

The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The award can be earned by girls aged 14-17, or in grades 9-12. To receive the award, these Girl Scouts first earned four interest project patches, the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award and the Senior Girl Scout Challenge as well as designing and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project to meet a special need in their communities.

As members of the Vermont Girl Scout Council, Melissa and Tina first earned badges in understanding yourself and others, child care, games, creative writing, and reading. The girls then combined their efforts in a project to combat illiteracy. They designed a series of three workshops for young children about the magic of books which they put on at their local town library. The workshops featured a magician, hired with money the girls raised themselves, magic tricks and crafts taught by the girls, and wonderful stories featuring magic. They attracted a large number of youngsters. The girls reported "everything we did interested and excited the children; they wanted to read more books and they now know the library and are planning to come to their future children's programs".

Jennifer and Vincenza put their efforts into making a special place for some elderly members of their community. The girls designed and established a conversation garden to give nursing home residents and their guests access to sidewalks, shade, and beauty, putting in two settees and planting bulbs and a flowering crabapple tree, all financed by the girls' sale of handmade cookbooks. To quote the nursing home administrator, "these two young people have earned the respect and appreciation of 125 nursing home residents and 160 employees of Eden Park".

As a member of the Vermont Girl Scout Council, Lori first earned badges in child care, reading, music, games, well being and understanding yourself and others. She then used these skills to design and implement a series of Lenten workshops for the younger children in her parish church. Kathleen earned badges in artistic crafts and exploration among others. After learning leadership skills through Girl Scouting, she served as the editor of her high school yearbook. As her Girl Scout Gold Award project she spent the last year organizing and leading a youth group for teens which meets every other week and a youth band which plays every Sunday for her church parish. Kathleen wanted the young people in her parish to "feel a sense of home in the church." Both girls used the skills they learned in Girl Scouting to help the church of their faith.

These six Senior Girl Scouts have earned my respect and admiration. I believe all the girls should receive the public recognition due them for such

significant services to their communities and their country.●

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD P. SCOTT

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, it is with great regret that I rise today to note the impending retirement of Edward P. Scott, Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs with the Department of Veterans Affairs [VA]. Ed has served in this position since his confirmation by the Senate in May 1993, after being nominated by President Clinton.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have greatly appreciated Ed's successful efforts to maintain close relations with legislators and keep Congress apprised of VA operations, programs, and policies. During his tenure, VA confronted the impact of judicial review on veterans' claims; addressed the health care, research, and compensation needs of Persian Gulf veterans suffering from undiagnosed illnesses; and, in the face of unprecedented fiscal pressures, began the most comprehensive restructuring of its health care and benefits administrations in history. Ed has played a critical role in developing and implementing VA's response to each of these challenges, while keeping Congress fully informed of, and involved in, major developments.

Mr. President, prior to his administration appointment, Ed enjoyed a long and varied career in public service. After graduating cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1963, where he was Law Review editor, he clerked for New Jersey Supreme Court Associate Justice Nathan Jacobs. He then joined the Air Force for 3 years, working as an assistant staff judge advocate at Keesler Air Force Base before retiring in the rank of captain. Soon after, he joined the Peace Corps, serving as deputy director and, later, country director, in Korea. Returning to the United States, he signed on as a staff attorney to the Mental Health Law Project in Washington, DC. In 1977, he joined the staff of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, thus embarking on a long and distinguished career in the veterans arena. In the 16 years he was employed on the committee staff, he alternately served as majority and minority general counsel and, ultimately, staff director and chief counsel.

As a committee staffer, Ed was instrumental in creating the Vet Center Program, enacting the Montgomery GI bill, elevating VA to cabinet rank, and establishing the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals. During the 102d Congress, one of the most productive legislative periods in the committee's history, he helped revamp VA physician pay, improve homeless veterans programs, create a fairer system of compensation for survivors of disabled veterans, bring educational benefits in line with inflation, heighten concern for minority veterans, and establish a program to help treat women who were sexually

abused in the military. In addition, under the leadership of my distinguished colleagues, Senator DASCHLE and Senator ROCKEFELLER, respectively, he helped resolve controversial matters relating to agent orange exposure and VA drug pricing.

Mr. President, I should also note that Ed played an important role in improving health care benefits and services for Hawaii's 120,000 veterans. Ed had an opportunity to visit Hawaii, gaining firsthand an appreciation of the unique needs of our multiethnic veterans population as well as of the special problems that confront the community as a consequence of Hawaii's insular geography and isolation from the mainland. He materially supported the Hawaii Delegation's efforts, initiated by my late predecessor, Senator Spark Matsunaga, to establish a VA medical center on Oahu; triple the size of the Honolulu VA outpatient clinic; and, establish vet centers, primary care clinics, and a residential post-traumatic stress disorder treatment center in the neighbor islands.

Mr. President, however extensive Ed's achievements, what is most remarkable about this good man is the grace and sense of balance he has brought to public service. In dealing with many different organizations and personalities, each with a separate agenda, often on extremely contentious issues, he brought calm to rough waters and comfort to bruised egos. His willingness to consider every side to an issue, his ability to rise above partisan and personal concerns, truly elevated the level of debate on veterans issues. By his example, he constantly reminded us of our primary obligation, which is to promote the welfare of veterans.

Thank you, Mr. President. Ed's departure from public service is a loss to all who care about good government. I offer him and his wife, Jane, my best wishes as they embark on a new, and I hope rewarding, phase of life.●

NATIONAL STROKE AWARENESS MONTH

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to take a few minutes to discuss National Stroke Awareness Month.

Every year in our country, approximately 28 out of every 100,000 people will suffer from a stroke. In fact, the third leading cause of death in the United States is a stroke. However, advances in medical technology and better control of high blood pressure have greatly reduced the number of strokes per year.

The number of strokes can be reduced even further if just a few preventive steps are taken. Periodic medical checkups and being on the look out for warning signs like high blood pressure, heart disease, age, and heredity are several basic ones.

A stroke occurs when blood vessels carrying oxygen and nutrients to the brain either become clogged or burst.