

advisors would recommend that the legislation be vetoed if it were enacted in its current form.

Our position on the NED is clear. The NED is at the core of the vision we share for a world that is more free and more democratic. Indeed, it was President Reagan's initiative to establish the NED, a decision and a vision that has had a powerful impact on our nation's efforts to expand democracy and human rights. And to its credit, the NED conducts its critically important activities with annual funding that amounts to only a small fraction of our nation's international affairs budget. From supporting election monitoring in Indonesia, to promoting independent media in the Balkans, the NED represents and promotes the most fundamental of American values throughout the world.

Thank you again for your letter on this important matter. Please know that the President remains one of the strongest champions of the Endowment, and appreciates your continuing support of the NED.

Sincerely,

SAMUEL R. BERGER,
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs.●

Mr. LUGAR. The letter states the Administration's unequivocal support for the National Endowment for Democracy and articulates the strong positive contribution the NED makes to our national interest.

MAX SOLIS—1999 CONNECTICUT SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, once again this year, the Small Business Administration held its annual Small Business Week. The SBA hosts this event to recognize the many accomplishments of this country's small businessmen-women. Today, I am pleased to pay a special tribute to the achievements of Max Solis, Chairman and CEO of BST Systems, Inc., who was named Connecticut's 1999 Small Business Person of the Year.

Having received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the City College of New York and a Masters of Business Administration from New York University, Max Solis went on to found BST Systems, Inc. in 1983. BST Systems, Inc., located in Plainfield, Connecticut, is a small minority-owned business that employs approximately 68 people. BST focuses on engineering-oriented, high-technology business and specializes in manufacturing and testing high-energy silver zinc cells, specialty cells and complete batteries, as well as electronic support equipment for NASA, the Department of Defense, and various commercial applications.

In addition to this most recent honor, BST Systems also received NASA's 1994 Minority Subcontractor of the Year Award and NASA's Commitment to Excellence Award in both 1995 and 1997. Just this past May, BST Systems was the recipient of the George M. Low Award, NASA's highest honor for excellence and quality and recogni-

tion of its significant contributions to the advancement of our nation's space program.

Mr. President, I am so very pleased to have the opportunity to highlight the success of Max Solis and BST Systems, Inc. Small business entrepreneurs like Max Solis and his employees keep this country on the cutting edge of innovation and advanced technology. And as we enter a new century, small businesses like BST will be integral to ensuring continued American leadership in these critical areas. I congratulate Max Solis and BST Systems, Inc. on being honored by the Small Business Administration for their outstanding efforts, and I wish them much success as they, and other small businesses, continue to provide valuable products and services to people across the country and, indeed, throughout the world.●

TRIBUTE TO RAY LACKEY

● Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Alex "Ray" Lackey for his recent appointment as the Eighth Command Sergeant Major of the Army Reserve.

Ray has been serving as supervisor of customer services at the Bowling Green post office for almost 20 years, and now embarks on a three-year tour of duty at the Pentagon. Ray has served in numerous capacities in the U.S. military for more than 28 years, with his most recent assignment as Command Sergeant Major for the 100th Division in Louisville. Ray's supervisors have commended him for his ability to maintain a professional balance between his demanding positions in both the U.S. Postal Service and the Department of the Army.

Ray's experience in military service is broad, including service as Squad Leader with the 82nd Airborne Division, Drill Sergeant at Fort Knox, Platoon Sergeant with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, Battalion Operations Sergeant, First Sergeant, and Commandant of the 100th Division Drill Sergeant School. In 1982, he received the distinction of U.S. Army Reserve Drill Sergeant of the year.

Ray has been decorated with an impressive number of awards and honors over the years, including being awarded the Meritorious Service Medal five times, the Army Commendation Medal two times, the Good Conduct Medal twice, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal five times, and the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, the Non-commissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon with numeral four, the Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon. He has also earned the Expert Infantryman Badge and the Parachutist Badge.

As is evidenced by the lengthy list of Ray's achievements and honors, he has served his State and his country well. It is also clear that the Department of the Army has great confidence in Ray's experience, and it seems only fitting that someone with his expertise and seasoned skills will be working in such a significant capacity at the Pentagon. My colleagues and I extend our gratitude for Ray's willingness to continue serving the country in this new post, and wish him the best in his next stage of service.●

TELEHEALTH

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, this past month, Major General Nancy Adams, Commander of the Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, HI participated in the Congressional Ad Hoc Steering Committee on Telehealth Demonstration and Briefing. I have been pleased to work closely with General Adams for a number of years, including during her earlier tenure as Chief, United States Army Nurse Corps.

I am extraordinarily pleased to have her selected to command Tripler. She is the first female commander of our facility and the first two-star nurse in the history of the United States Army.

Mr. President, I ask that her opening remarks be printed in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

REMARKS OF MG NANCY R. ADAMS, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AT THE CONGRESSIONAL AD HOC STEERING COMMITTEE ON TELEHEALTH DEMONSTRATION AND BRIEFING ON "INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR HEALTHCARE: GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA WORKING TOGETHER", 23 JUNE 1999

Good Morning and aloha from Hawaii. I am Major General Nancy Adams. I am privileged to offer the opening remarks on the accomplishments and challenges the Department of Defense (DOD) is addressing in information technologies for healthcare.

In my current assignment as the Commanding General, Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii, and the United States Army Pacific Command Surgeon, I am somewhat in awe at being designated as the DOD spokesman. However, I am very pleased to have the opportunity because telemedicine and telehealth initiatives are vital to the mission of my medical center. To say that I am the DOD spokesperson does exaggerate my accountability with the Department. So to be safe, I should at this point go with the standard disclaimer, which says my information does not necessarily reflect the views of the Department or the Secretary of Defense.

I am most pleased to be participating in the congressional Ad Hoc Committee on Telehealth forum. This event acknowledges the vision and support congressional representatives have offered to enhance the applications of information technology to healthcare in general with special emphasis on clinical practice.

Within the Department of Defense, and most particularly in the Pacific, there are significant distances, time zone disparities, and geographic boundaries that present challenges to the delivery of patient care. In the Pacific, a variety of both public and private