

Mr. President, I wish Jim Bond well as he leaves the Senate. I know our paths will cross again and I will welcome him. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Bond for his service and congratulating him on his retirement from the staff of the U.S. Senate.

Aloha Jim.●

TRIBUTE TO THE 16 DEDICATED
NEW HAMPSHIRE VOLUNTEERS
OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
MEDICAL MISSION TEAM

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to 16 dedicated volunteers from New Hampshire who willingly devoted countless hours and tremendous energy to provide free medical and dental care to the people of the Dominican Republic. Last month, the volunteers of the Medical Mission Team traveled to the Dominican Republic where they operated free medical and dental clinics for a week and treated numerous people who normally cannot afford medical care. I commend all 16 volunteers for their genuine concern and true commitment to such an honorable cause. I am very proud of their unending support for the needy people of the Dominican Republic.

Months of careful planning and preparation allowed the Medical Mission Team to venture into different areas of the Dominican Republic to treat a variety of patients. The team members included: Dr. Mark McDonald; his wife, Ruth; and daughter, Jill; Jack Meibaum; his wife, Joanne Parkington; and son, David Parkington; Dr. Marianne Hopkins; and her husband, Dr. Andrew Hopkins; Werner Muller; and David Gabrielli, all from Concord; Claire Roberge, of Epsom; Don Gagne, of Penacook; Doug Tabor, of Boscawen; Gordon Barrett, of West Swanzey; and Lisa Ann Wiener and George Rogers, both from Bow.

Prior to the February mission trip, the volunteers met regularly in the evenings to learn minor medical care, repair pieces of dental equipment, build specially designed dental units, and plan the details of the clinics. Jack Meibaum, a contractor; Dr. Mark McDonald, a Concord dentist; and others salvaged old dental equipment and spent many hours in their basements updating and improving the equipment for the medical work they would perform.

After discussing the trip with New Hampshire businesses and organizations, and several pharmaceutical companies, Jack and Mark solicited critical donations for the trip. The Bow Rotary Club donated funds for a dental equipment compressor, A & B Lumber in Concord sold the compressor to the team at cost, and the Concord Tire Co. generously gave donated money for medical and dental supplies. Siemens X-ray Co. also donated a portable dental x-ray machine and numerous national pharmaceutical companies provided free or discounted medical and

dental supplies. In the end, the team had so many supplies that they even had difficulty getting the large, over-stuffed suitcases of supplies through customs with the local officials at the Puerta Plata Airport in the Dominican Republic.

Five of the volunteers—Mark, Jack, Doug Tabor, Don Gagne, and Claire Roberge—made up the first team to arrive. During their first 3 days, the team made daily trips to a small church in Moca where they worked tirelessly unpacking bulky dental equipment that had been shipped separately in a crate from New Hampshire. I was honored to have helped get this crate shipped to the Dominican Republic after the team asked for my assistance.

In addition to numerous other tasks, Jack and Mark set up the portable dental units making certain the air and water pumps worked on the dental units while Don, Claire, and Doug constructed a stand for the indispensable dental light. Doug's construction expertise was very helpful, Jack and Mark demonstrated their engineering brilliance in building equipment, and Claire and Don were energetic and happy to do even the most mundane tasks. All five volunteers worked until they were exhausted to ensure the equipment would run efficiently when used for the clinics the following week.

The remaining team members arrived on Friday, February 21, bringing more medical supplies, and helped make the final preparations for the long-awaited clinics.

For an entire week, the medical and dental teams treated the needs of numerous Dominican patients. Jack cleaned teeth for hours, Mark and Don filled cavities, and Jill, Lisa, and David sterilized dental equipment and developed dental x rays. At the medical clinic locations, Marianne, a pediatrician, and her husband, Andrew, who is also a doctor, treated endless lines of needy patients rarely taking a break even for lunch. Mothers came in with babies that had parasites, an elderly man complained of arthritis, a young boy's cut and infected feet were cleaned, two little girls were treated for asthma, and other sick Dominicans asked for assistance. Joanne, Claire, Werner, and George worked quickly to compile each patient's medical history and check their temperature and blood pressure. The medical team had prepared so thoroughly that they even brought preprinted medical charts. Lisa, Jill, David, and Ruth performed a puppet show for the waiting children and Gordon, a professional photographer, documented everyone's efforts. The demand for dental and medical care was truly overwhelming. The team worked long hours each day to ease the pain and anxiety of so many people.

On the first day of the medical clinic, a young woman came in with her very sick 2-year-old boy. According to his mother, the little boy had cut his head while playing in one of the typically filthy ditches that carried trash and

sewage. He was sick from an infection. Twice during the next 2 days, Marianne treated the little boy for the terrible infection that had spread through his body. The medical team was very concerned that he would not be able to fight off the infection until Tuesday morning when Marianne could hook him up to an IV. They had witnessed their worst fear—a dying child.

Just 2 days later in the morning, as the medical team had just set up a second clinic in Moca, the little boy made an appearance. He walked into the clinic with his mother following behind. Upon seeing the phenomenal progress the little boy had made, the entire medical team began clapping exuberantly. Soon the clapping changed to cheers and words of relief that echoed their greatest feeling of accomplishment—saving a life. I was very impressed with this story, relayed to me by one of my staffers, Anna Matz, who volunteered her time to participate in the mission.

For a over a week, these New Hampshire volunteers poured endless energy into helping the many Dominicans that ventured into the clinics. Their work was exhausting but very fulfilling. Toward the end of the week, the dental and medical clinics became mobile and operated in neighborhoods where children and families were the most sick. At one point, the medical team went into a barrio, a very poor neighborhood, and knocked on each door asking if any family members needed medical care.

While the 16 New Hampshire volunteers worked day after day, several American missionaries and a few native Dominicans provided support and assistance. Paul and Eileen Allyn, American missionaries in Santa Domingo, oversaw the teams' every need with Marge and John Gudmundsun, other missionaries. Denny, Rafael, and Vladimir, young Dominican men, accompanied the team as translators and provided an occasional laugh.

Many Dominicans, for whom pain is a way of life, got a little relief last month as these dedicated New Hampshire citizens gave their time, devotion and compassion to the needy people of this Caribbean island. I am proud of their work and congratulate them on a job well done. They truly embody the real spirit of voluntarism, and I am proud and honored to represent them in the U.S. Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD NEVILLE

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a true public servant and a dear friend, Bernard Neville of Cromwell, CT.

Bernie was honored this past Saturday as the Democrat of the Year by the Cromwell Democratic Town Committee, for his nearly 25 years of service as Cromwell's town clerk and treasurer. I join all the residents of Cromwell in congratulating and honoring Bernie on his impressive record of achievement.