

day until research identifies a cure. I hope that my colleagues will make more funds available for the prostate cancer research program at the Department of Defense so that we may offer hope to the millions affected by this deadly disease.●

JIM SOLOMON AND HIS RETIREMENT AS THE ALABAMA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINIONS DIVISION CHIEF

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to speak to you about Jim Solomon, who is retiring from his position as head of the Alabama Attorney General's Opinions Division after 35 years of service to the state of Alabama.

This division fields legal advice requests from all over the state of Alabama, with the majority of the requests coming from local government officials having various questions concerning ambiguities in state laws. While opinions are not legally binding, they are used as guidelines by the various entities in developing public policy. Therefore, correct interpretation of Alabama laws are essential to the smaller communities and agencies that do not have a legal staff. Mr. Solomon's contributions to this effort have been extraordinary and should be noted.

I had the honor of working with Mr. Solomon during my term as the Attorney General of Alabama. He was an outstanding employee who believed in service above self. He never strayed from this work ethic during his 19 years in that office. He served as a role model to others and was someone who could always be counted on regardless of the job or the circumstances. His administrative and supervisory abilities were superior and he was greatly loved by those with whom he worked. One of his most impressive achievements was the indexing of all Opinions from 1979 forward, making it possible for the public to have access to them on the Internet.

During Mr. Solomon's employment in the Opinions Division, he was responsible for writing approximately 8,000 Opinions for state and local officials. One of the most memorable opinions caused the previously closed state legislative committee meetings to open to the public.

Jim Solomon is more than a great public servant. He possesses in rich measure the qualities that made for a great citizen, a strong churchman, a faithful family man and a good friend to many. He sets high standards and a good example for all of us.

Mr. President, I appreciate being able to make these brief comments to my fellow colleagues because it is important that Jim Solomon be recognized for his years of outstanding service to Alabama.●

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ON MENTAL RETARDATION ILLINOIS CHAPTER'S 1998 DIRECT SERVICE PROFESSIONAL AWARD WINNERS

● Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, it is my distinct pleasure to join the Illinois chapter of the American Association on Mental Retardation in honoring the recipients of the 1998 Direct Service Professional Award. These honorees are being recognized for their outstanding commitment and contributions to the lives of people in Illinois with developmental disabilities.

These award winners have distinguished themselves through their compassion, dedication, patience and professionalism. Their work not only enriches the lives of those who they care for, but also enriches all of our lives and sets an example of service for all Americans to follow.

It is important to note that the individuals being honored are professionals who spend at least 50 percent of their time directly working with and assisting their clients in the clients' life-space. These people are not supervisors or managers. Instead, they are direct service providers on the front-lines of our nation's mental health care system, delivering much needed and much appreciated care and assistance.

It is indeed my privilege to recognize and celebrate the achievements of the following Illinois direct service professionals: Henry Barrington, Raymond Betke, Shelly Cross, Caroline Frost, Patty Hart, Zarina Hasham, Debbie Huff, Carolyn Johnson, Molly Kuster, Preston McBride, Pearlene McDougal, Patricia Mercer, Lisa Pyle, Della Reese, Michael Smith, Marie Thompson, Marcia Weidman, Jodie White, Katie Whiteford and Sabrina Willis. It is my honor to serve these dedicated professionals in the United States Senate.

I am confident that my colleagues here in the Senate will take this opportunity to join me in saluting the winners of the 1998 Direct Service Professional Award. These awardees represent the best spirit of community service.●

TRIBUTE TO CONNIE DRAKELEY

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I come to the floor today with the sad task of informing the Senate of the passing of one of my staff, Connie Drakeley. Connie died in her sleep last week and coming to terms with her sudden passing has been difficult.

Connie was a very important member of my staff and will be greatly missed. She will be missed not only for the large contributions she made to the office, but also because she was our friend.

Connie joined my staff in March, 1995 in the position of Editor. She came aboard during a time when the mail was building up and a significant backlog was forming—in short order, Connie alleviated the problem.

The mail we receive from our constituents and, in return, answer is the lifeblood of our representative government. It was in this context and with this attitude that Connie worked as Editor on my staff. She, in many ways, had the hardest job in the office—with red pen, she pointed out everyone's mistakes! But she always worked very diligently, professionally and responsibly. She worked long hours and often took work home with her; she made us all better writers. She labored in this manner to make sure that my mail was without fault.

