacity, Patricia played a key role in ensuring that adequate minority participation was utilized in the construction of the new Federal building that was being built in downtown Minneapolis.

In the last decade, Patricia has continued to become actively and centrally involved in many programs pertaining to housing and the homeless. Patricia’s dedication, leadership, and spirit have been instrumental in countless successes as a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and in working with the Metropolitan Interfaith Community for Affordable Housing.

In 1985, Patricia was the first Government official to receive a well-deserved award from the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless.

Today, Patricia continues her work helping to address serious and complex issues as homelessness and the availability, quality, and affordability of public housing on behalf of Minnesotans and their communities.

It is a privilege for me to recognize and applaud Patricia Mack for her fine work and her contributions over the years. She is an inspiration, and I wish her continued future success.

RECIPIENTS OF EDISON ELECTRIC INSTITUTE’S 1996 COMMON GOALS AWARDS

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I am proud to announce that two local electric companies in Arizona recently were honored as recipients of the Edison Electric Institute’s 1996 Common Goals Awards.

The Arizona Public Service Company received a Special Distinction Award for energy efficiency from Edison Electric Institute for their work on energy efficiency in architectural design. Specifically, Arizona Public Service Co. was honored for its design of an Environmental Showcase Home that uses 60 percent less electricity and water than standard energy efficient homes built in Arizona today. Increased energy efficiency is of great importance to Arizona and the Nation. I commend Arizona Public Service Co. for its efforts to achieve greater energy efficiency in our homes and encourage other utilities across the country to follow their lead in working toward more energy efficient architectural designs.

I also want to congratulate the Tucson Electric Power Co. for their work on a project entitled “Driving Drunk Will Put Your Lights Out.” The Tucson Electric Power Co. received a Community Responsibility-Special Needs Award from the Edison Electric Institute for this successful project to combat drunk driving. Their efforts were recognized for producing dramatic results, including a 60-percent decline in alcohol-related traffic incidents in Pima County after ten months. The national conscience has been raised to the need for community involvement in order to eliminate the preventative deaths associated with drunk driving. Tucson Electric Power Co. is to be commended for working to meet the special needs of their community and getting involved in such a worthwhile cause.

Energy efficiency and meeting the special needs of our communities to prevent the harms caused by drunk driving are important public matters where very profound companies have been recognized for their leadership in those areas.

U.S. INTELLIGENCE RESPONSE TO TERRORISM

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, when I took to the floor to discuss the bombing at Khobar Towers several weeks ago I stated someone is making war on us, one would like to 10-point.

We are in active conflict, Mr. President, and this is not the time for politicians safe behind secure barriers to publicly snipe at the way our Government is fighting this battle. Yet I note the Speaker of the House of Representatives is accusing the administration of having undermined and crippled one of our principal weapons against terrorism, the human intelligence capabilities of the Central Intelligence Agency.

This charge is baseless. Mr. President. In fact, the greatest build-up of our human intelligence capability occurred under the bipartisan leadership...
of Senators Boren and Cohen several Congresses ago. They understood that growing stronger in human intelligence is a long-term enterprise. It involves the recruitment and development of people over many years, and it is one of the aspects which we have found to be not much affected by sudden infusions of money.

The Speaker’s inference that the Clinton administration has allowed the nation’s capability to deteriorate is not supported by the facts. He has clearance, as does every Member, to examine the budget numbers and see that the Clinton administration has requested, and Congress has generally supported, a very robust intelligence capability for the United States.

Mr. President, the Speaker’s comments are an effort to draw short-term political advantage out of some of the painful events in a long-term conflict. I would suggest another approach: To take a long view of why we Americans are vulnerable to attack, why this war is being waged, and to examine whether our adversaries are having much effect.

We are likely terrorist targets for at least four reasons.

First, more than any other country, we are uniquely present in the world. We are the only superpower, our military is by far the most deployed military on earth, and our businesses are also present everywhere. I trust the Speaker is pleased with America’s forward presence; I certainly am. It is both a sign of, and an essential component of, our power.

Second, we are a country that takes strong positions in foreign policy matters. Strong positions buy you enemies, and some of those enemies are terrorists. We stand up for Israel, the only democracy in its area. That buys us enemies. We stand up for Israel, the only democracy in its area. That buys us enemies. We are publicly allied with Turkey, a very embattled democracy in the world, which is a main reason it is so weak. We are openly allied with Turkey, a very embattled democracy in the world, which is a main reason it is so weak. Turkey is such a delight to live in this country.

