

the Veterans of World War I of the USA, Non-Commissioned Officers Association, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans, and the Blinded Veterans Association. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 2, 1999, at 9:30 a.m., in room 345 of the Cannon House Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE YEAR 2000 TECHNOLOGY
PROBLEM SPECIAL

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem be permitted to meet on March 2, 1999 at 8:30 a.m. for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SURFACE TRANSPORTATION/
MERCHANT MARINE

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation/Merchant Marine be allowed to meet on Tuesday, March 2, 1999, at 9:30 am on reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Board.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE,
PEACE CORPS, NARCOTICS AND TERRORISM

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps, Narcotics and Terrorism of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 2, 1999, at 3:00 pm to hold a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING THE NEBRASKA
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S 24TH
MEDICAL COMPANY ON THEIR
DEPLOYMENT TO BOSNIA

• Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, now that the Senate has passed the Soldiers', Sailors', Airmen's, and Marines' Bill of Rights Act of 1999, I would like to take a few moments to express my appreciation for a group of dedicated Nebraskans who have chosen to serve their country in the Nebraska Army National Guard.

Most of the fifty-nine members of the Nebraska Army National Guard's 24th Medical Company left Lincoln on February 21st, for Fort Benning, Georgia. This week, having completed some additional training, these soldiers from the Nebraska Guard are traveling, along with five of the unit's UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters, to participate in Operation Joint Forge in Bosnia, where they are scheduled to serve up to 270 days overseas. The 24th Medical Company will be only the second air medical evacuation unit deployed to

Bosnia, where their mission will be to care for casualties as they are flown from the front lines to hospitals.

Earlier this month, I visited with members of the medical unit in their hangar in Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. President, I am very impressed by the dedication and training of these fine individuals. We are increasingly calling upon our nation's Reserve units to provide support for missions such as Bosnia, as part of America's down-sized military. Unlike the active duty forces, the citizen soldier puts a uniform on, serves his or her country, takes the uniform off, and goes back to work. We Americans should not take this dedication for granted. This current deployment may last for nine months, and that is nine months of time away from their families, their jobs, their education, and their lives. They realize the importance of their mission, and they are willing to make the sacrifices such a mission entails.

Mr. President, I am encouraged by last week's vote in this chamber to increase base pay and benefits for our military forces. The men and women who dedicate their lives to keeping our nation safe need and deserve a pay raise. The decision to join the military is extraordinary, and those who do so need to be properly compensated. However, money has never been and never will be the motivating factor for people who wish to join the Armed Services. We must ensure that the soldiers in our military are not driven away from service by a poor quality-of-life standard. We can accomplish this by making sure that our military have adequate housing, a good, responsive medical care system, proper training and equipment, and support for their families. Even more importantly, we who are not actively involved in military service must continue to hold up individuals such as the 24th Company as exemplars of service and sacrifice in our country. Theirs are the stories that need to be told.

In closing, I would like to give a personal "Thank you" to each and every one of the fifty-nine members of the Nebraska Army National Guard's 24th Medical Company. I wish you success in your journey and look forward to your return from what is the noblest mission in the Army, the mission to save lives.●

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY
MONTH

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, the month of February has been designated as African-American History Month, however, African-American history is American history. The contributions of African-Americans to America encompass almost every area of American life. African-Americans are recorded in America as early as 1619, one year before the Mayflower landed at Plymouth

Rock. The oldest established African-American family are descendants of William Tucker, born in Jamestown, Virginia in 1624.

Unfortunately for many of our youth, African-American role models are limited to those known for their achievements in the world of sports and entertainment. Although their accomplishments in this field are substantial and important, few of our youth know, for instance, about the many African-Americans who, throughout history, displayed tremendous courage and honor in times of war. Cripus Attuk, an African-American, was killed in the Boston Massacre in 1770, becoming the first casualty of the American Revolution. Most of the 5,000 blacks that fought in the Revolutionary War were slaves that fought in place of their owners. After the war had been won, they were immediately put back to work on their plantations, still slaves. More than 200,000 African-Americans served in the Civil War. After the Civil War, many of these trained soldiers were sent west and were reorganized as the 9th & 10th Cavalries, where they were called the "Buffalo Soldier" by the Indians they were fighting. The Tuskegee Airmen of World War II, an air squadron, had the most impressive war record in their theater of action, never losing a bomber they were assigned to escort. Against almost insurmountable odds and racial discrimination, African-Americans have faithfully served America.

Significant in another aspect of America's history are the African-Americans whose endeavors helped fuel the industrial revolution, contributing to the economic prosperity and standard of life all Americans enjoy today. George Washington Carver discovered over 500 products with the peanut, the sweet potato, and corn. Many important inventions were made by African-Americans with thousands of patents made that have benefitted not only America, but the world. Jan Matzlinger invented the first shoe making machine. Elijah McCoy had forty-two patents, most for lubricating different types of steam engines and machines, as well as the first graphite lubricating device. Garrett A. Morgan invented the three-way traffic light which he sold to General Electric. Frederick McKinley Jones invented a workable way to refrigerate trucks and railroad cars, as well as manufactured movie sound equipment. George R. Carruthers invented image converters for detecting electromagnetic radiation. He was also one of the two people responsible for the development of the lunar service ultraviolet camera/specter graph. Dr. Charles R. Drew is credited with the discovery of blood plasma which supplants blood in transfusions, as was the first person to set up and establish blood banks. Dr. Daniel Hale Williams is the first doctor to successfully perform open heart surgery.