Connie was always ready with advice and assistance when someone on staff needed help right away with a letter, speech or a press release. Though the work load sometimes could have overwhelmed her, she always rose to the challenge and kept her promises to get her editing done on time.

She was very knowledgeable and up-to-date on legislation—she watched the floor, read Congress Daily—she didn't just correct grammar, but content as well. She knew the issues and could spot a mistake a mile away. We realized how much the entire process depended on her whenever she took vacation. Mail came first to Connie! I will always be thankful for her remarkable commitment to a demanding and stressful job and her respect for the English language.

Connie dedicated her life to being the best editor one can be. Before she came to my office, she worked as an editor for Senator HARRY REID, for the National Archives, for Bechtel, and as a picture researcher for LIFE magazine.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Connie's daughter, brother and other family members. On behalf of my entire office, I wish to let them know that our prayers and thoughts are with them.

Connie was an indispensable member of our team; her energy, vitality, and dedication will be missed for a long time. We simply couldn't have accomplished what we did on a weekly basis for the past few years without her. Personally and professionally, we have lost a good friend and coworker.●

NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, in light of the recent vote on national missile defense, I feel compelled to explain my position on this important issue. In short, I agree with this Nation's senior military officers, the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Each of them opposes the National Missile Defense bill, and they provided a detailed explanation of their position in a letter they sent to Capitol Hill prior to the vote.

The National Missile Defense bill would require that a national missile defense system be deployed as soon as it is "technologically feasible." Conversely, the current plan calls for the Defense Department, by the year 2000, to research and develop such a system and then be able to deploy it within

three years. This policy allows us to develop our capabilities in view of developing threats rather than run the risk of deploying a system that proves to be ineffective. In the absence of a current long range ballistic missile threat from a rogue state, this is the most reasonable policy.

Research and development of a National Missile Defense system is advancing at an accelerated pace. Most weapons systems require six to twelve years before they are fully developed and ready to be deployed, but under the current timetable, the National Missile Defense system will spend as little as three years in the development phase. This represents the Defense Department's strong commitment to protecting the United States from an intercontinental missile attack. That commitment is backed by billions of dollars in funding. The nation will spend nearly a billion dollars on national missile defense during the next fiscal year alone.

The National Missile Defense bill would not have advanced the timetable for developing and deploying a missile defense system. What it would have done is lock this nation in to buying a yet-to-be-developed system against an unknown threat for an unidentified sum of money. A decision to buy a system at such an early stage would not only have been unprecedented, but it could have sapped funding from programs that are directed at addressing existing threats. For example, the Joint Chiefs of Staff pointed out that a weapon of mass destruction may presently be delivered through unconventional, terrorist-style means, yet a national missile defense system would not address that threat.

This bill would have had a detrimental impact on arms control agreements. Had the United States gone forward to deploy a National Missile Defense system as the bill required, this nation would have violated the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. Additionally, it might have caused Russia to withdraw from the START I Treaty and certainly would have prevented the ratification of the START II Treaty. The intercontinental ballistic missile threat to this nation will be intensified if Russia retains hundreds of additional nuclear weapons as a result broken agreements. The current policy, continued research and development of a system, would not violate arms control agreements or cause Russia to withdraw from treaties that place important limitations on both nations' missiles.

In conclusion, although I oppose this National Missile Defense bill, I feel strongly that there is an important place for missile defense in our national security strategy. There have been some important advancements in the development of both theater and national missile defense systems that will surely benefit this nation in the future. Our efforts along these lines must continue. Considering all of our

defense and non-defense priorities, however, now is not the time to rush forward with a decision to deploy an undeveloped national missile defense system.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD SERVICES

• Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, yesterday I submitted a concurrent resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the American Red Cross Blood Services. I ask that the text of remarks made at the 50th Anniversary Bicentennial Celebration by Mrs. Elizabeth Dole, President of the Red Cross, be printed in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

Thank you, Paul, for that kind introduction and ladies and gentlemen, thank you so much. And special thanks to Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services, and David Kessler, Dean of the Yale Medical School and former Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. We are delighted you could be with us today as we mark the 50th anniversary of the most important of our national reserves: America's reserve of life, the American blood supply. Thank you, Donna and David, for your continued leadership, and for your steadfast dedication to the safety and quality of American health.

