TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL
WILLIAM W. COBB, JR., U.S. NAVY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to recognize one of the finest officers in the Navy: Rear Admiral William "Bill" Cobb, on the occasion of his retirement on May 15, 2003. Admiral Cobb will leave his current job as Program Executive Officers Ships after over 37 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Navy and our nation. During his time in Washington, he engaged the Congress on numerous issues vital to our national security. Today, it is my pleasure to recognize some of Bill's many accomplishments and commend him and his family for their service to the Navy and our nation.

Admiral Cobb entered military service in 1968 after receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from the United States Naval Academy. He continued his education at the Naval Post Graduate School where he earned a Master's Degree in Operations Research in 1975. Admiral Cobb also attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Institute of Technology, Office of Naval Research, and the University of Michigan, Graduate Business School in 1994, and the Executive Program in National and International Security at Harvard University in 2001.

As Executive Officer aboard USS Jouett, CG 29, Admiral Cobb shined as a leader. Even though Jouett started out last in every competitive category, Admiral Cobb's ability to motivate all of the chain-of-command catalyzed the ship to the fleet's number one combatant in battle readiness. He later assumed duties as Commanding Officer of USS Coontz, 67G, where his ship provided the initial response to a distress call after USS Stark was struck by an errant Iraqi cruise missile. During his tour as Commander of Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head, Naval Ordnance Command, and Commanding Officer of the Naval Surface Warfare Center, New London, Admiral Cobb was responsible for all of the Navy's In-Service Engineering Agents, SEA.

Admiral Cobb also excelled in a variety of key staff assignments including Chief of Staff and Head, Fleet Introduction and Lifetime Support Division, AEGIS Program Office; a tour in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations as Head Readiness, Sustainability Team, OP 060; and Chief, Cruise Missile Defense Division, Plans and Policy Directorate, Commander Atlantic Fleet, where he planned all of the Tomahawk strikes for Desert Storm. As Program Executive Officer for Theater Surface Combatants, PEO TSC, he was responsible for the Ballistic Missile Defense, TBM, program, and introduction of the Cooperative Engagement Capability, CEC. On the international front, he headed shipbuilding programs with Spain, Japan, and worked with thirteen of our closest allies on the Standard Missile program. His tremendous effort significantly enhanced our allied forces' defenses against the growing tactical ballistic missile threat.

Admiral Cobb was also responsible for the life-cycle support of several ship classes including Ticonderoga Cruisers, Arleigh Burke Guided Missile Destroyers, Spruance Destroyers and Oliver Hazard Perry Frigates.

In conjunction with the Secretary of the Navy's reorganization efforts, Admiral Cobb took on the significant task of reorganizing three major Program Offices into one. Program Executive Officer, the National Surface Defense, sole responsibility for life-cycle support for all 13 surface ship classes, the heart of our entire Navy. This new Program Office is responsible for the execution of current and future shipbuilding programs that will carry the Navy well into the 21st century including the DDG 51 Arleigh Burke Class Destroyers, the LPD 17 San Antonio Class Amphibious Ships, the Navy's future destroyers, and LCS programs, due in large part to Admiral Cobb's leadership, will revolutionize our Navy with the availability of more lethal and agile firepower than ever before seen in history.

Over the years, Rosalie has committed herself to helping Spearfish students learn more about their heritage and culture, about themselves and the world around them. She has worked hard to help students find the best in themselves. Thousands of students over the years have benefited from Rosalie's commitment to education and to the library sciences. From assisting students with research options for papers, to finding intricate details about the history of our world, Rosalie has served as a "human bookmark" in the book of life for countless young adults.

On the occasion of her retirement, I want to congratulate Rosalie Aslesen for her tireless dedication to Spearfish High School and for her commitment to third grade quality education. I also want to commend her for her valuable service to the community over the years. She has been very active in the United Church of Christ, has served on the board of the South Dakota Education Association, and has spent many years in the Spearfish Education Association, including the past 2 years as president. The lives of countless people have been enormously enhanced by Rosalie's service to South Dakota and her profession.

Mr. President, I wish Rosalie Aslesen the best on her retirement.