

been a tremendous asset to the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Subcommittee for the last two years. That individual is Carl Truscott, a United States Secret Service agent who has worked with Senator GREGG's committee staff in preparing the fiscal year 1998 and 1999 CJS Appropriations bills.

Carl has been responsible for making policy and fiscal recommendations on the budgets of many of the Department of Justice programs. He's done this with integrity, an eye for detail, and a true bi-partisan spirit. Paramount to Carl's disposition is his belief in doing a good, thorough and fair job, which translated into him working closely with my staff and the Justice Department, ensuring that everyone was on the same page in regard to determining what would be best for the Department of Justice, for the interests of our States, and for the interests of our Senators, regardless on which side of the aisle they sit.

I'm sure Carl is moving on to bigger and better things—and I'm also certain he will earn the genuine appreciation for his hard work that he has won time and again here in the Senate. Carl will be missed by this Subcommittee. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors, and thank him again for all of his excellent work for the Commerce, Justice, and State Subcommittee.●

A TRIBUTE TO PETER J. CARRARA—THE BEST OF THE BEST

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a good neighbor and a man who was the best of the best. His name is Peter J. Carrara and he passed away suddenly on August 20th. However, he will be remembered by everyone who knew him as the epitome of good humor and optimism. Or as co-workers put it, "If you didn't like Peter, you didn't like life."

Peter was a man who loved his country and dreamed of serving the US Navy since he was a child. He fulfilled his dream, served with honor, and became a highly decorated officer. In fact, he retired in 1992 with the rank of Senior Chief Yeoman on a Ballistic Missile Nuclear Submarine, one of the greatest accomplishments a Navy man can achieve. For his service he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, five Navy Achievement medals, five Good Conduct Medals, Enlisted Submarine Breast Insignia, and the SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia. Following his retirement, he held several jobs, including second constable for the Town of Shrewsbury for the last four years of his life.

In addition to serving his country, Peter served his community in many ways. He was a member of the Shrewsbury Community Church, Rutland Fleet Reserve Association, American Legion Post 31, the Shrewsbury So-Birds, and a volunteer fireman. He would approach any situation, espe-

cially challenging ones, with a calmness and strength which was reassuring to everyone around him. To quote his fellow town constable, "He could approach hostile people as if he knew the angel of God was on his shoulder."

As I read through the eulogies given and letters written about Peter, I was struck by how many people mentioned his kindness, caring, and compassion for others. Friends praised and remembered his big heart and giving spirit. For example, when he worked for UPS, he stayed late one Christmas Eve so families would have their presents for the next day. He was devoted to his friends and family and would do anything for them. When they were sick in the hospital, he would visit with them and bring them great comfort.

In fact, his ability to comfort and bring a smile to people's face will be how Peter is remembered. My wife Liz said, "You could never feel down around Peter. His smile and warmth picked your spirits up and you went on your way smiling." But the biggest tribute came from a childhood friend. "You were my hero. I really enjoyed growing up with you, and today you are still my hero."

Farewell, Peter. You will truly be missed.●

RECOGNITION OF THE EFFORTS OF THE PEOPLE OF MASSACHUSETTS TO ASSIST THE CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take the opportunity today to recognize the kind and generous people of western Massachusetts who donated exercise equipment to the Cheyenne River Reservation community in my home state of South Dakota.

The participating YMCA's of Greenfield, Springfield, Holyoke, Northampton and Westfield Massachusetts organized a month long drive that collected 80 pieces of exercise equipment ranging from treadmills to exercise bikes. Robert Sunderland, Vincent Olinski, Harry Rock, Suzanne Walker, Stephen Clay, Kurt Kramer, and Mark St. Pierre all worked together to make this project a reality. Their vision, tireless dedication, and proactive efforts to mobilize the people of western Massachusetts should not go unnoticed. Additionally, I would like to recognize Keith Eichenholz of my staff, a native of Greenfield Massachusetts himself, for recognizing the effort of these participating YMCAs, as well as the needs of Indian country in South Dakota.

As my Senate colleagues know, there are nine federally recognized tribes in South Dakota, whose members collectively make up one of the largest Native American populations in this country. At the same time, South Dakota has three of the ten poorest counties in the nation, all of which are within reservation boundaries. The severe poverty within these reservations makes it extremely difficult to secure

valuable resources that can be used to fight the grave health situation plaguing the American Indian communities.

The contributions of the western Massachusetts YMCAs will help overcome these alarming conditions. Native Americans die at younger ages than the general population: 13 percent of Indian deaths, compared to 4 percent of deaths for all races, occur before age 25. Tuberculosis as a cause of death for Native Americans is 4 times the national mortality rate for this disease, and the Native American mortality rate for diabetes out-paces the national average by 139 percent. Additionally, a 1997 Harvard/Centers for Disease Control study on life expectancy found that the lowest life expectancy in the nation for both men and women, including inner city populations, exists in the Indian population and are the worst rates of any nation in the western hemisphere except Haiti. American health care and medical science are far too advanced to allow such statistics to persist.

