

Vietnam, is well aware of these challenges. He has been a strong advocate on behalf of veterans during his service in the Senate and as Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

As ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee, I look forward to working with Secretary Principi to ensure that the FY 2002 budget for veterans health care services and benefits are sufficient to meet the growing needs of our veterans population, particularly our aging veterans. We must also make certain that the Department of Veterans Affairs is equipped to meet the many new challenges that are emerging as a result of the activities of our military personnel in peacekeeping operations and more non-traditional assignments around the world. I congratulate Secretary Principi on his appointment and commend him for his commitment to serve our Nation's veterans. No individual has a more solemn responsibility than the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

RETIREMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL DRENNAN A. CLARK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an outstanding individual, patriot and friend, Major General Drennan A. "Tony" Clark from my home state of Nevada. Major General Clark is retiring from the Nevada National Guard after more than 40 years of loyal and dedicated service.

Major General Clark first joined the Nevada National Guard as a young photo lab technician in 1960, and eventually rose to Adjutant General, the highest position in the Nevada Guard—a position he held for 14 years, a remarkably long time. It speaks volumes of the respect that General Clark commands in Nevada that he was re-appointed to that position four times, by Governors from both parties.

During his 14 years as Adjutant General, Tony Clark led the Guard through many upheavals, ranging from floods, to earthquakes, to civic emergencies, to the war on drugs. Units of the Nevada Guard fought in the Persian Gulf War. Hundreds of Nevadans owe their lives to the timely assistance of the Guard in all manner of emergencies.

The face of Nevada has changed dramatically since General Clark first assumed command—the state's population has nearly tripled in the last decade alone, small towns have exploded into cities, and Las Vegas has become an attraction to the world—and the Guard's military role has also shifted, from reconnaissance, to airlift, to Medevac, to tank-busting—but through it all, Tony Clark kept the Guard constantly vigilant, ready and able to answer any call. General Clark has led the Guard so capably and for so long that it will be hard to imagine the Nevada Guard without him in command.

General Clark grew up in Reno, Nevada and graduated from Bishop Manogue High School in 1955. He stud-

ied political science at the University of San Francisco, joined the Nevada Air National Guard shortly after graduation, and served in the Guard while attending law school.

After receiving his law degree in 1964, he began a budding career as a lawyer. But fate had something different in mind, and in 1968, young Second Lieutenant Clark was called to active duty during the Pueblo Crisis and served as the Commander of the 6314th Supply Squadron at Suwon Air Base and Oson Air Base, Korea.

He was released from active duty in 1969, and returned to Nevada and his career as a rising young lawyer. But a few years later, he sacrificed what in all probability would have been a distinguished and lucrative career in the legal profession to accept assignment as the Nevada Guard's Staff Judge Advocate, where he handled the Guard's legal matters, and a few years later was appointed the State Judge Advocate. After only a year as the State Judge Advocate, Tony Clark was appointed Assistant Adjutant General in 1984, and then became the acting Adjutant General in 1986. In 1987, he was formally appointed Adjutant General and held that position until his retirement last week.

During his tenure as the Adjutant General for the state of Nevada, General Clark was responsible for enhancing the National Guard nationally and within the state. General Clark was appointed by the Secretary of the Air Force to the Air Reserve Forces policy committee. Additionally, he served on the Reserve Forces Policy Board, as chairman of the Advisory Board to Air National Guard Professional Military Educational Center, and chairman of the National Guard Bureau Executive Environmental Quality Board. In each of these critical and prestigious assignments, General Clark played a key role in enriching and highlighting the National Guard.

General Clark's military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with one bronze oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with one silver oak leaf cluster, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with four bronze oak leaf clusters, Air Reserve Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with one silver and three bronze oak leaf clusters, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with one silver hourglass device, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with one bronze star, and many others.

Yet in spite of his long list of accomplishments and the many hours he

spent working to improve the Guard and ensure the safety of Nevada, Tony Clark never lost sight of the things that are truly important in life—his wife Andrea, his six children, and his many friends.

Many years ago, General Clark sacrificed a lucrative career as a lawyer to serve the people of his state and his country, and we are all better for his choice. And although he retired from the Guard last week and could have done many things with his career, Tony Clark chose to remain in public service, as Nevada's Solicitor General, where he will continue to serve the people of Nevada.

Mr. President, on behalf of myself and all of Nevada, I want to thank Tony Clark for his long years of sacrifice and service in the Nevada National Guard, and to wish him the best in his new career.

PIPELINE SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I am pleased to have co-sponsored a bill to modernize our Nation's pipeline safety programs. The issue of our country's pipeline safety came to the forefront after tragic explosions in Bellingham, Washington, and later, in my own state of New Mexico.

Just after midnight, August 19, 2000, an El Paso Natural Gas pipeline exploded on the Pecos River near Carlsbad, New Mexico. Twelve members of an extended family were camping near the explosion, which sent a 350 foot high ball of flame into the air. Six of the campers died instantly, and the remaining six later died from their horrific injuries.

Pipelines carry nearly all of the natural gas and about 65 percent of the crude oil and refined oil products. Three primary types of pipelines form a network of nearly 2.2 million miles, 7,000 miles of which lie throughout New Mexico.

Last Congress, the Senate unanimously passed similar legislation. Our colleagues in the other Chamber voiced serious concerns regarding that bill. Many of their criticisms related to the Office of Pipeline Safety, the Office within the Department of Transportation charged with keeping our Nation's pipelines safe. Unfortunately, the Office of Pipeline Safety has had a poor history of regulation and enforcement. It is true that the Office has traditionally been slow to act.

That said, we should not allow a former executive agency's failures to dictate our failure to act in accordance with our legislative mandate. In that regard, I intend to discuss the issue with our current Secretary of Transportation nominee, Mr. Mineta. I am confident that he will address our concerns regarding the Office of Pipeline Safety's record of enforcement with the new Director of the Office when he or she is nominated by our new President.