Third, we are the most open society in the world, which is a main reason it is such a delight to live in this country. We are not advocates changing our openness—but it does make us more vulnerable to terrorism.

Fourth, we are the world’s greatest capitalist nation. We represent the power to make life better by improving your material circumstances, and by enjoying the wealth you produce by your own labor. To many fundamentalists—not all of them Moslem—that makes us the “great Satan.” Still, I trust the Speaker would not want to change this element of our character, even though it does buy us enemies.

Mr. President, despite this vulnerability, I submit we Americans are still safer than any other people on earth. When it comes to terrorism and political violence, I challenge anyone to name a safer country.

As for Americans abroad, I do not constitute that our people overseas are in any greater risk from terrorism than they have ever been in peacetime in our history. Why this anomaly, when we see how uniquely vulnerable we are? One word: Intelligence. It is present everywhere in the world, working closely with our allies to actively track terrorist organizations and individuals far from atrophying under the Clinton administration, it is a potent instrument to keep Americans safe.

Rather than fear of failure, we should recognize we are living in a period of successful action against terrorism. We should praise the Americans involved in this shadowy struggle and support them, and continue to give them what they need. Saying they are crippled is neither constructive nor accurate, although it may give false comfort to our enemies.

TRIBUTE TO MARGUERITE’S PLACE OF NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Marguerite’s Place, a support home for disadvantaged women in Nashua, NH. This outstanding service organization, sponsored by the Sisters of Charity, provides a very welcome service in New Hampshire. The Grey Nuns have worked hard to ensure the success of this very special place.

Marguerite’s Place is designed to provide a fresh start for women in abusive or other disadvantaged situations. It is unique because it allows women to keep and continue to care for their children, promoting strong family values. It is also a long-term support program that teaches women how to put their lives back together. Sisters Shar- tta, Wally and Elaine, who manage Marguerite’s Place, previously ran a similar program in inner city Philadelphia that had a very high success rate. Between them they have 20 years experience helping poor women restructure their lives.

Marguerite’s Place can accommodate seven women and their children and provides vital support services like day-care. Women may stay in Mar- guerite’s Place for up to 2 years and have access to continuing day-care for 5 years through the aftercare program. While Marguerite’s Place does provide some necessary services, the sisters are determined not to do anything for the women that they are capable of doing for themselves. During their stay, the women must pay rent and utilities, buy and prepare their own food, and are responsible for the maintenance of their quarters. The Grey Nuns’ philosophy is that women who come to Marguerite’s Place to empower women to move forward into the future with hope.

The sisters are tough about the rules of Marguerite’s Place, but they provide a sanctuary for women who need time to heal. For example, no men are allowed in the building at any time and there is a security system. They employ drug testing if necessary and allow the women only one slip or lapse before removing them from the program. A thorough screening finds women who can demonstrate a commitment to the program and improving their lives and the lives of their children.

Marguerite’s Place enjoys a tremendous amount of state and community support from the citizens of Nashua. It received funds from the Office of Alcohol and Drug Prevention for the purchase and rehabilitation of the building and from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for a continuum care program. They now receive operational funding from the United Way for their program, and local religious groups have been invaluable. Community youth help Marguerite’s Place through events such as the United Way Youth Day of Caring and Rivier College, which sends staff out to discuss health issues with the women.

Marguerite’s Place is the type of program that this country needs because it not only provides people with an immediate opportunity but teaches them how to improve their lives. The women are given a chance and the responsibility to make something of it. By giving them this responsibility, they empower these women. Their success rate shows that this type of combining aid with responsibility, works. I commend Marguerite’s Place for an excellent job meeting community needs. The caring of Sisters Sharon and Elaine has given hope to women in desperate situations and provided a way out of that situation. I am proud to thank them on behalf of the Granite State.

NEED FOR PRIVACY PROTECTION IN CONNECTION WITH COMPUTERIZATION OF HEALTH CARE INFORMATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, for the past several years, I have been engaged in efforts to make sure that Americans’ expectations of privacy for their medical records are fulfilled. I do not want advancing technology to lead to a loss of personal privacy and do not want the fear that confidentiality is being compromised to drive people from seeking medical treatment or stifling technological or scientific development.

The former Republican Majority Leader Bob Dole put his finger on this problem when he remarked that a “compromise of privacy” that sends information about a development to a national data bank without a person’s approval would be something that none of us would accept. Unfortunately, the former Republican majority leader’s worst nightmare, and mine, is being facilitated by provisions inserted by the House into this conference report that require the development of a national health information system.

The conference report includes provisions that require a system of health