

with Service Star, and Southwest Asia Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters.

While serving as Commander of the 105th Airlift Wing, Paul Weaver was responsible for the largest conversion in the history of the Air National Guard. Under his command, the wing converted from the Air Force's smallest aircraft, the O-2 Skymaster, to its largest, the C-5 Galaxy. During this conversion, he oversaw the largest military construction program in the history of the reserve forces as he literally rebuilt Stewart Air National Guard Base.

As the Air National Guard's Director, General Weaver's accomplishments are also noteworthy. He had dedicated each year of his term to a different theme—transition, the enlisted force, the family, and employers, thereby providing focus and enhancements to these four crucial areas. In addition, Paul Weaver's modernization, readiness, people, and infrastructure initiatives have enabled a fuller partnership role in the Air Force's Expeditionary Aerospace Force. The Air Guard achieved all its domestic and global takings and requirements with a force that is also smaller in size. Under General Weaver's leadership, the Air National Guard is even more relevant, ready, responsive, and accessible than it has ever been.

I would be remiss if I also did not mention that the Air National Guard is also fortunate to have another Weaver contributing to its success. Besides fully supporting his chosen profession, Paul's wife, Cathylee Weaver has had a major impact on the Air Guard's Family Enrichment programs. With dignity and grace, she dedicated time and attention to Air National Guard families, which led to her recently being voted as Volunteer of the Year of Family Programs. Clearly, the Air National Guard will lose not one, but two, exceptional people.

Let me close by saying that as both its Deputy and Director, General Weaver has made the Air National Guard a stronger and more capable partner for the Air Force. His distinguished and faithful service has provided significant and lasting contributions to our Nation's security. I know the members of the Senate will join me in paying tribute to this outstanding citizen-airman and true patriot upon his retirement from the Air National Guard. We thank General Weaver, and wish him, Cathylee, and the entire Weaver family much health, happiness, and Godspeed.

KIDS TO KIDS: WARM CLOTHING FOR AFGHAN CHILDREN

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to draw my Colleagues' attention to an important initiative that is taking shape in Vermont. On Monday of this week, I attended a very special ceremony at Lawrence Barnes

School in Burlington to kick off a program called Kids to Kids. The event was organized by Vermont Boy and Girl Scouts and its goal is simple—a drive to collect and send warm clothing to Afghan children. My wife, Liz, and I wholeheartedly agreed to be honorary co-chairs of this program and we are pleased to be part of a mission that involves the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the Islamic Society of Vermont, the National Guard and the business community.

We in Vermont know the importance of being well-prepared for the frigid winter months, and we are fortunate to be in a position to help. But I am particularly pleased that the impetus for this clothing drive has come from the children. Vermonters have always stood eager and ready to lend a hand to those in need, and it fascinates me to see how this tradition passes from one generation to the next. It is the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and school children of Vermont who will make this campaign a success, and the importance of their role cannot be stressed enough.

This campaign is so much more than simply a gesture of good will. It is a matter of saving lives. Thousands of children have fled Afghanistan with nothing more than the clothing on their backs. The flood of Afghan refugees started many years ago, and now there are many thousands of displaced children living in refugee camps.

Many of these children are suffering under conditions that no child should have to bear. They are hungry and they are cold. With winter setting in, something like a warm winter sweater, which so many of us take for granted, is a luxury item that is far beyond their reach.

From our small State to Afghan refugee camps, the boys and girls of Vermont are proving that they can make a difference. I am certain their "good turn" will be as rewarding for them as it is for the children of Afghanistan.

NATIVE AMERICAN BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER TREATMENT TECHNICAL AMENDMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, last evening, the Senate passed by unanimous consent S. 1741, the Native American Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Technical Amendment Act of 2001, which I had introduced with Senator MCCAIN and 23 other bipartisan co-sponsors.

S. 1741 is identical to S. 535 and was introduced as a freestanding bill to address a jurisdictional concern raised with the committee referral of the initial bill. Due to the importance of the legislation, I am pleased that the entire Senate saw fit to allow this bill to be reintroduced and passed by unanimous consent yesterday.

The legislation makes a simple, yet important, technical change to the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment and Prevention Act of 2000 by clarifying that American Indian and Alaska Native women should not be excluded from receiving coverage through Medicaid for breast and cervical cancer treatment.

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act of 2000 gives States the option to extend coverage for the treatment of breast and cervical cancer through the Medicaid program to certain women who have been screened through the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, or Title XV of the Public Health Service Act, and who do not have what is called "creditable coverage," as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, or HIPPA.

In referencing the HIPPA definition of "creditable coverage," the bill language inadvertently precludes coverage to Native American women who have access to medical care under the Indian Health Service, or IHS. HIPPA included a reference to IHS or tribal care as "creditable coverage" so that members of Indian Tribes eligible for IHS would not be treated as having a break in coverage, and thus subject to pre-existing exclusions and waiting periods when seeking health insurance, simply because they had received care through Indian health programs, rather than through a conventional health insurance program. Thus, in HIPPA, the inclusion of the IHS or tribal provision was intended to benefit American Indians and Alaska Natives, not penalize them.

However, use of the HIPPA definition in the recent Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment and Prevention Act has the exact opposite effect. In fact, the many Indian women, who rely on IHS or tribal programs for basic health care, are specifically excluded from the law's new eligibility under Medicaid. Clearly it was not the intent of Congress to specifically discriminate against low-income Native American women and to deny them much needed health treatment to combat breast or cervical cancer.

The legislation resolves these problems by clarifying that, for purposes of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act, the term "creditable coverage" shall not include IHS-funded care so that American Indian and Alaska Native women can be covered by Medicaid for breast and cervical cancer treatment, as they are for all other Medicaid services. Since a number of States are currently moving forward to provide Medicaid coverage under the State option, the need for this legislation is immediate to ensure that some American Indian and Alaska Native women are not denied received life-saving breast and cervical cancer