

serious and how wide spread food allergies are in this country. One in every 13 children in the United States is affected by a life-threatening food allergy. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, food allergy reactions send someone to the emergency room every 3 minutes.

The rising prevalence of food allergies is an important public health issue that is already felt in schools, restaurants, and workplaces across the country. According to the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease, food allergies cause 30,000 cases of anaphylaxis and more than 200 deaths every year. We need to support research to develop new therapies and understanding to ultimately prevent and cure food allergies.

As the number of kids living with dangerous and in some cases deadly food allergy attacks at school has increased, some States and cities have responded by improving access to epinephrine auto-injectors as an important strategy to respond safely and quickly when students experience anaphylaxis. While many children with known food allergies are permitted to bring their epinephrine auto-injectors to school, 25 percent of epinephrine administrations in schools involve individuals without a previously known allergy. Many students who will need epinephrine have no history of food allergies and therefore do not carry epinephrine. Further, schools provide a setting where children are exposed to new foods that may trigger severe allergy attacks. Therefore, the decision for schools to stock their own epinephrine can be lifesaving.

I commend the state of Illinois for being a leader in this fight and passing legislation in 2011 to allow schools to stock emergency epinephrine auto-injectors. Last Congress, I worked with my colleague, Senator KIRK, to introduce legislation that would encourage states to require schools to stock epinephrine and to allow trained designated personnel to administer epinephrine in an emergency.

My hope is that Food Allergy Awareness Week can help the public to appreciate the extent of the problem and, importantly, the severity of the disease. It is a health threat that affects every race, age, income group and geographic area, and is growing at a frightening pace. What the public increasingly needs to understand is that this is not simply an inconvenient condition. As the tragic deaths of children each year show, it is frequently a life-threatening disease. Food Allergy Awareness Week is a first step to a better understanding and a greater commitment to our response.

BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a group of American workers celebrating an impressive anniversary this month.

On July 1, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Pacific Railroad Act into law and set the Nation on a course to complete the transcontinental railroad.

Less than a year later, in 1863, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen was founded to represent the thousands of individuals working to build one of the largest infrastructure projects in the history of this country.

In the century and a half since, the rail industry has served as the lifeblood of rural America, a critical player in our Nation's transportation network, and as one of the largest private employers in the United States.

My home State of Illinois, both then and now, has relied heavily on strong rail infrastructure to propel us forward. From my hometown of East St. Louis and across our State, railroads have written our history.

As one of the first States in the union to embrace freight rail and rail travel, we saw Chicago grow, spoke by spoke and mile after magnificent mile, into the metropolis it is today. And with more lines of track radiating in more directions than anywhere else in the Nation, it's hard to imagine our great city without its railroads.

Even today, we are continuing our long tradition with the construction of a high-speed rail network that is both innovative and important to Illinois' economy and future competitiveness. But without the workers who construct, operate and maintain it, that high-speed network likely would not be possible.

One hundred-fifty years after its birth, the Brotherhood's 55,000 active and retired members continue to devote their lives to the rail industry and improving the American transportation system.

That's an impressive achievement, and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing their hard work as the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen's celebrates its 150th anniversary. Thank you and congratulations.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, during the period of April 15, 2013 through April 24, 2013, I was unavoidably absent from the following votes as a result of events related to the tragic terrorist bombings in Boston, MA—roll call votes 96, 104, 105, 106, 108, 109, and 110. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on vote 96 on the nomination of Beverly Reid O'Connell of California, to be U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California; no on vote 104 on Amendment No. 717 to S. 649, the Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act of 2013; yes on vote 105 on Amendment No. 730 to S. 649, the Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act of 2013; yes on vote 106 on the nomination of Derrick Kahala Watson, of Hawaii, to be United States District Judge for the District

of Hawaii; yes on vote 108 on the nomination of Jane Kelly, of Iowa, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit; yes on vote 109 on the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget; and yes on vote 110 on adoption of the Motion to Proceed to S. 743, the Marketplace Fairness Act.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for votes on amendments to the Water Resources Development Act on Tuesday, May 14, 2013, and Wednesday, May 15, 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted against amendment No. 868 and amendment 815. I would have voted to in favor of amendment 889.

