

but his other medals were unfortunately delayed for over three decades. However, last Saturday Mr. Brewer finally received the medals that he had earned. He was awarded with the Bronze Star, another Purple Heart, the Vietnam Service medal, the National Defense Service medal, the Good Conduct medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

As one of the U.S. Senators from Kentucky, I know that Mr. Jerry Brewer served as a fine example of what it means to be true patriot and an American of the highest caliber. We must remember that the American way of life has been made possible by the bravery of men and women like Mr. Brewer. When freedom has been challenged, many like him have answered the call to arms. We must never forget that.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL EYE DONOR MONTH

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues and all of our constituents across the Nation that March is National Eye Donor Month. The first eye bank opened in 1944 and since then, over half a million Americans have received the gift of sight. Now, Americans throughout the country have the power to help restore sight to thousands of people in need. Mrs. Jeanne Bross, 65, can return to college in South Carolina with restored sight after receiving a corneal transplant in a Birmingham, AL hospital. This amazing turn in her life would not have been easy without someone giving the precious gift of sight.

The purpose of Eye Donor Month is to educate each and every American family to the opportunity to give the gift of sight and to make a terrific difference in someone's life. This month marks an opportunity to celebrate the gift of sight, to raise public awareness and to honor past donors and their families. The process to become a donor takes just minutes. All a donor needs to do is sign a donor card and most importantly, discuss their donation wishes with their family.

Last year over 46,000 Americans had their sight restored through the miracle of corneal transplantation. This year, thousands of Americans will require a sight restoring cornea transplant due to the continual need for cornea and tissue. Our eye banks across the Nation, along with the Eye Bank Association of America, work to ensure that all of these Americans will receive the tissue they need. It is also important to note that there are ever changing strict standards, screening procedures and accreditation programs in place to ensure that each of the recipients receives safe tissue, achieving a success rate of over 90 percent.

As National Eye Donor Month proceeds, I encourage my colleagues to

work with their local eye banks to increase public awareness of corneal transplantation and the continuous need for donors. I appreciate the opportunity to highlight Eye Donor Month and again, encourage all Americans to sign a donor card and speak with their families about their wishes.●

IN MEMORY OF MARC MIRINGOFF

• Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, every so often, someone comes along and changes the way we look at things. Marc Miringoff was such a person. We note his passing last week in New York at the age of 58.

Marc was a gifted social scientist who had the crucial insight that progress ought not be measured in economic terms alone. Gross national product, gross domestic product, net foreign investment, balance of payments, net savings rates—all of these thrown together, properly weighted and critically analyzed could certainly tell us much about the state of our economy. But Marc asked whether they would give us the true measure of our society. He concluded they did not.

In the 1980s, Marc sought to change that. He founded the Fordham Institute for Innovation in Social Policy in 1985, where he worked to develop an index to measure the Nation's social health. The index consisted of a number of measures that reflected the worlds of public health, education, the justice system, and violence. Marc burrowed beneath the numbers to find the underlying, often invisible, structures of poverty that undermined economic progress.

I was privileged to know Marc. I benefited from his counsel and was challenged by his insights. I know that Marc was no dry-as-dust academic. He relished the political arena as much as he enriched the academic forum. He was an evangelist for the concept of social health. His eyes sparkled when an elected official got hooked on his ideas. He worked hard, bringing others along, encouraging them to look more deeply at the fabric of American society and to work harder to make it a richer, stronger fabric.

I will miss Marc. We all will miss him. Right now, the country needs more people like him. I offer my condolences to his wife, Marque, and to his family.●

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA OF FLORIDA

• Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, as ranking member on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I rise to acknowledge an extraordinary charitable organization, which serves some of this country's most troubled and disadvantaged veterans. This organization is the Volunteers of America of Florida.

The Volunteers of America of Florida provides essential services to veterans such as supported employment, mental

health care, job placement, basic living skills training, housing programs, and social support groups. One of the unique outreach tools owned and operated by Volunteers of America of Florida is their Florida Veterans Mobile Service Center. This is a specially designed 40-foot-long vehicle from which medical, dental, mental health, substance use and benefits counseling services are provided. It is also used to distribute food and clothing to the homeless wherever they are located. The Mobile Service Center is on the road 200 days per year and has traveled more than 30,000 miles, serving over 40 counties in Florida to reach over 3,000 homeless veterans per year. This includes outreach to rural encampments in areas such as the Florida Everglades, Ocala National Forest, and the Barrier Islands off of the Keys.

The Mobile Service Center is funded through a unique partnership of Government, corporate and not-for-profit organizations which includes the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs, Eli Lilly and Company, USAA, many veterans service organizations—including: DAV, VVA, AMVETS, VFW, PVA, American Legion, NCOA, Korean War Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, VietNow, Marine Corps League—and Volunteers of America of Florida.

In Florida alone, there are between 17,000 and 23,000 homeless veterans who are living on the streets on any given night. Nationally, there are about 300,000 homeless veterans on any given night. In a year, that number jumps to over half a million veterans who will experience homelessness.

As a new generation of veterans begin to return home, it has become increasingly important to cultivate safety net programs for our Nation's veterans. Volunteers of America of Florida is battling to break the cycle of homelessness and reintegrate these brave veterans back into society. It gives me great pleasure to honor the paid and volunteer staff that makes these programs possible throughout the great State of Florida.●

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

SBA EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2004

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, earlier this week I introduced a bill, S. 2186, to keep the SBA, its two largest lending programs, the 504 and 7(a) Loan Guarantee Programs, and the Women's Business Centers up and running through the remainder of this year, September 30, 2004. I ask that these letters of support be printed in the RECORD. One letter is from Mary Kay Hamm of Linden International based in Wayne, Pennsylvania, and the other is from Tjuana C. Byrd, an attorney in Little Rock, Arkansas, who is a member of the National Association of Women Business Owners. I thank them