

have been hired as computer programmers, stockbrokers, and supervisors.

One satisfied employer who used this high-technology service wrote back saying, "the guys coming out of the military are our best workers."

That comes as no surprise to anyone here, but it is good to know the word is getting out to employers nationwide.

All of this has led to a much friendlier transition for many thousands of military families.

The best indicator of our success is that thousands of employers who hire veterans come back to hire more through the automated systems and job fairs. A healthy economy is certainly helping, but the transition programs are ensuring that people leaving the military can match their skill to high quality civilian jobs.

The heart of my challenge 3 years ago was to help departing service members use their skill and leadership abilities to address some of our Nation's pressing needs. The problems I talked about then are, unfortunately, still with us today including violence in the streets and a need for discipline and role models in our schools.

In the fiscal year 1994 Defense Authorization Act, we created a program within the temporary early retirement authority which encouraged retiring service members to enter public and community service employment.

Under this program, if an early-retiree takes a job in a critically needed skill area, he or she can accrue additional military retirement credit up to the 20-year mark.

Today almost 9,000 individuals who chose early retirement are working in public and community service positions and, as such, are earning additional credits toward their military retirement. This program has encouraged many of our former service members to use their talents to improve their communities.

There has been a big push lately for the Federal Government to help States and localities cope with crime. But in many ways, the quality of law enforcement will never be better than the quality of the front line police officers patrolling the street. That's why I suggested that service people, with their training to think on their feet and handle complex and dangerous situations, be encouraged to pursue a law enforcement career.

To this end, we authorized the Troops to Cops Program. A combined effort of the Departments of Defense and Justice, Troops to Cops will provide funds to local law enforcement agencies to offset the initial cost of hiring former service members as police officers. We may never have statistics on the number of crimes prevented or how much safer people feel as a result of having these highly-trained professionals on their local police force, but America will certainly be the better for it.

Perhaps the most successful community service initiative we established

for people leaving the service is the troops to teachers program. This program provides stipends to assist people leaving the military in obtaining certification as elementary and secondary school teachers or teachers' aides.

In addition, it helps disadvantaged local schools that have a shortage of teachers and teachers' aides to hire program participants. This program helps bring together one of our greatest national needs, tough but inspiring teachers for tough schools, with one of our greatest national assets the men and women trained and molded by the Armed Forces.

Departing service members placed in the troops to teachers program everywhere from South Carolina to New York are writing back to the Department of Defense, raving about the support they've gotten.

To date, 4,337 departing service members have been selected for the troops to teachers program; 1,482 are now in training programs leading toward the necessary certification. And over 800 former soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines are already in classrooms helping America's kids. This is a success story of the first order.

In sum, Mr. President, the post-cold war drawdown of our forces and the transition programs for departing service members are a case of government doing a job well. The Congress, the executive branch, and the uniformed military each did their part, and we all had the readiness of the force and the well-being of the service members in mind as we created and executed these policies.●

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to lend my strong support to H.R. 1281. This sense of the Congress measure is intended to act as a first step to urge several Federal agencies through the Freedom of Information Act, to open their files that contain information about individuals that are believed to have participated in Nazi war crimes.

This sense of the Congress measure stems from the efforts of Representative MALONEY of my home State of New York. Representative MALONEY propose H.R. 1281, a bill that would have amended the National Security Act of 1947, and required Federal agencies to make public under the Freedom of Information Act, all information regarding individuals who participated in Nazi War Crimes during World War II.

Mr. President, it is very important that we make a strong statement in this body that all the facts relating to the Holocaust be brought to light. I believe that it is our duty to never forget the millions of people who died in the Holocaust. Further, I believe we also have a duty to the survivors and victim's families to pursue every answer into this terrible period in the history of man. Yet, over 50 years have passed since the end of World War II and we

still have many unanswered questions. Some of these questions can be answered with the cooperation of our own Federal agencies, but, some agencies have inexplicably blocked access to files and information that could help to shed light on the Holocaust and Nazi war criminals. These answers could help to provide piece of mind to millions of people around our country and around the world. Further, the release of these Nazi war crime files could provide historians with a more clear view of these horrible events over half a century ago, thus helping to ensure the despicable acts of the Holocaust are never repeated.

The survivors and victim's families have waited too long. The time to open the files is now, there can be no more excuses. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort and ask for their support on this measure.●

TRIBUTE TO THE 1996 OLYMPICS GAMES

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, this year marked the 100th anniversary of the Olympic games. As with any Olympiad, hard work, blood, sweat, and tears culminated in 2 weeks' worth of contested international sportsmanship. The best of America, and the world, competed for the thrill of victory again on American soil in Atlanta, GA. There, over 10,000 athletes from 197 countries were brought together—with the world watching—to witness 17 days worth of comradeship, expectation, determination, triumph, and defeat.

I am proud that West Virginia played a key role in allowing the 1996 Olympic summer games to proceed. Two historical cities of my State, Wheeling and Martinsburg, hosted separate Olympic time-trial qualifying events for cycling. This was a first. West Virginia had never hosted an Olympic trials event. But our role contributed to the selection of the most superior men and women cyclists ever to represent the United States. For cycling enthusiasts, the eyes of the Nation were focused on these world-class riders. But they also witnessed the best attributes of my State—the beautiful outdoors, friendly people, culture, communities, and spirit that defines the proud residents of Appalachia.

The 1996 Olympic games, America's Games, began on July 19 when the Olympic torch entered Olympic Stadium. The torch carried a flame that had traveled from Athens, Greece, on an 84-day voyage to the United States host city. The flame represented both an ending and a beginning.

It symbolized an ending to the first 100 years of the modern Olympic games. Since 1896, we have seen our world savaged by wars, famines, Depression, and conflict. At times, it seemed unlikely that not much more than the spirit of the games would survive. But it did. Each and every time, the flame was relit—its message of hope and strength brought the world