

they fired at targets towed by a B-25. Many of the gunners had been in male-dominated combat and were shocked to greet women pilots in the cockpit. One soldier even exclaimed, "I have to write home about this!"

After spending close to a year at Fort Myers, Blanche and three other WASPs were transferred to the Las Vegas gunnery school where they were used in the engineering squadron to test repaired aircraft. The program generated significant publicity during the war, and Blanche was featured in a famous picture of female pilots walking off of the "Pistol Packin' Mama," a B-17 bomber. The photograph has since been used in advertisements for clothing lines, fashion magazines, and historical chronicles.

Blanche lived to fly, and is quick to point out she always felt accepted by the men in the military. On December 20, 1944, however, a bill sent before Congress that would have allowed women to enter the Air Force did not pass, and the WASP program was dismantled. After being deactivated from the WASPs, Blanche joined the American Red Cross and was sent to Kunming, China where, although she did not fly planes, she was heavily involved in operating clubs for service members stationed overseas.

Following her tour in China, Blanche returned to the U.S. to begin a family. In 1957, she married William H. Bross with whom she had a son, Charles. Together, they moved to Portland, OR, where she developed a seaplane flying base. Later in life, Blanche received a commercial pilot license and flew construction crews to work sites.

For many years, one distinct honor alluded Blanche and the other female pilots. The WASPs had retained their civilian status while flying aircraft in World War II, and therefore, were not considered "veterans" after the war. At long last in 1977, Blanche and other female pilots were finally recognized for their invaluable service to their country when the WASPs were finally designated as veterans.

Today, Blanche resides with her husband in Bend, OR, where she plays golf on a regular basis, and continues to enjoy the outdoors. When asked what one thing she would want others to know about her, she replied simply, "I want people to know I'm proud to be an Oregonian and proud to have served this country."

For her selfless service to others, and to the United States in times of war, I salute Blanche Osborn Bross as an Oregon Veteran Hero.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOHN PATRICK HUNTER

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today, I pay tribute to John Patrick Hunter, a respected journalist and a dear friend.

After growing up in Depression-era West Virginia, witnessing the aftermath of Hiroshima, and the paranoia of the McCarthy era, John Patrick used his opposition to war and fierce defense of civil liberties to fuel his passion for journalism. For nearly half a century, John Patrick served as a reporter and editor for the Capital Times in Madison, WI. He challenged politicians and policies, but at the same time made many friends and established lasting bonds along the way.

After serving in the Navy during World War II, John Patrick attended the University of Wisconsin on the GI Bill and earned his degree. He joined the Capital Times in 1951 and that is where he stayed until his retirement in 1995.

John Patrick will forever be remembered for his work during the turbulent McCarthy era. Many were silenced by McCarthyism but John Patrick took action. For his July 4 assignment in 1951, John Patrick asked people to sign a petition he had put together using only the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. One hundred twelve refused out of fear of what might happen to them, 20 called John Patrick a communist, and only one signed. After the story broke nationally, President Harry Truman heralded John Patrick's efforts.

And as far as my own personal good fortune in knowing John Patrick, he asked me tough question for over 20 years. When I would give him a feisty answer, he would grin and I always felt buoyed by the unofficial but potent encouragement of Wisconsin's glorious progressive legacy.

My condolences go out to John Patrick's wife Merry and his entire family. His unparalleled contributions to Wisconsin journalism will never be forgotten.●

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT DENNIS TAKESHITA

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service of Master Sergeant Dennis Takeshita, a member of the Hawaii Air National Guard. After 37 years of exemplary commitment and dedicated service in defense of our great Nation and 30 years in the Air National Guard, Master Sergeant Takeshita retired on October 3, 2003.

Master Sergeant Takeshita's career experiences have been extensive. He received a commission into the Air Force Reserves in 1966 and served on active duty until 1972. Soon after his honorable discharge from the United States Air Force, Master Sergeant Takeshita joined the Hawaii Air National Guard. He is a decorated soldier who has received numerous citations and awards for his outstanding service and professionalism.

