May 26, 1999

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE 11093

the ground running. He worked hard and made a name for himself and his family and built a successful career in a very short time.

And he was able to do all of that while taking the time to help others. I'm not even including those whose health and lives he has saved in his medical practice. I can't think of an event held in Nevada involving the public good that he has not been involved with in some way. We recently inaugurated a new Governor of the State of Nevada. Dr. Khan served very capably on his transition team.

In short, number 77 is an outstanding person, just as are all of these people who are numbered here, 18, 72, 73, 74, 77 through 91. It's regrettable that we here tend to rush through these nominations, for each one of these people will dedicate significant time and effort in service to this country.

Many of these nominations are of men and women who are being promoted to general officers in the armed forces, or are being promoted within the rank of general. Dr. Khan, however, will serve as a Member of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, a nomination that I think sets him apart even in this group of good and able men and women. He will serve the University and his country at his own expense. He will devote many hours and days and weeks of his time doing this, and he does it willingly.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1999

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 27. I further ask that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day. I further ask consent that the Senate then resume the Department of Defense authorization bill.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill at 9:30 a.m. By a previous order, the Senate will immediately begin debate on the Allard amendment regarding the Civil Air Patrol. Further, a vote will occur in relation to the Allard amendment at 10 a.m. It is the intention of the bill managers to bring this bill early in the day tomorrow, and therefore cooperation of all Senators is appreciated.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following some remarks I am going to make.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUTCHINSON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Older Americans Month is drawing to a close. Before it ends, I would like to describe another Iowan whose accomplishments reflect an ageless spirit.

MARGARET SWANSON

Margaret Swanson of Des Moines has been called the city's "best known and most beloved volunteer." Approaching age 80, she has completed 50 years of volunteer service.

Despite her pledge to slow down, she still maintains a heavy schedule. She estimates that she volunteers 20 hours to 25 hours a week. Sometimes, she has four or five board meetings in a single day.

New causes present themselves, and Mrs. Swanson is not of a mind to say no. Her varied interests have included the Iowa Lutheran Hospital, the American Red Cross, the Girl Scouts, the East Des Moines Chamber of Commerce and the Iowa Caregivers Foundation. She identifies a need, immerses herself in the task and produces the desired result.

When her church needed an elevator, she raised money to buy one. When a used car center tried to open in her neighborhood, she fought for a day care center instead. When a home for children had an out-of-tune piano, she found an inexpensive tuner. No challenge appears too large or too small for her attention.

Mrs. Swanson's volunteer work has earned her such esteem that other community activists clear their ideas with her before proceeding. Her fellow volunteers prize her knowledge and judgment.

Age doesn't seem to play a role in Mrs. Swanson's approach to volunteering. She is an outstanding volunteer, rather than an outstanding senior volunteer. Growing older means that new causes present themselves, and more wisdom to her work. Involving new generations of volunteers, Mrs. Swanson perfectly illustrates the theme of Older Americans Month, "Honor the Past, Imagine the Future: Toward a Society for All Ages."

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, there is a saying that success is the repetition of meaningful acts day after day. The most successful individuals identify a single purpose and work toward that cause in any capacity they can find. An Iowan named Ed Johnston perfectly fits this definition of success. Mr. Johnston, of Humboldt, Iowa, tirelessly devotes his days to helping people with disabilities. He serves on the Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council, a position he earned after immersing himself in learning about the agencies that serve those with disabilities.

Several days a week, he volunteers at the Humboldt County Courthouse to help people with special needs in five surrounding counties. He interacts with legislators about the importance of providing proper job training to persons with disabilities. He offers his expertise when someone seeks a wheelchair ramp or assistive technology to accommodate a physical need.

Mr. Johnston brings the invaluable insight to his work of someone who has lived the life of the people he seeks to help. He himself has a physical disability, although no one would consider him limited in any way.

Those familiar with his work admire his compassion and persistence. He is able to navigate the layers of government agencies that sometimes appear impenetrable to those who need services.

Another impressive element of Mr. Johnston's advocacy work is that it is his second career. In the early 1990s, he retired after 38 years of running his own shoe repair business and devoted himself to his current vocation.

The Humboldt Independent newspaper called Mr. Johnston "a man on the move." The description is accurate. He moves government agencies, legislators and his community to respond to the needs of persons with disabilities. At age 64, Mr. Johnston is the youngest of the Iowans I have honored during Older Americans Month. I wish him many more years of his priceless work.

FRED AND FERN ROBB

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the Fairfield Ledger of Fairfield, IA, printed a photo of a newly married couple earlier this month. The groom is wearing a stylish suit and a wide smile. The equally resplendent bride has eyes only for her new husband.

The couple is picture-perfect, just like any other couple starting a new life together. Unlike any other couple, the groom in this case is age 102.