

In 2009, a growing number of veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan began appearing on court dockets around the country. Many of these veterans have special needs, including mental health needs, and many of them greatly benefit from specialized services. It was then that Judge Romani began modeling an innovative, new veteran's court based on a successful model in Buffalo.

Since 2009, the court that Judge Romani created has helped innumerable veterans turn their lives around. The Court consistently sees between 30 and 40 veterans go through its program at a time. There are now approximately 104 veteran's courts, like Judge Romani's, around the country helping those who served the United States in its time of need.

Judge Romani identifies this court as his "most rewarding achievement as a judge."

Judge Romani's last day on the court was November 5, when he completed an impressive career that spanned 39 years. He has been married to his lovely wife Karen for 38 years. They have three children, two of whom were recently married.

I add my voice to many others when I say thank you, Judge Romani, for your years of distinguished public service and the indelible mark you have left on Madison County.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I regret having missed the January 24, 2013, vote on S. Res. 15, a resolution to improve procedures for the consideration of legislation and nominations in the Senate. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of S. Res. 15.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY J. GOLDBERG

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, Senator HATCH and I would like to recognize the outstanding career of Mr. Larry J. Goldberg, Principal Deputy Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS. Mr. Goldberg retired on January 3, after more than 35 years of distinguished government service.

Mr. Goldberg began his career of government service in 1976 as Associate Legal Director for the National Center for Law and Deafness at Gallaudet College. He continued his work defending civil rights for persons with disabilities as a trial attorney in the Justice Department and later as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. In 1989, Mr. Goldberg joined HHS in the Inspector General Division of the Office of General Counsel. He transferred to the HHS Office of Inspector General, OIG, at the inception of its independent Office of Counsel in 1996, and has risen through the ranks to Principal Deputy Inspector General, managing a staff of more than 1,700 auditors, criminal investigators,

analysts, and attorneys, and a budget of more than \$300 million.

Throughout his career, Mr. Goldberg has demonstrated the essence of what it means to serve and protect the public. Most notably, he has accomplished systemic and institutional reforms that have enhanced HHS programs by strengthening protections against fraud, waste, and abuse and promoting efficient and effective program operations. His visionary leadership and perseverance in driving change has resulted in billions of dollars of erroneously paid and misused funds being returned to the critical programs that serve our most needy. Mr. Goldberg's career achievements also include establishing landmark legal rights for people with disabilities in employment, education, health care, and social services. His many contributions have had a far-reaching and lasting impact.

During his 23 years with OIG, Mr. Goldberg's efforts and skill in fostering collaboration within OIG and with government partners have positioned OIG to meet vastly expanded responsibilities and to achieve results in priority areas. The depth and range of his professional knowledge and expertise are appreciated and respected throughout HHS, by the larger OIG community, by Congress, and by the health care industry. His dynamic leadership has had a direct and measurable effect on OIG's ability to align its resources, work plans and products, compliance initiatives, and investigative and enforcement activities to carry out its mission.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I join with Senator BAUCUS in commending Mr. Goldberg for his service. As Principal Deputy Inspector General, and throughout his career with OIG, Mr. Goldberg's efforts have directly benefited the American people by protecting Federal health care, public health, and social programs from waste, fraud, and abuse, and recommending to HHS actions to improve program effectiveness. Mr. Goldberg has led OIG to achieve unprecedented results in combating health care fraud and abuse. He has marshaled OIG's resources to counter this epidemic through a sophisticated, multifaceted, and innovative strategy.

For example, Mr. Goldberg has spearheaded OIG's efforts to join with the Justice Department to establish Medicare Fraud "Strike Force" operations—elite teams of investigators and prosecutors, supported by advanced data analysis—in 9 key locations. These Strike Forces have charged more than 1,400 defendants, who collectively have billed Medicare for more than \$4 billion. Simultaneously, OIG has pursued more traditional civil, administrative, and criminal cases. Under Mr. Goldberg's leadership, OIG has generated record-breaking returns for the Medicare Trust Fund and taxpayers—including court-ordered recoveries, fines, restitution, and settlements totaling more than \$6 billion in 2012.

But not all of his results can be measured in dollars. During Mr. Goldberg's tenure, OIG produced a landmark measurement of adverse events from hospital stays; reported and testified on overutilization of antipsychotic drugs for nursing home patients; and recommended actions to protect the safety of the Nation's food supply. Mr. Goldberg has also championed fraud prevention by taking the message directly to the health care industry. He has built coalitions with industry to promote a culture of compliance and transparent practices to safeguard Federal health care programs, and he pioneered a series of guidances that set the standards for how to meet Federal health care program requirements.

We wish Mr. Goldberg the very best in his retirement and thank him for his exemplary record of service to the government and the American people in protecting Federal programs from fraud, waste, and abuse and in promoting the health, well-being, and civil rights of all Americans.

REMEMBERING CAROL WALTER

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to remember Carol Walter. Carol was known throughout Connecticut and the Nation as a force for good and a supporter of the homeless. I worked with her for many years to address the homeless population in Connecticut, and no one advocated more relentlessly and tirelessly for this cause.

An ambassador for social justice, she took positions at various nonprofits, including homeless shelters throughout the State as well as at the Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition. In 2006, she was named executive director of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness.

At the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, Carol introduced a new way of approaching homelessness. Carol regarded this unacceptable human condition as something that could be prevented and addressed it on a national scale through community organizing, advocacy, research, leadership, and education. She empowered the greater community, building grassroots leadership, advocating for new research and policies, and leading these efforts with grace and resolve. According to her colleagues at the Coalition, Carol truly listened to the voices of people who experience homelessness.

She did not stop at the prevention and cessation of homelessness, but rather took the next step towards long-term sustainability. Carol dedicated most of her career to efforts to include securing permanent affordable housing and housing subsidies for the afflicted, providing support systems in the community, and offering career services to support independence and self-help. She worked to prevent and eliminate homelessness on local, State, and Federal levels. She partnered with local communities and Statewide organizations, such as Supportive Housing