

office to closing down operations and turning in the keys 18 years later, Nancy was there and remains a very close friend of Senator Kassebaum.

She has approached her job as office manager in a diligent and methodical fashion. She recognizes that well-organized support functions are a critical foundation in the hectic and fast-paced environment of a Senate office. Nancy has consistently brought to her work a quiet, but firm, determination to see that things are done properly. She stayed, as we were taught many years ago, until it was done right.

During her tenure in the Senate, Nancy helped guide her coworkers through the transition from 3-color carbon sets to the computer age, and she is a good manager of computers. It fell upon her to determine how to file the "yellows" in a post-carbon era and how to assure that documents were not "lost in space" due to haphazard filing and forgotten file names.

Her proofreading skills are not limited to catching typos. Rather, she brings to bear the full force of her early experience and training as a teacher. One of the most well thumbed cards in her Rolodex is that of the Grammarphone—a grammar hotline operated by Frostburg State University—to make sure our material goes out correctly. After all, a Senator ought to know how to punctuate correspondence.

Shortly after my election to the Senate in 1996, I had the good fortune of bringing Nancy onto my staff after Nancy Kassebaum retired. Her years of experience and her solid professionalism proved invaluable to me in putting together my office here in Washington.

Her effective management of the day-to-day operations of my office has made a real difference in my ability to serve the people of Alabama.

The work that Nancy has done in her 25 years of service in the Senate does not produce headlines in the newspaper or segments on TV talk shows. Indeed, this is the first time in her 25 years that she has come on to the floor of the Senate Chamber. Young staff members get to do that if they are working on legislation, but she has been doing her job managing the work product in our office.

In fact, the best mark of success for an office manager is that the smooth operation of an office is taken for granted. In that, Nancy has excelled.

The truth is that Nancy lives by the greatest American virtues. She is directly honest, she is exceedingly diligent in her work, always taking care to ensure that things are completed and done right. I have greatly admired her frugality, a trait that has fallen from favor but which is much needed today. She watches every penny of the taxpayers' money in a way I greatly admire.

In a host of ways, Nancy has lived by these great American values and has taught them to hundreds of young people who have worked with her as interns and young staffers over the years. Such richness of contribution simply cannot be replaced.

As Nancy leaves the Senate to start a new chapter in her life, she can take great pride and satisfaction in the accomplishments she has made and the respect she has earned.

Just today, staff people from all over this Senate were in our office expressing their admiration for her as she had a reception this afternoon. I am grateful for her efforts and the dedication as a member of my staff. I wish her and her husband, Vince, who retired a few years ago after a career with NASA—he was with NASA during the glory days of the space age—I wish Nancy and her husband, Vince, all the best in their future years. We look forward to seeing you both on a regular basis and thank you again for the great contributions you have made to the success of our office and to the people of the United States.

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I call to the attention of the Senate the Veterans History Project that is currently being developed by the Library of Congress.

This is a project that is dear to the hearts of all Americans and a project to which the Congress gave our unanimous support when we passed Public Law 106-380 last fall. Just as a new memorial on the Mall will honor our WW II veterans, a living memorial to all our war veterans will be created by the Veterans History Project. This project, which is part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, will collect oral histories, along with letters, diaries, photographs, and other papers from veterans of World War I, World War II and the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf wars, as well as from those who served in support of them. The Veterans History Project will create this national collection by creating partnerships and encouraging participation from a wide range of veterans' organizations, military installations, civic groups, museums, libraries, historical societies, students and teachers, colleges and universities, and citizens and the families of our veterans nationwide.

This is an important national project and one that we should continue to support. Of the 19 million war veterans living in our Nation today, nearly 1,500 of them die each day—1,100 of them having served in World War II. While their own monument is under construction, we can build a lasting national collection that will preserve their war-time memories, actions and experiences. Through this national project

we have to encourage local projects and local archives that will collect oral histories of all our war veterans for our children and our children's children.

This is a project worthy of consideration by all Senators as they return home for Memorial Day. That is the reason I come to the Chamber.

I thank our colleagues in the Senate, Senator CHUCK HAGEL and Senator MAX CLELAND for bringing this opportunity to us and to the citizens of our great Nation—a lasting democracy due to the sacrifices of the men and women honored by the Veterans History Project.

I will support funding for this project and for the operations of the Library's American Folklife Center, where the veteran's collections will be preserved and shared with all. Nearly all of us have worked closely with the American Folklife Center. Many of you will recall the recent Local Legacies Project, done for the Library of Congress bicentennial last year, and other programs it has undertaken over the years.

As we approach Memorial Day I ask the Senate to reaffirm our commitment to our veterans and show our support for the Veterans History Project. As a grateful nation, we must preserve and honor their memories for generations to come.

A VICTORY FOR PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT KIDS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, at the beginning of this year, the State of Michigan enacted a "shall issue" law that makes it easier to obtain a concealed carry permit and will increase the number of guns on our streets. The law, which was scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2001, takes discretion away from local gun boards and requires authorities to issue a license to carry a concealed weapon to any applicant who meets basic eligibility requirements.

Most law enforcement groups in Michigan reject the proliferation of concealed weapons in our communities and warn that this law will move our State in a dangerous direction. Similarly, gun safety groups, including the Michigan Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence and the Michigan Million Mom March, have voiced their concerns that the expected ten-fold increase in the number of concealed weapons on Michigan's streets would jeopardize the safety of our children. These and other groups that oppose the "shall issue" law joined together to form the coalition of People Who Care About Kids and successfully collected more than 230,000 signatures on a petition calling for a referendum on the law.

Last week, the Michigan State Court of Appeals came down on the side of the voters of the State, agreeing that they should be able to decide on the law in a referendum. The appeals panel stated