

In the global fight against infectious diseases, the lack of public health infrastructure contributes to widespread and needless suffering even when valuable drug treatments are available for use. When Merck made the decision to donate MECTIZAN to treat river blindness, the company understood that while providing the drug for free was necessary, it was not sufficient. They also understood that it was critical to create a reliable, effective distribution system that would ensure MECTIZAN reached the affected millions for as long as necessary.

The lack of public health care infrastructure was a tremendous challenge even though MECTIZAN is an easy to administer oral medication that requires only a single annual dose. To that end, a multisector coalition involving Merck, the World Health Organization; the World Bank; UNICEF; the Carter Center; Ministries of Health of endemic countries; more than thirty non-governmental development organizations, and local community health workers was created. The Merck MECTIZAN Donation Program is now considered by many to be the most important model for public/private partnerships for addressing health care issues in the developing world.

The success and sustainability of the Merck MECTIZAN Donation Program over the past 15 years demonstrates the power and possibilities in strong and creative public/private partnerships to help address the enormous public health challenges facing developing countries today. As a result of the MECTIZAN Donation Program, more than 30 million people are now receiving treatment for river blindness annually. Since the program's inception, Merck has donated more than 700 million MECTIZAN tablets. Access to MECTIZAN has spared millions of children and their families from the risk of infection and the fear of going blind due to river blindness.

Building on the success of the program's fight against river blindness, Merck expanded the program in 1998 to include the donations of MECTIZAN for the prevention of lymphatic filariasis, more commonly known as elephantiasis, in African countries where river blindness and lymphatic filariasis co-exist. It is estimated that 300 million people in Africa are at risk of this disease.

On this, the 15th anniversary of the Merck MECTIZAN Donation Program, I offer praise and gratitude to the many partners who have made life better for millions of people in the developing world.●

TRIBUTE TO ALAN KRANOWITZ

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a great friend and outstanding public servant, Alan Kranowitz, who passed away on June 3, 2002, following a long battle with cancer. Alan's loss continues to reverberate throughout the Washington D.C.

area, a testament to the enormous impact he had and the plethora of lasting friendships he made during his 25 years of service as a top advisor to Congressmen and Presidents.

Alan was born and raised in New Britain, CT, and educated at Yale. He first came to Washington in 1965 to serve as executive assistant, and later as chief of staff to my father, Senator THOMAS DODD. By the time Alan left my father's office in 1971, he was one of my father's most valued and trusted aides.

But Alan did not only add knowledge and outstanding political instincts to my father's office. Alan's wit, good nature, and personal appeal made him beloved beyond measure by everyone who was fortunate enough to have known him, or to have worked with him, in my father's Senate office, and beyond.

After 1971, Alan moved easily between top congressional staff positions and key policy positions in the Nixon, Ford, and Reagan administrations. Starting off as Senate liaison for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under President Nixon, Alan soon became the chief lobbyist for the Office of Management and Budget in the Nixon and Ford Administrations.

In the mid-1980s, Alan joined the Reagan White House as a chief legislative advisor and liaison, where his encyclopedic knowledge of policy and his personal ability to bridge differences between Democrats and Republicans made him a key player in shaping the legislative agenda of President Reagan's second term.

Ken Duberstein, President Reagan's Chief of Staff, told *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* that Alan was an invaluable part of Reagan's legislative team; that the White House "relied heavily on [Alan] in determining what was possible and doable" because Alan always offered "absolutely unbiased, straightforward advice."

Aside from working in the White House, in the 1980s, Alan also served as chief of staff to former Representative Tom Loeffler of Texas, and as a senior advisor to House Republican leader Bob Michel.

In 1989, Ronald Reagan appointed Alan as an original council member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

For the past 12 years, Alan served as a senior vice president of the National Association of Wholesalers-Distributors.

I believe that Alan is best remembered in Washington as someone who brought integrity wherever he went, and excelled at whatever he did. In a town where one's political and institutional affiliations often define their career options, Alan moved easily from the Senate to the House, from Congress to the White House, and from Democratic to Republican positions.

That's because it was Alan the man, not Alan the Democrat, or Alan the

Republican, who lit up a room, who brought charm and grace along with him wherever he went, and who touched the hearts of everyone with whom he came in contact.

