

country address all aspects of the past soberly, respectfully, honestly and with justice.●

TRANSITION TO DIGITAL TELEVISION

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to direct my colleagues attention to the technological changes and developments going on in the television industry. Many people have said that the transition from analog to digital television broadcasts is the biggest innovation in TV since color television. Having seen a digital broadcast, it is as if you are watching the program or sporting event in person. I believe consumers will want to bring this technology into their homes.

I do not believe that we have yet discovered the full use of digital broadcast signals, but I do know that it has the potential to change the way people interact with their TVs. Imagine being able to participate in realtime with a game show on television or being able to "chat" with other viewers from around the country during a show. DTV may provide the platform for a more interactive television experience.

I am particularly interested to see how these technologies can be employed to allow local stations to better serve local communities. For the past half-century, local broadcasters have provided valuable services to their local communities. When disasters strike, important, life saving information is often disseminated over the airwaves. Local stations also keep residents informed of community political issues, thereby engaging citizens in the local democratic process.

Since its inception, the broadcasting industry has been founded on two important concepts: the idea of localism and the idea that broadcasting should be free, and over-the-air. I am proud to say that a number of Georgia stations are working to ensure that they continue to serve local communities with free, over the air signals in the digital era.

In my state, we have digital television stations up and broadcasting in four communities. In Atlanta seven stations have digital signals on the air: WAGA, WATL, WGCL, WPXA, WSB, WTBS, and WXIA. In Savannah WTOG is on the air in digital; in Augusta WFXG and WRDW-TV are broadcasting in digital, and in Columbus, WLTX and WXTX are serving Georgia viewers with digital television. These Georgia broadcasters have taken the next step in television, and for that I commend them. The transition to digital can be expensive, particularly for smaller stations.

To broadcast in digital, these businesses have invested in new transmission equipment and, in some cases, new broadcast towers. If they choose to produce their own digital content, like digital local news, they must invest in digital cameras and editing equipment. Finally, once their digital signal is on-

the-air, the stations must pay the bills to transmit two signals simultaneously to ensure viewers can receive both a digital and analog broadcast.

Despite the expenses, these Georgia stations have recognized that digital television is the future. I am confident that their investment in digital television will pay off and I commend them for leading the digital television charge.●

TRIBUTE TO THE CARDINAL CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I thank and honor the Cardinal Chapter of the American Red Cross of Henderson, Kentucky for the selfless and tireless work they performed in aiding the victims of the April 28th tornado which tore through Webster County, Kentucky.

Early Sunday on the morning of April 28th, an F3 classified tornado, with winds up to 200 miles per hour, violently forced its way through Providence, KY hitting at least 114 homes, completely destroying 32. In the end, 26 people were taken to the hospital. In just a few moments, Mother Nature had struck a blow against this normally quiet and peaceful town. People were left without homes and without adequate clothing and food supplies. They were also left without a sense of hope. However, this empty and lonely feeling would be short-lived. Volunteers from the Cardinal Chapter of the American Red Cross of Henderson, KY arrived on the scene just a few hours after the tornado passed through Providence.

Once on the scene, these volunteers wasted no time in setting up two shelters in Providence, providing victims with a roof, a hot meal, and a shoulder to cry on. They also sent food trucks to the nearby town of Irvington once they found out its residents were still without electricity hours after the storm had passed. Without the immediate assistance of the American Red Cross, many would have been left hungry without a home or clothing.

I ask that my fellow colleagues join me in thanking these men and women for their unwavering dedication and commitment to their fellow citizens. They willingly gave up their time and left their families in order to be there physically and emotionally for people they have never met before. I believe we all can learn something from their exemplary behavior. Sometimes it takes the worst to bring out the best, and I think this was the case on April 28.●

HONORING SOUTH CAROLINA'S DEBORAH CHAMBERS

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to an outstanding resident of South Carolina, Deborah A. Chambers. Ms. Chambers will soon complete her year as national presi-

dent of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, AANA. I am pleased one of our state's own was tapped as the 2001-2002 president of this prestigious organization.

The AANA represents 28,000 practicing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists. They administer more than 65 percent of the anesthetics given to patients each year in the United States. They provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and are the sole anesthesia provider in over two-thirds of rural hospitals.

Debbie has been a nurse anesthetist since 1981. She received both her anesthesia training and master's degree at the Medical University of South Carolina, in Charleston. She has been a solo practitioner since 1993 at the Microsurgery Center in Anderson, as well as in both the Greenville Memorial Medical Center and the Saint Francis Bon Secours Hospital System in Greenville. She also was the Clinical Coordinator at the Medical University of South Carolina School of Nurse Anesthesia at Greenville Memorial Medical Center from 1988-2000. Even with her demanding schedule, she has continued to be active on pharmaceutical advisory panels to advance the practice of anesthesia.

Debbie has held various leadership positions in the AANA, and has used her experience and knowledge to help others. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Deborah Chambers.●

TRIBUTE TO THE THIRD RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, I rise today in recognition of the dauntless history, honor, and tradition of the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, U.S. Marines, whose lineage traces back nearly 60 years of valiant service to our great Nation.

The contribution of the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion is embodied in the sign placed on top of the Battalion Mess Hall at Camp Reasoner which reads: "We Lead the Division—Where the Division Goes We've Been!"

While enjoying brief periods of respite, it was formed in September 1942. It was sent immediately to the Pacific Theater and participated in World War II campaigns at Bougainville, Solomon Island, Guam, and Iwo Jima. It was reactivated in March 1952 and deployed to Camp Gifu, Japan and later to Camp Hauge, Okinawa. Being reactivated again in April 1958, it was assigned to the 3rd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force. During Vietnam the unit was highly decorated with four Medals of Honor, 13 Navy Crosses, 86 Silver Stars, and many Purple Hearts awarded to Marines and Sailors. Additionally, the unit itself was awarded President Unit Citations, the Navy Unit Commendation, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, and earned other praise and recognition, as well.

While the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion has existed under different designations, its adherence to whatever