

had I been able to be here, I would have voted "aye" to support the expansion of NATO. Ironically, my absence last night was due to the fact that I was supposed to be on my way to a conference in Europe, which is the New Atlantic Initiative Conference to discuss and support NATO and NATO expansion. The New Atlantic Initiative is a relatively new organization, founded among, other things, to promote the continued development of, and enhancement of, the strong relationship between the United States and our NATO allies.

Unfortunately, because a lot of my colleagues had a lot to say and had amendments to offer, many of which were ultimately withdrawn, the leader and the distinguished minority leader were not able to close the debate in time for me to make that vote. Unfortunately, also, I delayed my departure until the very last aircraft to Europe. That aircraft was taken out of service. That is why, about midnight last night, I learned not only that I would not be able to go to that NATO conference but that I had also missed the vote on NATO expansion. I regret that very much, because I would have liked to have been here to cast my vote in support of that.

I note that a letter from the distinguished majority leader, which I was to deliver to the representatives of the Turkish Government, has been delivered, and, therefore, the Senate is also represented at that conference as it is going on here today. I certainly appreciate the majority leader's support for that.

TRIBUTE TO ERROL SEWELL

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, if one wants to find an excellent example of a private organization making a significant difference in the lives of young people, one need look no further than the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. This organization has dedicated itself to providing invaluable services and activities for our Nation's youngest citizens, and their efforts have not only helped to provide a diversion from the many destructive temptations that face our children in this day and age, but have also made neighborhoods throughout the United States better places to live.

For the past forty-two years, Errol Sewell has dedicated his life to promoting the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and helping to make this organization the success it is today. Mr. Sewell's association with the Boys & Girls Clubs began in Valdosta, Georgia where he was a member of the clubhouse in what was then a small, sleepy southern town near the Florida border. In 1956, Mr. Sewell made what was a natural transition, from that of "club member" to "club staffer", and he began what became a lifelong association with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Mr. Sewell's abilities and talents as a manager and a leader did not go unno-

ticed, and he was brought to the national staff in 1969 in the capacity of field representative for the Southeast region. Over the past almost twenty years, he has worked tirelessly to promote the Clubs, and has steadily moved up the organization ladder to the position of senior vice president. In that capacity, Mr. Sewell established what will be his most lasting legacy of service and accomplishment in the Boys & Girls Clubs of America organization, he is credited with being one of the key people in almost doubling the number of members of this organization.

In the late 1980's when Mr. Sewell became Senior Vice President for Field Services, there were approximately one million boys and girls who belonged to about 1,000 clubs across the nation. It became the vision and the goal of senior officers of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America to double the size of its membership in five years, and largely through the determination and hard work of Errol Sewell, that goal was reached. Today, there are almost three million children who are members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and clubhouses are added to this organization at a rate of about four a week. This is truly an impressive accomplishment, and it is one that is worthy of commendation. Errol Sewell and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America are deserving of credit and our gratitude.

Mr. President, Errol Sewell is retiring from the organization that has been a part of his life since his childhood. As this dedicated man steps down from his duties, he can take great pride in all he has accomplished, not the least of which is securing the most lucrative endowment the organization has ever received, \$10 million to establish the "Joseph B. Whitehead Leadership Development Fund". Unquestionably, Mr. Sewell leaves the Boys & Girls Clubs of America a bigger, better, and stronger organization thanks to his efforts, and I know that he will be missed by all those who have had the pleasure of working with him. I am certain that all my colleagues would join me in congratulating him on his successes and wishing him continued health and happiness in the years to come.

CHIEF HAROLD BRUNELLE OF THE HYANNIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the Hyannis Fire Department recently honored Harold S. Brunelle of Hyannis by appointing him as Fire Chief. This honor is a well-deserved tribute to Chief Brunelle, his 26-year career with the Department, and his commitment to the community of Hyannis.

Chief Brunelle was chosen after nation-wide competition for the position of Fire Chief, and he was selected unanimously for the position in a field of 34 applicants.

Chief Brunelle joined the Hyannis Department in 1972 as a Junior Firefighter and rose through the ranks be-

cause of his great ability and dedication. His selection as Fire Chief demonstrates the town's confidence in Mr. Brunelle and their faith in his able service and leadership to the residents of the community.

Hyannis and Massachusetts are proud of Harold Brunelle's appointment as Fire Chief. I congratulate him on this distinction, and I look forward to working closely with him in the years ahead.

I ask unanimous consent that an article from the Barnstable Register on Chief Brunelle's selection be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Barnstable Register, Mar. 19, 1998]

NEW FIRE CHIEF A FAMILIAR HYANNIS FACE
(By John Basile)

HYANNIS.—A 26-year commitment to the Hyannis Fire Department has led Harold Brunelle to its top job.

Mr. Brunelle was named fire chief late last week in a unanimous vote of the Board of Fire Commissioners after a nationwide search to replace Chief Paul Chisholm, who retired after seven years on the job. He was selected from a field of 34 applicants.

"Just to be a firefighter is a privilege and an honor. To be able to rise through the ranks and become chief is the proudest thing I could experience," Chief Brunelle said during an interview in his office at the Hyannis fire station.

Chief Brunelle has been serving as acting chief since last November when Chief Chisholm stepped down. He started with the Hyannis Fire Department in 1972 as a junior firefighter and was appointed a permanent firefighter in 1974. He rose through the ranks of senior firefighter, lieutenant and captain before becoming deputy chief in 1990.

Born and raised in Hyannis, Chief Brunelle still lives there with his wife and three children, and said his appointment sets an important precedent for the Hyannis Fire Department.

"One of the real positive things that came out of the appointment is that people from within the department received the message that there is career advancement here," Chief Brunelle said. Promotions within the department to fill Chief Brunelle's former role as deputy chief and other command positions are expected in the next few months and will depend on the results of competitive exams.

The appointment of the new fire chief followed a grueling selection process involving a mathematical ranking formula, scrutiny by a professional assessment panel and one-on-one interviews with fire commissioners.

"Nobody can say he wasn't tested," said Richard Gallagher, chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners. "I'm delighted for him because he's earned it, just as he earned every rank in the department." Mr. Gallagher praised the new chief's style.

"He will be a chief that can be approached by people," he said. "You'll get an honest answer out of Harold."

The new chief said he was supported through the application process by former fire Chief Glen Clough, "who basically built the Hyannis Fire Department in his 30-plus years as chief." He also thanked former Chief Richard Farrenkopf "for all of his time and expertise devoted to training."

Chief Brunelle, who has logged countless hours over the years in schools and at fire safety events, said residential fire prevention will continue to be a high priority for him.