Alan's was a life cut short, and he will be sorely missed. To Carol, his wife of 35 years, and to his sons, Jeremy and David, and everyone else in Alan's family, I offer my most heartfelt condolences for your loss.

But I came to the floor of the Senate today not simply to mourn a loss, I came to the floor to celebrate a life. The life of Alan Kranowitz was truly a life well-lived. He touched so many and every one of us he touched is a better person because of it.●

VANESSA SHORT BULL IS MISS SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I publicly commend Vanessa Short Bull, a resident of Rapid City, South Dakota, on her selection to represent South Dakota in the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City, NJ.

Vanessa Short Bull's extraordinary dedication to educational excellence, efforts to increase political awareness, prodigious ballet talent, and years of dedicated practice helped her win the title of Miss South Dakota. Vanessa will now be traveling to Atlantic City to compete against other highly talented women from across our nation for the title of Miss America 2002.

Vanessa obtains the honor of being the first American Indian to be crowned Miss South Dakota. She was born on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and currently resides in Rapid City. She is an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, and a direct descendent of several great Lakota leaders. Thomas and Darlene Short Bull are Vanessa's proud parents, and they deserve special recognition for their roles in helping Vanessa obtain this prestigious honor.

"Political Awareness and Participation" is the center of Vanessa's platform. She believes it is important for Americans, especially young people and minorities, to become more involved in the democratic process. She has been actively helping her cause by registering voters and encouraging them to get out and vote. Vanessa will perform the classical ballet piece "The Dying Swan" for the talent portion of the competition. She has danced for more than 15 years and has studied at the School of Cleveland Ballet, Ballet West Conservatory, and the University of Utah.

The Miss America Organization has maintained a tradition of empowering American women to achieve their personal and professional goals, while providing a forum for them to express their opinions, talents, and intelligence. Vanessa exemplifies this tradition, and provides an excellent example for other gifted young women to emulate. All of South Dakota is proud to have her represent our great state.

Vanessa Short Bull is an extraordinary woman who richly deserves this distinguished recognition. I strongly commend her years of hard work and dedication, and I am very pleased that her substantial efforts are being publicly honored and celebrated. I wish her the best at the Miss America competition, and it is with great honor that I share her impressive accomplishments with my colleagues.●

CHARACTER COUNTS AND ALBUQUERQUE'S SEPTEMBER 11 COMMEMORATION

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to highlight the contributions of a community, dedicated to the spirit of the Character Counts education movement, in its commemoration of the first anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks on our Nation.

The Nation as a whole this week took time to honor the victims, salute our military men and women fighting the war on terrorism, and reaffirm our faith and belief in our great Nation. New Mexico communities joined in this effort, not least among them our largest city, Albuquerque.

I rise today to highlight Albuquerque's tribute because it fused the nearly decade-long effort to build character education into the day-to-day life of the city with the community's desire to commemorate September 11.

This week, some 4,200 Albuquerque school children simultaneously released helium-filled balloons as part of a "Character Counts Soaring Spirits Salute" to commemorate September 11. This balloon launch gave the students a chance to honor the people who lost their lives in last year's terrorist attacks.

But the Character Counts rally had a second purpose. We designed this balloon launch to lead into the celebration of National Character Week. Supporters of the Character Counts initiative hope this will become a yearly observance built around September 11, and the purpose of the week is to celebrate the acts of kindness and courage we see in our communities every single day.

The Character Counts Soaring Spirits Salute involved some outstanding New Mexico community leaders and business owners who worked together to make this event happen, and serve as evidence of a community working together to improve itself by promoting the tenets of good character. I am proud to say these are people who routinely rally behind our youth.

I believe some deserve to be singled out, including: the New Mexico State Fair; Excel Staffing Companies; MCI; Albuquerque Public Schools, (APS); KISS-FM; Public Service Company of New Mexico; Valley Distributing; Greg Cook Productions; Dave Garduño of Garduño's Restaurants; as well as the men and women of the 58th Special Operations Wing and the New Mexico National Guard of Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque.

