

During this tour he earned a coveted Shellback certificate for crossing the equator. He then reported as Chief Engineer on board USS *Benner* (DD 801) where he earned his first of three Navy Commendation Medals.

Several sea tours followed in steady progression. He was Executive Officer in USS *Dupont* (DD 941). He also was Executive Officer in USS *Sierra* (AD 18). He served as commissioning Commanding Officer of USS *Nicholas* (FFG 47) and Commanding Officer of USS *Samuel Gompers* (AD 37). It is difficult to convey the challenges and hardships that were faced by this officer and his family during these many and arduous sea tours.

As Vice Admiral Amerault progressed in the Navy he served as Staff Combat Information Center Officer for Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group TWO; and commanded Destroyer Squadron SIX, Amphibious Group FOUR, and the Western Hemisphere Group. Again, these were all difficult tours of tremendous responsibility that required an incredible commitment to duty and country.

Vice Admiral Amerault's shore assignments have included Director, Navy Program Resource Appraisal Division and Executive Assistant to the Director, Surface Warfare Division on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations.

His flag assignments have included Director, Operations Division, Office of Budget and Reports, Navy Comptroller; Director, Office of Navy Budget; and Director, Fiscal Management Division in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

His final tour in the Navy as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Fleet Readiness and Logistics) has demonstrated his brilliant logistics acumen. With dynamic leadership he has refocused the Navy's logistics systems to more accurately meet the needs of the war fighter and the Navy of the future.

A scholar as well, VADM Amerault is a graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School (MS Operations Research) and the University of Utah (MA Middle East Affairs and Arabic), and was the Navy's 1986-87 Federal Executive Fellow at the RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, California.

As he ascended to the highest echelons of leadership in the Navy, Vice Admiral Amerault garnered many commendations that further highlight his stellar career. They include the Distinguished Service Medal; Legion of Merit (seven awards); the Bronze Star with V; the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards); the Joint Service Commendation Medal; the Navy Commendation Medal (three awards); and Vietnam, Desert Storm, and numerous other campaign medals.

Vice Admiral Amerault also has the distinction of being the Navy's "Old Salt"—the active duty officer who has been qualified as an officer of the deck underway the longest.

Standing beside this officer throughout his superb career has been his wife

Cathy, a lady to whom he owes much. She has been his key supporter, devoting her life to her husband, to her family, and to the men and women of the Navy family. She has traveled by his side for these many years. They are the epitome of the Navy family team.

From the start of his career at the Naval Academy, through Vietnam, the Gulf War, Kosovo and beyond—thirty-six years—Vice Admiral Amerault has served with uncommon valor. He is indeed an individual of rare character and professionalism—a true Sailor's Sailor! I am proud, Mr. President, to thank him on behalf of the United States of America for his honorable and most distinguished career in the United States Navy, and to wish him "fair winds and following seas".

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEER REFEREES FOR THE 2001 SIGMA NU CHARITY BOWL

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, recently the Epsilon Xi Chapter of Sigma Nu at the University of Mississippi celebrated the eleventh anniversary of the Charity Bowl in Oxford, Mississippi. Founded in 1989, the Sigma Nu Charity Bowl has helped many unfortunate men and women, who from accidents or injuries have been permanently paralyzed. Since 1990, over \$500,000 has been raised to help these individuals.

Throughout the years, the Epsilon Xi Sigma Nu Charity Bowl has become one of the largest college philanthropy events in the nation. Every year, Sigma Nu competes in a football game against another fraternity from Ole Miss or another university. It has become an annual event that the citizens of Oxford, the parents of the players, and the Ole Miss community enjoy each year. This year's recipient was a very deserving young man named James Havard, who enjoyed watching Sigma Nu defeat Phi Delta Theta 18-13.

I would like to recognize some very special men who generously gave their time and talents in order to make the Charity Bowl a great success. Steve Freeman, Michael Miles, Kevin Roberts, Scott Steenson, and Michael Woodard are to be commended and honored for their efforts in serving as volunteer referees for the charity bowl football game. They graciously took time out of their busy schedules in order to make the game more enjoyable for the players and the fans, but more importantly they gave James Havard an opportunity to enjoy a better life.

These men belong to the Professional Football Referees Association Charities, PFRA. The PFRA is also very involved in helping out other charitable organizations such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation. This distinguished organization has been very helpful in getting aid to individuals like James, and they have given many people a chance to have a better life.

These men and the PFRA are to be commended for a job well done, and for

their continued efforts in improving the lives of others.

THE ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN GLOBAL AND NATIONAL COMMERCE ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of the most significant accomplishments of the 106th Congress was the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, commonly known as "ESIGN." This landmark legislation establishes a Federal framework for the use of electronic signatures, contracts, and records, while preserving essential safeguards protecting the Nation's consumers. It passed both houses of Congress by an overwhelming majority, and went into effect in October 2000.

I helped to craft the Senate version of the bill, which passed unanimously in November 1999, and I was honored to serve as a conferee and help develop the conference report. I am proud of what we achieved and the bipartisan manner in which we achieved it. It was an example of legislators legislating rather than politicians posturing and unnecessarily politicizing important matters of public policy.

Much of the negotiations over ESIGN concerned the consumer protection language in section 101(c), which was designed to ensure effective consumer consent to the replacement of paper notices with electronic notices. We managed in the end to strike a constructive balance that advanced electronic commerce without terminating or mangling the basic rights of consumers.

In particular, ESIGN requires use of a "technological check" in obtaining consumer consent. The critical language, which Senator WYDEN and I developed and proposed, provides that a consumer's consent to the provision of information in electronic form must involve a demonstration that the consumer can actually receive and read the information. Companies are left with ample flexibility to develop their own procedures for this demonstration.

When the Senate passed ESIGN in June 2000, I expressed confidence that the benefits of a one-time technological check would far outweigh any possible burden on e-commerce. I also predicted that this provision would increase consumer confidence in the electronic marketplace.

One year later, the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Commerce have issued a report on the impact of ESIGN's consumer consent provision. In preparing the report, these agencies conducted extensive outreach to the on-line business community, technology developers, consumer groups, law enforcement, and academia. The report concludes:

[T]hus far, the benefits of the consumer consent provision of ESIGN outweigh the burdens of its implementation on electronic commerce. The provision facilitates e-commerce and the use of electronic records and