RETIREMENT OF AIR FORCE SECRETARY MICHAEL DONLEY

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I honor an outstanding leader and public servant. After over 30 years of service to our Nation both in and out of uniform, Secretary Michael Donley is retiring from his current position as Secretary of the U.S. Air Force. On this occasion, I believe it is fitting to recognize Secretary Donley's years of service to our great Nation.

Mr. Donley has over 30 years of experience in the national security community, including service in the Senate, White House, and the Pentagon, as well as in the private sector. Mr. Donley served in the U.S. Army from 1972 to 1975 with the XVIIIth Airborne Corps and 5th Special Forces Group, Airborne. He was also a professional staff member on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Mr. Donley supported two Presidents and five National Security Advisers during his service at the National Security Council from 1984 to 1989. He conceived and organized the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management, coordinated White House policy on the Goldwater-Nichols DOD Reorganization Act of 1986, and wrote the national security strategy for President Reagan's second term. Prior to assuming his current position, Mr. Donley served as the Director of Administration and Management in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Air Force Secretary Michael Donley will retire from public service June 21, after nearly 5 years in the position. Prior to his confirmation as the Secretary of the Air Force, he served as Acting Secretary—making him the longest serving Secretary of the Air Force in the service's history.

Secretary Michael Donley's leadership will be missed throughout the government. I join many past and present members of the Senate Armed Services Committee in my gratitude to Secretary Donley for his outstanding leadership and his unwavering support of servicemembers. Secretary Donley's

service has enabled the Air Force to continue to fly, fight, and win in air, space, and cyberspace. I wish him fair winds and following seas.

RECOGNIZING THE 65TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Mr. NELSON. Mr President, today I wish to recognize and honor the achievements of the 65th Infantry Regiment known as the "Borinqueneers" for their contribution to the defense of our great Nation.

The Borinqueneers were a segregated Puerto Rican Army unit which served our Nation with great distinction during World War I, World War II, and the Korean war. The Borinqueneers served our Nation with valor during a period of history in which their own nation's sovereignty was dependent upon the United States.

The Borinqueneers earned 10 Distinguished Service Crosses, 256 Silver Stars, 606 Bronze Stars, and 2,771 Purple Hearts. Six hundred and seventy Borinqueneers gave the ultimate sacrifice for both Puerto Rico and the United States.

After watching the Borinqueneers in action during his visit to Tokyo, General Douglas MacArthur wrote the following,

The Puerto Ricans forming the ranks of the gallant 65th Infantry Regiment give daily proof on the battlefields of Korea of their courage, determination and resolute will to victory, their invincible loyalty to the United States and their fervent devotion to those immutable principles of human relations which the Americans of the Continent and of Puerto Rico have in common. They are writing a brilliant record of heroism in battle and I am indeed proud to have them under my command. I wish that we could count on many more like them.

I would also like to honor the men and women of Puerto Rico, who wear the uniform of the United States military to this day and continue the legacy of the Borinqueneers. The Borinqueneers have brought great credit upon themselves, the U.S. Army, Puerto Rico, and the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO PEGGY EVANS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the dedicated career and service to the Congress and the Nation of Ms. Margaret "Peggy" Evans, who is retiring at the end of this month after over 22 years of service in both the executive and legislative branches of our government. She has dedicated most of her life to helping keep our Nation and its citizens secure, and we honor her for her service.

Peggy is leaving the Senate as the budget director of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. During her 4 years on the committee, Peggy has been integral to the development and passage of four annual intelligence au-

thorizations bills, including three within a span of 15 months. She oversaw the committee's budget staff in drafting the classified annexes to the bills, worked collaboratively with the intelligence community agencies and the Office of Management and Budget, and negotiated legislation with other Senate and House committees.