Time and time again, regular exercise has been proven effective in reducing the occurrence of heart disease, diabetes, and early deaths. The five western Massachusetts communities will help provide the Cheyenne River Reservation community with the opportunity for a healthier lifestyle at practically no cost. Their contribution deserves recognition, and I thank them for all of their help.

Throughout my service in Congress I have worked with Indian tribes to improve the quality of life on this nation's Indian reservations. I am glad that I have the generous people of Greenfield, Springfield, Holyoke, Northampton and Westfield Massachusetts as allies in this courageous effort.

Again, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude for their collaborated effort, and wish them continued success in future endeavors.●

125TH BIRTHDAY OF ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I am proud to pay tribute to one of the most resilient cities in America—Roswell, New Mexico. One-hundred and twenty-five years ago, the Roswell Post Office opened its doors and a town's identity was established. Since that time, the residents of Roswell have displayed a hearty "can-do" attitude as they adapted to the constantly evolving economic climate of the region.

Roswell has served as an economic and educational hub for southeastern New Mexico. It has been a center for sheep ranching, cattle driving, space exploration, and military aviation. Today, Roswell supports a thriving dairy industry and, because of its warm winters and relaxed pace, it has become a popular retirement destination for senior citizens across the country. Roswell is the site of the New Mexico Military Institute, one of the finest military preparatory academies in the

country, and many noteworthy figures such as Pat Garrett, Roy Rogers, Roger Stauback, and Nancy Lopez have called it their home.

Roswell has come a long way from its humble beginnings as a supply post. Throughout its history, it has exemplified the feisty optimism so typical of the American spirit. Roswell's 125 years of history and development merits a fitting celebration and recognition. I ask that the article entitled "Roswell, Then and Now, An Overview" which appeared in the August 16, 1998 Roswell Daily Record be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Roswell Daily Record, Aug. 16, 1998]

ROSWELL THEN AND NOW: AN OVERVIEW
(By Elvis E. Fleming—City Historian)

Roswell's 125th birthday celebration actually commemorates the opening of the Roswell post office Aug. 20, 1873. While the settlement predated the post office by three of four years, there are no records to pin down exactly when the town was actually founded. It was called "Roswell" starting in the spring of 1872, but it took a while for the name to catch on.

Mescalero Apaches had roamed this area for a long time, but the Pioneer Period in the history of Roswell and Chaves County actually started when the first permanent residents, who were Hispanic farmers and sheep ranchers, came about 1865 to start several area settlements, including Rio Hondo—that part of Roswell that today is called "Chihuahuita."

The Anglo cattlemen from Texas soon followed. Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving blazed the Goodnight-Loving Trail in 1866. John Chisum soon settled down here to become the "Cattle King of the Pecos." By the mid-1870s, he was the largest cattle producer in the United States.

The area around the confluence of the Rio Hondo and the Pecos River made an excellent spot for cattlemen to rest their herds. There was no supply post between Seven Rivers and Fort Sumner, so James Patterson built a little adobe trading post in what is now the 400 block of North Main Street. The future Roswell was born when Van C. Smith showed up about 1869 or '70 and enlarged Patterson's trading post into a hotel and built a store nearby to cater to the needs of drovers on the Goodnight-Loving Trail.

Smith identified his place with the nearby Hispanic settlement of Rio Hondo. In the spring of 1872, however, he decided he needed a more exact address, so he started calling his place "Roswell" after his father. The Roswell post office operated in Smith's store 125 years ago, Aug. 20, 1873, and he was the first postmaster. He was too much of a gambler to develop the town. That job fell to Capt. Joseph C. Lea, "The Father of Roswell."

The Lincoln County War was going on about the time Capt. Lea arrived in 1877-78, but he pretty well kept it away from Roswell. The Army sent the now famous "Buffalo Soldiers" to protect the town. It was up to another Roswell man, Pat Garrett, to become sheriff of Lincoln County, put an end to the violence and hunt down Billy the Kid.

The Developmental Period in Roswell and Chaves County's history dates from around 1890. Chaves County was created in 1889 and organized in 1891, the town of Roswell was incorporated in 1891, and artesian water was discovered in town in 1890. Also, New Mexico Military Institute was established in 1891.

Before 1894, Roswell claimed to be farther from a railroad than any other town in the United States. The arrival of the Pecos Valley Railway changed that in 1894, which was an important turning point in the area's history—especially after it was extended to Amarillo in 1899.

J.J. Hagerman was the one most responsible for both railroad developments. The impact of the railroad on the economic expansion of the city and county cannot be overstated. Many new settlers arrived, which meant new growth for Roswell—the first bank, the first newspaper, many other new businesses, the first schools and the first churches.

The Maturing Period in the history of Roswell and Chaves County started around 1903 when Roswell was reincorporated as a city. Over the next several years, utilities and paved streets were developed. The Carnegie Library and the Roswell Country Club were established. The Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother came to Roswell and started St. Mary's Hospital in 1906.

