

dedication to the men and women in uniform has vastly improved their quality of life and mission readiness. As he retires from the United States Army, he will leave behind a tremendous legacy.

Mr. President, General Hughes is a great credit to the Army and the Nation. I salute him for his many years of selfless service to our country, and offer my gratitude to him, his wife Karlene and their sons, Barry and Chad, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army. I know I speak for the people of my state when I say that I am proud of General Hughes; I know that I speak for all Americans when I say that he will be missed.●

A TRIBUTE TO BOB FERRELL

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a great patriot from my wonderful State of West Virginia, Mr. Robert "Bob" Ferrell. Bob retired from the U.S. Air Force with more than 21 years of active duty service. He bravely served his country during the Vietnam conflict on the C-130 Spectre Gunship as a gunner and instructor gunner. Over the course of many years of service, the Air Force honored Bob with numerous prestigious awards, including the coveted Distinguished Flying Cross.

After completing his tour in Vietnam, Bob returned to his lifelong home of Logan County, and began the hard work of a coal miner to support his family. Bob was an exemplary citizen and participated in many community activities. He was a lifetime member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. After retiring from the mines in the mid 1980's, Bob traveled all over our State seeking the opportunity to speak to our school children about the importance of service to our country and to our state.

A devoted husband and father, Bob raised four wonderful and productive children, two boys and two girls. The example he set for his sons resulted in both of them following in his footsteps and enlisting in the armed forces. The eldest, Mike, is serving in the 101st Airborne division of Fort Campbell, KY, and Steve is a full-time member of the West Virginia Army National Guard. His daughters also are respected members of their communities. The oldest, LaRue, is a chiropractor, and her younger sister, Anitra, is a loving mother and housewife.

Bob passed away in May of this year, and was buried, so appropriately, on the day which commemorates the lives of all those who sacrificed so much for our nation, Memorial Day. Mr. President, as you know, I am the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and I take great pride in recognizing this wonderful and patriotic man from my state of West Virginia. Bob was one of more than 200,000 veterans from my home State,

and represents the millions of Americans who served our country with pride and distinction. One of the best ways we can honor Bob's memory is to work diligently to ensure that the promises made by our government to all veterans are kept.

I would like to close by saying—thank you, Bob. Your outstanding attitude and unselfish lifestyle are an inspiration to the people of our State. You attained the goal all men strive for, in that, you left the world a better place for all of us.●

COLCHESTER LIONS CLUB

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Colchester Lions Club of Colchester, CT. On October 30, they will be celebrating their 50th anniversary of service to the Colchester community.

The Colchester Lions Club was established on August 2, 1949, and through the support of area residents, they have reached out to assist many members of the community. The Lions Club has lent its support to such worthwhile local causes as the D.A.R.E. Program for schools, academic scholarships for local students, and area food banks, and senior centers. They also have reached far beyond the Town of Colchester by raising funds for organizations such as the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation and Lions Clubs International.

As the Colchester Lions Club has grown over the years, their numerous good works have touched many lives and demonstrated the true value of volunteerism. The people of Connecticut thank the Colchester Lions Club and all its members for their service, dedication, and contribution to our State.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NORTH CATHOLIC GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the North Catholic Girls Basketball team for their 25 years of outstanding accomplishments.

Over the past 25 years, the team has earned a record of 671 wins and 100 losses. Coach Don Barth, the team's coach during their first 23 years, took the team to the WPIAL championship game 21 times. Last year, the team again went to the championship game under their current coach, Molly Larkin Rothman.

Among the team's other accomplishments, they have won the state championships seven times, the conference championship 25 times, and they hold the record for the longest winning streak with 56 wins between 1987 and 1989.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the North Catholic Girls Basketball team on their outstanding accomplishments over the past 25 years. They have provided an excellent example for youth in

Pennsylvania and throughout the country.●

DEATH OF CLIF LEAR

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, several weeks ago Cibola County in New Mexico lost one of its leading citizens when Clif Lear of Grants died of cancer.