A graduate of St. Louis High School in Honolulu and the University of Hawaii, Master Sergeant Takeshita's career has been one of dedication, service and sacrifice. He served a combat tour

of duty during the Vietnam conflict from 1968 to 1969, as well as Operations Allied Force, Noble Eagle, and Enduring Freedom.

Master Sergeant Takeshita is to be commended for his long tenure, unwavering patriotism, courageous service, unselfish leadership, and individual contributions to the defense of the United States. I applaud the distinguished career of Master Sergeant Dennis Takeshita and express my best wishes for a well-deserved and enjoyable retirement.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

TRIBUTE TO BG EDWARD M. HARRINGTON, USA

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to BG Edward M. Harrington, upon his retirement from the United States Army after more than three decades of distinguished service to our Nation.

Ed Harrington's military career can truly be described as an American success story. A son of Massachusetts, he grew up in the coastal town of Marshfield, where his family's roots extend back three generations. After graduating from Marshfield High School, he attended Northeastern University in Boston, earning a degree in Business Administration. Before the ink was dry on his diploma, Ed received his draft notice and soon donned the battle dress of an infantryman. It wasn't long until his superior recognized his leadership potential, and he was selected for Officer Candidate School. This marked the beginning of what turned out to be an exemplary career as an officer who rose to the pinnacle of the complex world of acquisition management.

As a lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps, he received orders for Vietnam where he was assigned to the First Cavalry Division. After service in Vietnam, he returned stateside and assumed command of the 259th Field Service Company at Fort Bragg. Then, with family in tow, he headed for Germany, serving in various Signal Command positions.

After being promoted to captain, Ed returned to Massachusetts to become a professor of military science at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Fitchburg State College.

In the mid-1980s, Ed's expertise in defense acquisition management prompted his selection for the challenging position of production manager for the M1A1 Abrams Tank at the Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command in Warren, Michigan. There, he met the technical challenge of upgrading the tank's armor plating improving survivability and personnel protection. Years later, he would return to that organization as the Deputy for System Acquisition, a position in which he exercised milestone decision authority for more than 200 Army programs, including the

Paladin artillery system and the High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle, better known as the HUMVEE.

Following high-level logistics assignments overseas and stateside, he assumed the first of three command assignments that would culminate in his selection for flag officer and his ascension to the top of the Defense Contract Management Agency.

In the mid-1990s, as commander of the defense contract management office in Syracuse, he oversaw the performance of contracts associated with a number of large systems, including the Seawolf Submarine, the C-17 aircraft, and the Javelin anti-tank missile system. A few years later, Ed returned to his home State, serving as the director of Defense Contract Management Command's eastern district headquartered in Boston. There, with a dispersed workforce of 6,000 and more than 20 field offices, he and his staff managed nearly all the defense contracts performed in the eastern United States.

Since assuming leadership of the Defense Contract Management Agency, DCMA, in February 2001, Brigadier General Harrington has refashioned and expanded DoD's acquisition-management mission, and in so doing, has affirmed DCMA's standing as one of DoD's premiere combat support agencies. Today, DCMA carries out its responsibilities around the globe at sites as diverse as a circuit board manufacturer in Silicon Valley to a combat theater in the Middle East.

Ed Harrington's compassion and distinct style of leadership were dramatically brought to the fore following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, in which one of his DCMA colleagues, Herb Homer of Milford, MA, perished while on official travel aboard United Airlines Flight 175 that crashed into the south tower of the World Trade Center. With compassion and grace, Ed went above and beyond his duty to comfort and console the Homer family, and assist Herb's widow, Karen, in dealing with the administrative complexities following the death of her husband. Thanks to the efforts of Ed Harrington, the memory of Herb Homer and the recognition of his sacrifice will long endure as an inspiration to thousands throughout the DoD acquisition community.

Whether he was on a muddy ridge as an infantryman, at the front of a college lecture hall, on a contractor's plant floor, or at the side of a grieving family, BG Edward M. Harrington served his country with valor, loyalty, and integrity. On the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army, I offer thanks and congratulations to one of New England's finest, and wish him and his wife, Jane, well in their future pursuits.●

RECOGNIZING RUSSELL C. SCHOOLS

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am very pleased today to recognize Russell C.

