

Ron conceptualized and initiated innovations in the use of video and advanced communication systems, which are revolutionizing the way health services are provided to people with exceptional needs. His seminal work in interactive video promises to improve both the accessibility and quality of supports to those with developmental, mental and physical challenges, and brings us closer to our dream of insuring that all citizens lead a full and healthy life. The intellect and energy that Ron applied toward that goal must be regarded as an olympic performance.

Of Ron's contributions to the field of telehealth and to society, those close to him knew that he most valued his role as a father to his sons, Ron and Ken. With his many accomplishments, he unfailingly looked to his sons as his greatest source of pride and of joy.

It is an honor to recognize Ronald R. Mazik for his contributions to all of our lives.

RETIREMENT OF JAMES E. McMULLEN

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, today I rise to honor James E. McMullen, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Budget and Strategic Planning of the Department of Labor on the occasion of his retirement. In his capacity as Deputy Assistant Secretary, Mr. McMullen was responsible for the Department's management and implementation of the Government Performance and Results Act, GPRA, and provided senior departmental staff with recommendations, guidance, and assistance in making decisions and selecting appropriate alternatives to meet short- and long-range budget goals. Mr. McMullen was also responsible for the development of policies, systems, and procedures for the Department's budget of \$60 billion, and was charged with planning, directing, and coordinating the formulation and presentation of the Department's budget submissions to the Office of Management and Budget and to Congress.

Mr. McMullen has served as Associate Deputy Secretary of Labor. In that position he assisted the Deputy Secretary in the Development of positions on major policy issues and provided policy guidance and program direction to Assistant Secretaries.

Mr. McMullen previously served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management. In that position, he was responsible for the day-to-day management of the Department's budget, human resources, information technology, administrative services, grant and contract policy, civil rights, and safety and health.

Mr. McMullen served as the Department of Labor's Budget Director for several years. He joined the Department's Office of Budget in August 1980 and held several positions of increasing responsibility. Mr. McMullen came to the Department of Labor as a Presidential management intern. During his

internship, he worked for the House Appropriations Committee and the Office of Management and Budget, as well as several locations within the Department.

In April 2004 he received the Philip Arnow Award, which is the highest honor given to a career employee in the Department of Labor. In 1999 he received the Meritorious Executive Rank Award, and he has received special recognition from the William A. Jump Memorial Foundation for his outstanding achievements in public service.

I have been either chairman or ranking member of the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee since January 1989, working in partnership with Senator TOM HARKIN. For all these years, Jim McMullen has been a fixture at our budget hearings, and has provided outstanding assistance to our committee. His will be hard shoes to fill, and he will be missed. We wish him well in his future endeavors, and thank him for his dedication to duty, hard work, and professionalism that set such a high standard for others to follow in public service.

AMERICAN LEGION PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROBERT D. "BOB" SHALALA

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, today I recognize an American patriot whose commitment and dedication to the cause of our veterans has been long established. From 1960 to 1964, Bob Shalala served on active duty in the United States Navy aboard the U.S.S. *Galveston*, the U.S.S. *Wright* and the U.S.S. *Fred T. Berry*. Before his active duty ended, he served as the aide to the Commanding Officer of a naval air squadron and was also selected to join the Navy's Blue Jacket Choir, which entertained audiences around the country. Returning to Pennsylvania, he started his illustrious 40-year career as a Philadelphia police officer and twice was selected as Police Officer of the Year.

His remarkable career in the American Legion of Pennsylvania began with the Legion's Philadelphia Police Post. In the next 37 years, Bob gave new meaning to the word "leadership" as he served in every position from the Post level to District Commander to Sectional Commander to the top position—Department Commander. In between, he managed to chair a host of different committees and served as the Pennsylvania American Legion top membership recruiter for 2 years while placing second nationally in the Legion's membership effort.

Not surprisingly, Bob Shalala's goal as Department Commander over the past year has been to improve and promote membership. The American Legion in the State of Pennsylvania is the largest in the country and the position of Department Commander is a formidable one. From peers and mem-

bers comes that Bob accepted the challenge of leadership and has set a high standard for his successors to emulate. An excellent spokesman, Bob Shalala departs his position as Department Commander in July 2004 with the gratitude of the Department's 240,000 members for a job performed exceedingly well. As the mantle of leadership passes to a new Department Commander, I express my gratitude to Bob Shalala for serving Pennsylvania veterans with such alacrity and dedication. He has faced the churning sea and completed his mission. In nautical terms that Navy men will understand, I raise high the flag hoist signaling Bravo Zulu—well done.

PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY PRESIDENT ANN CONEYBEER

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, today, I honor the many women who serve our veterans through their tireless efforts and membership in auxiliaries of such organizations as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion to name a few. These women, the wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of veterans give tirelessly of their time to provide needed assistance and funding to veterans and their families in the communities.

In particular, I cite Ann Coneybeer—the outgoing President of the Pennsylvania American Legion Auxiliary. In July 2004, Ann will complete her tour of duty in this elected position.

Ann had four brothers who served in World War II thus making her eligible for membership in the Legion. For the past 41 years she has been a very active member where she has served as Unit President, Western Vice President and Department Vice President. In between Ann held a number of chairmanships at the State level including Leadership, Americanism, Constitution and By-Laws, Finance, Membership, Parliamentarian, Poppy and Veterans Affairs & Rehab and Children and Youth. Serving as Chairman is often a thankless job, but Ann fulfilled these responsibilities with dedication, energy and persistence.

As Ann Coneybeer departs office, I extend to her my thanks and the thanks of Pennsylvania veterans and their families for her many years of service, for her leadership and, most of all, for her belief in the cause of our Nation's veterans and our Nation's principles. She is truly a great American and it is a privilege that I honor her today.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the-