A businessman, he took public service very seriously and served over the years as a city councilman and as the city manager. His contributions to economic development in an area hit hard when the mines closed made a huge difference to the people of Cibola County, as he worked tirelessly to attract new initiatives and new projects.

His wife and three daughters have the sympathy and appreciation of us all who are grateful for Clif's life and the effort he made to make his corner of New Mexico better.●

SENATE WILDERNESS AND PUBLIC LANDS CAUCUS

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I proudly join my colleagues as a founding member of this newly created Senate Wilderness and Public Lands Caucus. I congratulate my friend, Senator FEINGOLD, for his bold spirit and commitment to the active protection of our public lands. I accepted Senator FEINGOLD's invitation to participate in this new Caucus because we share a responsibility to protect the natural resources that sustain our world and grace the quality of our lives.

On this day, we commemorate the success of the 1964 Wilderness Act with a renewed commitment to responsible preservation. More than 35 years since the Act's passage, Americans can more readily cherish and enjoy pristine lands in their natural state, unencumbered by growth and development. An important goal of this new Caucus is the desire to improve our process for making important land management decisions impacting our public lands.

Developing consensus policy for public lands protection is of particular necessity and importance for western states. In Arizona, more than 80 percent of lands are held in public ownership, with 4.5 million acres designated as wilderness. Arizonans enjoy wilderness in such places as the Superstition Mountains, Cabeza Prieta, Baboquivari Peak and the Red Rock Secret Mountain.

Many more difficult land management decisions will require our thoughtful consideration. For example, the state of Arizona has grappled for more than ten years over the question of wilderness suitability for the state's largest national park, the Grand Canyon National Park. Arizonans are still engaged in deliberations of this important decision, as well as determining appropriate land management decisions for other areas in our state.

Each of us is well aware that public land management is divisive and, if not

carefully developed, can usually result in unfair games of give-and-take between land-users and conservationists. A fine balance between competing users has proved to be possible, and it is this balance toward which we must strive. I am joining with my colleagues in this Caucus because I believe that any decisions we make in the Congress for public land policy should heed the spirit of bipartisanship, promote the ethics of stewardship and multiple use, and protect individual rights. In general, we must ensure that all viewpoints on land-use issues are given fair opportunity to be heard.

We should find our inspiration in the example of a hero of mine, and a statesman of the highest virtue, Mo Udall, whose grace and wisdom should inspire every American. Mo once taught a freshman Congressman from the other side of the aisle a valuable lesson. He reached across party lines to enlist me in the effort to tackle environmental problems in our home state.

Mo's faith in the pursuit of cooperation and consensus enabled us to enact landmark legislation placing 3.5 million acres of pristine Arizona lands into the Wilderness Preservation System. Contrary to the predictions of naysayers and competing political interests, Mo Udall brought the Arizona congressional delegation together with broad support from the public. This was no simple task, but it worked, and Mo Udall demonstrated to his colleagues and constituents a successful formula for bringing together people of good faith and different perspectives to achieve a common purpose.

This new Caucus gives us an opportunity to uphold our commitment to responsible preservation while protecting the rights of all Americans for public use of lands. I encourage our colleagues, of all minds on this issue, to join in the Caucus so that our recommendations and discussions can be fully representative of all interested parties.●

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to express my great pride in becoming a founding member of the newly-formed Senate Wilderness and Public Lands Caucus. The protection of public lands is critical to the preservation of our national heritage, the protection of our environmental health and the endurance of the American tradition of respect for natural resources.

In September of 1964, the Wilderness Protection Act was passed. It was a landmark in public land protection, establishing that some lands managed by the federal government should be preserved as wilderness for the benefit of all Americans. My father was among the Senators who worked to pass that legislation.

Today, wilderness areas are under even greater pressure from increasing development and expansion. As Governor of Indiana, I worked to protect state lands by establishing the Indiana Heritage Trust, which preserved sensitive areas with the proceeds from

sales of environmental license plates. That initiative resulted in the protection of more than 5000 acres of threatened lands.