Aren't we thrilled to have Garth Brooks here. Garth, you have a magical hold on the spirit of our people. What a joy it is that you would share that bond with us. We are enormously grateful.

What a day! We are also so very pleased to be joined by the Oak Ridge Boys! Boys, your music puts the party in the birthday, and we thank you.

Also, many thanks to the other wonderful celebrities with us today—Lynda Carter, Kennedy, and William Moses. We sincerely appreciate your generosity in joining us to celebrate our 50th birthday of Biomedical Services. And, welcome to Councilwoman Charlene Drew Jarvis, the daughter of Dr. Charles Drew, renowned plasma pioneer for the American Red Cross and leading authority on transfusion. The Charles Drew Institute honors his memory. Thank you, Charlene, for your support over the years.

As we observe this 50th anniversary, of American Red Cross Blood services, it's a time to take satisfaction in our past and pride in where we've been. The Red Cross started collecting blood during World War II in order to save soldier's lives, and our efforts were credited with reducing the death rate among these soldiers to half that of their World War I counterparts. When peace came, we created America's first nationwide, volunteer blood collection and distribution system, assuring all our citizens access to one of the great medical advances of this century.

But health events in the last two decades rocked us to our very foundations. The age of blood-borne diseases such as AIDS and new forms of hepatitis swooped down on us with a vengeance. We knew we could no longer operate at the Red Cross as we had done for so many years. Which is why this year, our 50th anniversary, is a year to look forward, rather than back. Today I take great joy in announcing an historic achievement:

As the year closes, the American Red Cross will celebrate the completion of our nearly seven-year, \$287 million dollar transformation of our blood operations. This long-awaited milestone is the reason I stand here

with so much confidence—and hope—for the future. The accomplishment of Transformation is a great, triumphant victory in our common endeavor to expand what is possible in health care.

And I'm also pleased to announce today that, following this speech, I am leaving on a nation-wide tour of blood drives and celebrity events to focus attention on the safety revolution in America's blood supply. Many of our citizens are still frightened of transfusions, and they should not be! Many millions still mistrust those red bags of life, and they must not! We have achieved a new American miracle in blood, and I will take that message across America. We will celebrate and we will educate but first, let me ruminate.

When I came to the Red Cross in February 1991, the legal and financial vulnerabilities of our blood operations threatened the very viability of the Red Cross. The country was pretty worried about the safety of America's blood supply back then. And as the person newly responsible for half of it, so was I. Some of our Board members wanted us to get out of blood banking altogether, believing our duty to safeguard the rest of our historic organization demanded that we abandon this mission field. Between Congressional hearings, media exposés and enormous regulatory pressure, there were days when I wanted to get out, too.

Still, the question haunted us: if we left blood banking, who would fill our shoes? The Red Cross is not a public agency, but what we do—especially in blood—is a public trust. We weren't going to let America down. Not on our watch.

The blood supply was as safe as the current blood systems and contemporary scientists knew how to make it. But in the age of AIDS and other blood borne infectious diseases, wasn't there more we could do? We had to "think outside the box" with respect to existing science, blood supply management, and safety approaches.

We dreamed, in 1991, of where we wanted to go. But we did more than that. We mustered our courage and embraced Transformation as our ticket to ride. It was the most ambitious project the Red Cross had ever undertaken; the total redesign of how we collect, process, test, and deliver nearly half of America's blood supply. I dare say it is the most profound change any non-profit organization has made in recent memory!

At the time, it felt the way I imagine a Shuttle astronaut must feel on her first space walk letting go of the ship, taking her first step into the unknown. It felt as if our whole organization had let go . . . let go of the security of status-quo standards, let go of the financial certainty underpinning our entire operation, let go of what we knew, in search of what we hoped to find—but knowing that each step was backed up by a truly exceptional scientific team entirely committed to forging new frontiers. I feel so fortunate that Jim Ross with Brian McDonough and each member of his outstanding team answered my call to complete this challenge.

In 1993, the Food and Drug Administration imposed a consent decree on our blood services operations. But as David will tell you, we were already more than two years into Transformation. The consent decree was basically a codification or ratification of our far-reaching plan, with timelines and milestones for measuring our progress. And today, as we conclude Transformation, we also are wrapping up our last requirements under the decree.

With the completion of Transformation this year, we will have forced ourselves from the mind set of always doing things the way we had done them before. We already have left behind our days in the comfort of industry average to become the undisputed leader