A measure of gratitude is also owed to a number of individuals, including: Gabe Garcia and Chris Montaño of Duranes Elementary School; Judi Preston of Video Wizard; Eric Hampleman of Simmons Media; Steve Stucker of KOB-TV; Bill Wood of KRQE-TV; Bruce Bortner and Ed O'Leary of the Albuquerque Character Counts Leadership Council; Carole Smith of APS; Terry Eisenbart of Southwest Airlines, who sponsored State Fair festivities for the day.

I am very fortunate to represent a community like Albuquerque where I know we can always count on daily acts of Respect, Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Citizenship, Fairness and Caring. Those are the pillars of Character Counts, and it's why today I congratulate and I deeply thank my neighbors in New Mexico for their daily acts of kindness, courage, and character as we mark our progress as a nation and a united community a year after the terrible attacks on our Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY UNITAS

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, it is with sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to a man who passed away too soon, the Man with the Golden Arm, the great Baltimore Colt, Hall of Famer Johnny Unitas. He was known to many as the greatest quarterback to ever play in the National Football League. Yet to those of us in Baltimore and Maryland, he was our own Johnny U. He was the man who put professional football on the national map, who embodied the strong spirit of our city and State.

Johnny Unitas was born in Pittsburgh, but he spent most of his life in Baltimore. He was as much a part of the fabric of the city as crab cakes and Cal Ripken.

After high school, he wanted to play football in college at the University of Notre Dame. Yet the coaches there told him he was too small to play football. Johnny wound up playing at the University of Louisville, and was drafted in 1955 by his hometown Pittsburgh Steelers. The Steelers promptly cut him from the team before the 1955 season started, telling him that he wasn't smart enough to be a quarterback.

Pittsburgh's loss was Baltimore's gain. The Baltimore Colts signed him in 1956, and the rest is history. In 1958, he led the Colts to an improbable victory in the NFL Championship Game against the New York Giants, a game that is now referred to as "The Greatest Ever Played." Unitas engineered the famous 80-yard game-tying drive with less than 2 minutes to play in regulation, then led the Colts to victory in overtime. This was the first overtime game ever played in the NFL. The legend of Johnny Unitas was soon born.

His trademark crew-cut and black high-top cleats were copied by boys all over Baltimore, Maryland, and the entire country. Every kid wanted to be number 19.

His toughness was legendary. Many times he played with broken bones, through unbearable pain. The words he said to his teammates before every game embodied his spirit: "Talk is cheap, let's go play."

His accomplishments are too numerous to mention, but among them are these: 3-time Player of the Year; 3-time NFL Champion; first quarterback to pass for over 40,000 yards; a touchdown pass in 47 consecutive games, a feat which is compared to Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak; 10 Pro Bowl selections; Player of the Decade for the 1960's; Greatest Player in the First 50 Years of the NFL; NFL 75th Anniversary Team; and Hall of Fame Inductee, 1979. When he retired in 1973, Johnny Unitas held 22 NFL records.

It is not just his accomplishments on the field that endeared him to the fans in Baltimore. He was an unassuming superstar, a reluctant hero, a regular guy who happened to be a tremendous athlete. He understood that a smile or a handshake or an autograph could make a fan's day.

He was generous with charities, too, even as he fell upon difficult financial times. He established the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Educational Foundation, and supported various organizations dedicated to children's causes, cancer research, and victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Johnny Unitas was the underdog who became the greatest quarterback in the history of the National Football League. Yet beyond that, he was a fine person who will be sorely missed, not only in Baltimore and Maryland, but across the country. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, his friends, and his many, many fans.●

EXPULSION OF THE ACADIANS

● Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I rise today to address the injustices the British Crown inflicted upon the Acadian people over 200 years ago. Due to their refusal to take an oath of loyalty to the King of Great Britain that would require them to bear arms against their French ancestors, the British governor exiled them from their homes and confiscated their property in Eastern Canada beginning in 1755.

This action caused great suffering among the Acadian people as they struggled to find a new home. Forced from their homes, many left for the American colonies. Ultimately, a small group of Acadians found their way to the Spanish colony of Louisiana in 1764. In the next twenty-five years, over 2,600 made the journey to Louisiana.

These refugees ultimately settled in Louisiana and created the Cajun culture which has so richly influenced Louisiana since that time. While Louisiana culture benefited greatly from the Acadian expulsion, the suffering of the Acadian people must never be forgotten.