I am proud to join my colleagues in the Senate in starting the Wilderness and Public Lands Caucus and carrying forward the tradition of stewardship of federal lands reflected in the Wilderness Act of 1964. I would like to thank Senator FEINGOLD in particular for his leadership and dedication to this issue.

We have the obligation and the opportunity to protect the natural heritage that belongs to all Americans. The Wilderness and Public Lands Caucus will be an important asset in pursuing that goal by providing support and education regarding federal land management and wilderness areas.●

PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FOR POISON PREVENTION AND FUNDING OF REGIONAL POISON CENTERS—S. 632

On August 5, 1999, the Senate passed S. 632, as follows:

S. 632

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Each year more than 2,000,000 poisonings are reported to poison control centers throughout the United States. More than 90 percent of these poisonings happen in the home. 53 percent of poisoning victims are children younger than 6 years of age.

(2) Poison control centers are a valuable national resource that provide life-saving and cost-effective public health services. For every dollar spent on poison control centers, \$7 in medical costs are saved. The average cost of a poisoning exposure call is \$32, while the average cost if other parts of the medical system are involved is \$932. Over the last 2 decades, the instability and lack of funding has resulted in a steady decline in the number of poison control centers in the United States. Within just the last year, 2 poison control centers have been forced to close because of funding problems. A third poison control center is scheduled to close in April 1999. Currently, there are 73 such centers.

(3) Stabilizing the funding structure and increasing accessibility to poison control centers will increase the number of United States residents who have access to a certified poison control center, and reduce the inappropriate use of emergency medical services and other more costly health care services.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL TOLL-FREE NUMBER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide coordination and assistance to regional poison control centers for the establishment of a nationwide toll-free phone number to be used to access such centers.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the establishment or continued operation of any privately funded nationwide toll-free phone number used to provide advice and

other assistance for poisonings or accidental exposures.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$2,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2000 through 2004. Funds appropriated under this subsection shall not be used to fund any toll-free phone number described in subsection (b).

SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONWIDE MEDIA CAMPAIGN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a national media campaign to educate the public and health care providers about poison prevention and the availability of poison control resources in local communities and to conduct advertising campaigns concerning the nationwide toll-free number established under section 4.

(b) CONTRACT WITH ENTITY.—The Secretary may carry out subsection (a) by entering into contracts with 1 or more nationally recognized media firms for the development and distribution of monthly television, radio, and newspaper public service announcements.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$600,000 for each of the fiscal years 2000 through 2004.

SEC. 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) REGIONAL POISON CONTROL CENTERS.—The Secretary shall award grants to certified regional poison control centers for the purposes of achieving the financial stability of such centers, and for preventing and providing treatment recommendations for poisonings.

(b) OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.—The Secretary shall also use amounts received under this section to—

- (1) develop standard education programs;
- (2) develop standard patient management protocols for commonly encountered toxic exposures;
- (3) improve and expand the poison control data collection systems;
- (4) improve national toxic exposure surveillance; and
- (5) expand the physician/medical toxicologist supervision of poison control centers.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—Except as provided in subsection (d), the Secretary may make a grant to a center under subsection (a) only if—

- (1) the center has been certified by a professional organization in the field of poison control, and the Secretary has approved the organization as having in effect standards for certification that reasonably provide for the protection of the public health with respect to poisoning; or
- (2) the center has been certified by a State government, and the Secretary has approved the State government as having in effect standards for certification that reasonably provide for the protection of the public health with respect to poisoning.

(d) WAIVER OF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may grant a waiver of the certification requirement of subsection (c) with respect to a noncertified poison control center or a newly established center that applies for a grant under this section if such center can reasonably demonstrate that the center will obtain such a certification within a reasonable period of time as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(2) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may only renew a waiver under paragraph (1) for a period of 3 years.

(e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts made available to a poison control center under this section shall be used to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State, or local funds provided for such center.