

Health Management Coalition's Pathways to Excellence Hospital Measurement and Reporting Initiative has given the facility multiple blue ribbon awards based on its performance in a number of critical safety and clinical quality areas.

Through the generosity of the hospital, three doctors—general surgeon Douglas Cole, urologist Lars Ellison, and orthopedist Kevin Olehnik—departed Maine en route to Haiti last Wednesday. Having been to the Caribbean nation in the past, as part of a Notre Dame Haiti Program trip in 2008, the doctors are all familiar with the people and places of Haiti. The Notre Dame Haiti Program, which is led by Father Tom Streit of the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, is dedicated to fighting lymphatic filariasis, a parasitic disease caused by microscopic, thread-like worms spread through infected mosquitoes. More than 26 percent of the Haitian population has the disease, which is prevalent in the subtropical regions of Asia and Africa, as well as parts of the Caribbean. In fact, the doctors were set to return to Haiti in February to help dozens more people through the Notre Dame Haiti Program. Yet after hearing about the earthquake, the doctors decided to fly to Haiti as quickly as possible to help with the ongoing relief efforts. They are in the country for a week or two, helping people with broken bones and performing other general surgeries. Their generosity is overwhelming, and it is a true testament to the magnanimous spirit of the resolute people of Maine.

We are defined as a people by what we do in times of tragedy, and I am proud to say that these three Mainers have gone above and beyond their Hippocratic Oath to willingly put their lives on hold in order to help the less fortunate in Haiti. They are extraordinary examples of how the American people time and again respond so charitably to the misfortunes of others. I commend Drs. Cole, Ellison, and Olehnik for their selfless service to others in this time of catastrophe, and I thank everyone at Penobscot Bay Medical Center for the remarkable work they do day in and day out to keep Mainers healthy.

#### TRIBUTE TO PAMELA GAVIN

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to salute Pamela Gavin, who retires this week after serving as Superintendent of the Senate Office of Public Records for 24 years.

In her service to the Senate, Pam has had the enormous responsibility of maintaining disclosure records under numerous laws, including those under the Federal Election Campaign Act, the Ethics in Government Act, and the Lobbying Disclosure Act. Tens of thousands of new records a year must be archived, adding to the already massive papers in this collection, and Pam's stewardship has been impeccable.

I especially want to pay tribute today to Pam's contributions to the implementation of the Lobbying Disclosure Act. As the Committee on Homeland Security worked to draft expansive changes to the Lobbying Disclosure Act, which were included in the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, Pam provided indispensable technical expertise. And after the act was signed into law, she worked tirelessly to make sure its implementation was smooth. She has been the driving force behind the development of an electronic filing system, providing guidance to the lobbying community to assist it in complying with the law, and ensuring access to researchers, reporters and the public.

Pam is someone who understands that we can increase accountability through transparency, and in pursuit of that goal she has been a model not only for the Senate but for the entire government.

Those who have worked closely with Pam will miss her cheerful smile, her enthusiasm, and warm consideration of all her colleagues. Although she is retiring, she will always be a dear member of the Senate community, and I wish her and her family the very best as she embarks on this new stage of her life.

#### 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU

Mr. LEMIEUX. Mr. President, this week marks the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi concentration camp. It was 65 years ago this week when the Soviet army entered Auschwitz and liberated more than 7,000 prisoners. It is estimated that a minimum of 1.1 million people were murdered in the camp as part of the Nazis' deliberate and systematic campaign to exterminate as many as 6 million European Jews and Roma. Winston Churchill called it a "crime that has no name."

Stories from the survivors are a chilling reminder of the unspeakable horrors that can be perpetrated by evil men when the forces of good are slow to respond. Some of these personal testimonies are preserved in museums around our Nation, including the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

In 1948, the United Nations pledged in the Genocide Convention that the horrors of the Holocaust would "never again" be repeated. Sadly, this pledge has not been upheld. In Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Sudan people have been murdered solely on the basis of their national, ethnic and religious affiliations.

I urge my colleagues and members of the international community to renew our commitment to "never again" allow genocide to take place. I also call upon the Obama administration to continue upholding our pledge to protecting the personal freedoms of individuals around the globe.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO NORTH DAKOTA'S ELECTRICAL LINEMEN

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish honor the brave crews of electrical line workers who helped restore power to thousands of North Dakotans.

Within the last week, severe weather hit the southwestern part of my State. These storms brought fierce winds, freezing rains, and eventually blizzard conditions. Ice coated miles of power lines, causing them to fail under the extra weight. Thousands of homes and businesses were left without electricity.

Severe weather is nothing new to North Dakotans. But living in a home without electricity during the depths of winter is an alarming prospect.

Thankfully, dedicated repair linemen immediately went to work. While I know these crews would tell me they are just doing their jobs, I think it is important to step back at a time like this and recognize the importance of their work. Repairing high-voltage power lines while battling subzero temperatures and strong prairie winds is a downright dangerous job. But these repair linemen work tirelessly in adverse conditions because they know their fellow North Dakotans depend on them.

Many people in my State still do not have access to power, but I know North Dakotans have enormous confidence in the ability of the repair linemen to restore power in a swift manner. They have shown tremendous resolve throughout this situation, and I am proud to commend their efforts.●

##### REMEMBERING RICKI CHANDRINOS

• Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, it isn't very often that we encounter an angel walking among us. However, Ms. Ricki Chandrinis was most certainly that. She was a tireless advocate working on behalf of veterans in our community, and her commitment to them will not soon be forgotten.

It wasn't until the love of her life, John Chandrinis, her husband of 35 years, began battling a terminal illness that she became passionately involved with the inner workings of the Veterans Affairs medical system. She muddled through the bureaucratic red tape to ensure that he received the care and benefits that he so richly deserved after defending the freedoms of our country for so many years. Tragically, her husband lost his battle, but her passion for America's heroes remained.

After moving to Las Vegas, following the death of her husband, she found her calling late in life. Ricki became deeply involved with the veterans living within her neighborhood, Siena. It is estimated that she personally assisted about 500 of our Nation's most heroic citizens, but she undoubtedly touched more hearts than that during her lifetime.