Through her time with the committee, Peggy brought new and creative proposals to the committee and was a fierce advocate for programs that she believed would provide greater effectiveness or efficiency to the intelligence community. She also worked very closely with our committee's Technical Advisory Group, our science and technical advisors, especially in the group's review of imagery satellites, which will no doubt come to be seen as being ahead of its time.

Prior to coming to Capitol Hill, Ms. Evans had served 13 years at the Central Intelligence Agency. Reflecting her many skills, she worked in both the analysis and the operations side of the CIA and also led covert action programs. Although we may not disclose the details, Peggy spent much of her CIA career countering terrorist groups and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Her next national security assignment was in the White House Office of Management and Budget. During her 5 years in that job, Peggy rose from a budget examiner to be Acting Deputy Associate Director for National Security—the President's senior civil servant adviser on the national security budget.

During her time in the private sector, Peggy has also founded and led two companies, one that builds environmentally sustainable homes and one that provides environmental consulting services to homeowners, builders, and facilities managers. These companies earned numerous Energy Star and Green Home Choice Awards.

She is a renaissance woman, skilled in public and private life, and the committee wishes her continued success in her professional endeavors as she returns to private life.

But Peggy's devotion to the Nation's security is matched by her dedication to her family. Peggy and her husband Roger Ney have raised six children and guided them through college and into the start of their careers. With her retirement, she will have more time to spend with them and with her hobbies of reading, pottery, soccer, memorizing arcana from the "Lord of the Rings," designing homes, and spending time at the beach.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to publicly thank Peggy and to note my appreciation for her dedicated and dignified efforts. We will miss your insight and experience and your commitment to pursuing the right policies to protect our Nation.

SALUTING OUR VETERANS

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I am filled with so much pride every time I meet our military veterans who come to the Nation's capital to visit the memorials built to honor them and to commemorate the wars in which they served so courageously.

Today, 31 veterans from West Virginia, representing three generations of warriors, are here to see the memorials that commemorate their sacrifice and valor and for a special ceremony honoring World War II veterans.

And on the occasion of their visit, I want to express my deepest gratitude to these special men who helped keep America free and made the world safer for liberty-loving people across our country and beyond our borders.

I also want to say how much I appreciate the Honor Flight Network, which, since 2005, has arranged for World War II, Korea and Vietnam veterans from all over the country to visit the memorials in Washington—free of any cost to the veterans.

In West Virginia, the driving forces behind the Honor Flight Network are the Denver Foundation and Little Buddy Radio, located in Princeton. These nonprofits were founded by Bob Denver—also known as "Gilligan" from the iconic television show "Gilligan's Island"—and his wife, Dreama, a West Virginia native.

But it was Charlie Thomas Richardson, the Operations Manager at Little Buddy Radio, who got the ball rolling in West Virginia. He introduced the Honor Flight Network to our State, building on the organization established in 2005 by Earl Morse, a physician assistant and retired Air Force Captain in Springfield, OH, to honor the veterans he had cared for.

The 31 veterans from West Virginia visiting Washington today came from Pocahontas, Raleigh, Greenbrier, Mercer, Giles, Wyoming, Nicholas, Fayette and Marion counties.

They range in age from 63 to 94. And while their step has slowed, their spirit is keen, their pride is undiminished, and their patriotism is unbridled.

Eleven served in World War II, one in World War II and Korea, 10 in Korea, one in Korea and Vietnam, four in Vietnam, and two in all three wars.

Two other veterans are serving as escorts for the group, along with three high school ROTC cadets.

These brave West Virginians served this great country in a wide variety of ways—as a B-24 pilot over Italy in World War II; in a heavy mortar company at "Heartbreak Ridge" in Korea; as a helicopter door gunner in Vietnam.

They stitched up wounds in hospitals; they assembled bombs; they inspected combat aircraft; they operated radios and radars; they cooked; and they built roads through jungles and bridges over rivers.

They won the Bronze Star, the Soldier's Medal, the Purple Heart and