Schools of Capron, VA, upon his retirement this year from the Virginia Peanut Growers Association.

Throughout his long career as a peanut farmer, Russell C. Schools has made numerous contributions to his field of work, dedicating his time and efforts to improve and promote the peanut industry, specifically in Virginia. Perhaps his most impressive achievement was the 34 years he spent as the executive secretary of the Virginia Peanut Association. Recently, Mr. Schools was inducted into the American Peanut Council's Peanut Hall of Fame, a fitting tribute to his outstanding career in the peanut industry.

Mr. President, I commend Russell C. Schools for the hard work and dedication that he has demonstrated throughout his distinguished career. He is a great Virginian and a great American and I wish him well in his retirement.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

TRIBUTE TO JULIE ELLIS LEMOULT

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Julie Ellis LeMoult, an extraordinary young woman from Bethesda, MD.

This past spring, Julie Ellis LeMoult, loyal, compassionate, understanding and forgiving friend passed away far too early at the age of 28. Her death has dimmed the light of all who knew her: her husband, Chris LeMoult; her parents, Bruce and Donna Ellis; her sisters, Sheri DeLorenzo, Andrea Lynch and Christiane Ellis, and her many, many friends in Bethesda and all across the country.

Julie is irreplaceable. She dedicated her short life to maintaining and exalting humankind by paying tribute to each person's individual gifts. Above all, Julie was always selfless and strived to draw on and draw out the best in everyone she met.

The third of four children and the daughter of an entrepreneur who catered to kings, queens, presidents, diplomats, charitable causes and private social functions, Julie was raised in Bethesda, MD and attend Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School.

In December 1996, Julie graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University where she received a business degree in 3½ years while playing lacrosse. She excelled in her academics through fortitude and perseverance, overcoming a childhood struggle with dyslexia. Her self-esteem remained intact because of her athletic abilities, providing her swimming, diving, basketball, softball and lacrosse teams with the highest excellence of leadership and sportsmanship. Julie's stride and form as a runner exhibited her most memorable style of athletic grace.

In 1997, Julie worked for Hambrecht and Quist in San Francisco before re-

turning to Maryland to join Discovery Communications where she was an invaluable member of its corporate affairs and communications department.

As an adult, Julie became a knowledgeable resource for many people experiencing panic and anxiety disorders and was able to recommend The Ross Center of Washington, DC, and the Midwest Center for Anxiety, Stress and Depression to those who sought her counsel.

Julie Katherine Ellis married Christopher M. LeMoult of Cape Code, MA, in September 2001. She delivered their baby boy, Logan Donnelly, in April 2003. Her life as a mother allowed her to be with her son for only 8 hours before unknown complications took her life.

In addition to her beautiful smile and peaceful nature, Julie's greatest legacies are her son Logan and her ability to open up her heart unconditionally to family, friends, acquaintances and strangers alike in the hope of making their lives better while expecting nothing in return.

The sorrow over Julie's loss is accompanied by the abundance of joy that exists in the memories her family and friends share, her life that they celebrate and her love that will live on. At Thanksgiving and always, Julie's parents, sisters, husband, son, family, friends and colleagues are grateful for the brilliance of her life. Julie Ellis LeMoult will never be forgotten.●

CONTRATULATIONS TO JUDITH SPOONER

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute and congratulate Judith Spooner of Louisville, KY on her reception of the Adoption Excellence Award given to her by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Ms. Spooner has dedicated her life to helping improve and increase adoptions and foster families in Kentucky. Her devotion to this cause was put to great work during her time at the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children. She has done a wonderful public service through her innovative efforts to increase the number of adoptive families in Kentucky. She has also been instrumental in setting up area support groups for foster and adoptive parents. Although she retired in March of 2003, we are all very lucky that she will continue to spend some of her time with AdoptUSKids, a nonprofit group that helps match waiting children with adoptive families.

The citizens of Kentucky are fortunate to have the leadership of Judith Spooner. Her example of dedication, hard work and compassion should be an inspiration to all throughout the Commonwealth.

She has my most sincere appreciation for this work and I look forward to her continued service to Kentucky.●