care but, in doing so, has called the medical profession’s bluff. Say Uwe Reinhardt, a health economist who teaches at Princeton University, “Doctors always say the are rug-ged if you give them the free enterprise ball and, such, and now at the first sight of a nurse they run to the government and say, ‘Please use your coercive powers to protect us!’”

Even some opponents, however, fear that Mundinger’s model, for all its noble objectives, will appeal to the basest motives of insur-ers and employers, leaving patients, in the end, with less-trained people who are in just as much of a hurry. There is some rea-son for doubting this: A study in the April Nurse Practitioner, for example, found NPs more consistent than gynecologists in adher-ing to medical standards in evaluating cer-vice dysplasia, a precursor to cervical can-cer. And as Robert Brook, a Rand analyst who is conducting an internal assessment for CAPNA, puts it: “It’s not like we started out with a perfect system.”

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL KEVIN “SPANKY” KIRSCH, USAF

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Kevin “Spanky” Kirsch, United States Air Force, on the oc-ca-ssion of his retirement after over twenty-years of exemplary service to our na-tion. Kirsch’s strong com-mitment to excellence will leave a last-ing impact on the vitality of our na-tion’s military procurement and infor-mation technology capabilities. His ex-pertise in these areas will be sorely missed and we congratulate both in the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill.

Before embarking on his Air Force career, Colonel Kirsch worked as an esti-mator/engineer for Penfield Electric Co. in upstate New York, where he de-signed and built electrical and mechan-ical systems for commercial construc-tion. In 1978, Colonel Kirsch received his commission through the Officer Training School at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, TX. Eagerly traveling to Williams AFB in Arizona for flight training, Colonel Kirsch earned his pilot wings after successful training in T-37 and T-38 aircraft.

In 1980, Colonel Kirsch was assigned to Carswell AFB, in Fort Worth, TX, as a co-pilot in the B-52D aircraft. While serving in this capacity on nuclear alert for the next five years, he earned his Masters degree, completed Squa-dron Officer School and Marine Corps Command and Staff School by cor-re-spondence, and earned an engineering specialty with the Civil Engineer-ing Squadron.

An experienced bomber pilot serving with the 7th Bomb Wing, Colonel Kirsch, then a First Lieutenant, served as the Resource Manager for the Direc-tor of Operations—a position normally filled by an officer much more senior in rank. He was selected to the Standard-ization Evaluation (Stan-Eval) Divi-sion and became dual-qualified in the B-52H. Subsequently, he was selected ahead of his peers to be an aircraft commander in the B-52H.

Colonel Kirsch was selected in 1985 as one of the top 1% of the Air Force’s captains to participate in the Air Staff Training (ASTRA) program at the Pen tagon. His experience during that tour, working in Air Force contracting and legisla-tive affairs, would serve him well in later assignments.

In 1986, Colonel Kirsch returned to flying in the FB-111 aircraft at Plattsburgh AFB, NY. He joined the 529th Bomb Squadron as an aircraft com-mander and was designated a flight commander shortly thereafter. He em-ployed his skills to help automate the scheduling functions at the 380th Bomb Wing and was soon desig-nated chief of bomber scheduling.

Following his tour with the 529th, Colonel Kirsch was assigned to Strate-gic Air Command (SAC) Headquarters at Offutt AFB, NE. As Chief of the Ad-vanced Weapons Concepts Branch, he served as a liaison with the Depart-ment of Energy on nuclear weapons programs and worked on development of new strategic systems—including the B-2 bomber. Colonel Kirsch was one of four officers chosen to be part of the commander-in-chief’s (CINC’s) staff group to facilitate the transition of SAC to Strategic Command (STRATCOM). Originally picked as a technical officer, he soon became the legislative liaison for STRATCOM. In this capacity, Colo-nel Kirsch organized congressional delegations to visit STRATCOM, and managed CINC STRATCOM’s inter-action with Capitol Hill.

In 1994, Col Kirsch traveled here to Washington, to begin his final assignment on active duty. Initially serving as a military assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legis-lative Affairs, Colonel Kirsch once again quickly distinguished himself and was designated the special assist-ant for acquisition and C3 policy. Rep-re-senting the Secretary of Defense, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisi-tion and C3, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for C3, Colonel Kirsch managed a myriad of critical initiatives including acquisition re-form and information assurance. He also served as the principal architect for the organization’s web page, computer network, and many of the cus-tom applications used to automate the office’s administrative functions.

Colonel Kirsch’s numerous military awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Air Force Achievement Award.

Following his retirement, Colonel Kirsch and his wife Carol will continue to reside in Springfield, VA with their children Alicia and Benjamin.

Mr. President, our nation, the Depart-ment of Defense, the United States Air Force, and Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Kirsch’s family can be proud of this out-standing officer’s many accomplish-ments. His honorable service will be genuinely missed in the Department of Defense and on Capitol Hill. I wish Lieutenant Colonel Spanky Kirsch the very best in all his future endeavors.


Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Officer Kimberly Sivyer of the Redford Township Police Department. He has been named the D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year for 1998 in the State of Michigan.

Officer Sivyer started with the Redford Police Department in 1981. He has dedicated his time and service to D.A.R.E. since 1990. Over the course of these eight years he has touched many students’ lives educating them about the dangers of drugs and violence. He has and continues to be an excellent role model for the youth of his community. His colleagues at the Redford Township Police Department and the members of his community recognize this and it is for these reasons that he is very deserving of this award.

I want to once again express my sincerest appreciation and congratulations to Officer Sivyer for being named D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year 1998. He truly deserves to be so proud of his achieve-ment.

THE COUNTRY OF GEORGIA

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words about Georgia and the recent events which have taken place in this impressive country. Several days ago, Georgia reaffirmed its commitment to full participatory democracy when the Minister of State requested the resignation of all cabinet ministers, and then resigned himself. His resignation was accepted, and President Eduard Shevardnadze has vowed to recon-stitute a new government by the middle of August. This transition, so reminis-cent of the ebb and flow of govern-ments in great parliamentary democ-racies, has been accomplished without violence or bloodshed, without chaos or confusion, and with the support of the Georgian people. Truly Georgia is an inspiration to peoples everywhere who long for democracy and who struggle against the freedom-stifling legacy of the communist experiment.

Georgia is impressive in other ways as well. Its economy continues to grow in a positive direction, unlike the economies of some of its neighbors; Georgia is not perfect, and it is not pristine. But it is progressive. With a growth rate of nearly 8 percent in 1997 and projected growth of 11-13 percent in 1998, Georgia is on track to a signifi-cant economic turn-around.

This turn-around and the prosperity that will inevitably flow from it, still involve many hurdles. Georgians have bravely faced these challenges, and they face more still. Probably none is so painful as the ongoing conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia’s most northwestern province bordering Russia. This brutal