New Mexico finally became a state in 1912. In preparation for that, Chaves County built a new courthouse that was one of the largest buildings in the Southwest and still is one of the most beautiful public buildings in the state. Roswell's first airport was built in 1929, and the first radio station went on the air in 1931—KGFL.

Roswell has been connected with several world-class athletes and entertainers. In the 1920s, local rancher/cowboy Bob Crosby became the "King of the Cowboys" when he won the Roosevelt Trophy for being world champion rodeo cowboy three years.

Local musicians Louise Massey and the Westerners got their start here in 1928 and went on to become big country/western stars. Roy Rogers, the movies "King of the Cowboys," used to hang out here back in the 1930s. His first wife was a 1932 graduate of Roswell High School, Arline Wilkins, whom he married here in 1936. Singer/composer John Denver was born at St. Mary's Hospital in Roswell in 1943.

Clear skies and wide open spaces attracted Dr. Robert H. Goddard, the "Father of Modern Rocketry," to Roswell in the 1930s. Here, he made man's first attempts to explore outer space.

The Great Depression and the New Deal of the 1930s visited Roswell, and there are a number of monuments to show for it. For example, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) boys built Bottomless Lakes State Park—the first state park in New Mexico. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) built City Hall, Cahoon Park and Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The WPA also built schools, DeBremont Stadium and the Roswell Museum and Art Center.

The museum opened in 1937 and has continued to grow. One of its most important collections is the Peter Hurd paintings. Peter Hurd, who was born in Roswell in 1904, was the greatest native son artist of New Mexico.

The Military Period in Roswell's history dates from the early 1940s, to 1968, but Roswell has always done its part in our nation's military conflicts. National Guard Battery A, one of the oldest and most honored outfits in the state, had gone to the border back in 1916 when Pancho Villa invaded New Mexico; they also went to France in World War I, and were a major part of the infamous Bataan Death March in the early stages of World War II.

Roswell's climate brought the U.S. Army here in the early 1940s to establish the Roswell Army Air Field, which after World War II became the home of the world's only atomic warfare unit, the 509th Bomb Wing and the "Enola Gay" B-29 bomber. The Orchard Park prisoner of war camp brought

4,800 Germans, some of whom made life-time friendships here and others came here to live after the war. New Mexico Military Institute in every war has produced a large portion of officers for the military.

In July 1947, Lt. Walter Haut of the Roswell Army Air Field told the Roswell Daily Record—and the world—that the Army had captured a flying saucer that crashed on Mac Brazel's ranch near Corona, 75 miles north west of Roswell. Maj. Jesse Marcel saw the wreckage and said it was not of this world, but Gen. Roger Ramey insisted it was only a weather balloon!

You couldn't tell that to Glen Dennis and others who not only saw the strange debris, but also saw some little gray bodies. Apparently, the federal government has been covering up the "Roswell Incident" story ever since. The International UFO Museum and Research Center is dedicated to learning the truth and has become Roswell's No. 1 tourist attraction.

In January 1948, Roswell Army Air Field became Walker Air Force Base, an important link in the Strategic Air Command. In 1960 it was designated as a support base for a squadron of Atlas ICBMs. A dozen missile sites were built in a 25-mile radius of Walker. They were completed by the end of 1962, then deactivated by March 1965.

The deactivation of the missile squadron was the first blow to the military economy of Roswell. The main calamity was the closure of Walker, which took place June 30, 1967. Parts of Roswell became ghost towns as thousands made their exodus. Roswell's economy collapsed.

The present Industrial Period started in 1967 with the conversion of Walker Air Force Base into the Roswell Industrial Air Center (RIAC). The former air base has seen the manufacture of many products, from fireworks, lollipops and Levis jeans to mobile homes and city buses—first by Transportation Manufacturing Corps and more recently by NovaBUS.

Roswell Community College moved to the RIAC and used many of the former Air Force buildings for expanded vocational and academic-transfer programs, changing its name to Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell. The college added several new buildings over the years, and in the 1980s built a beautiful new campus for the booming school.

An auxiliary landing strip several miles south of Walker was converted to civilian use as well, first as a school for retarded boys and as a minimum security prison—Roswell Correctional Center—since 1978.

Other major economic developments in Roswell since 1967 include the influx of retirees, attracted by low living costs and warm weather. The town has a continued a steady and prosperous growth. Many national chains have branches in Roswell, some of which have been around for a long time. Numerous others have come in the 1990s, so that national names are represented among the department stores, fast-food restaurants and motels. The trend toward modernization of business in Roswell was boosted by the opening of the Roswell Mall north of town in the 1980s.

Over the years, several locals have achieved national fame on the fields of sport: such as Tom Brookshier, Pete Jaquess, Chick Smith, Nancy Lopez and the 1956 Little League World Champions. Dallas Cowboys football great Roger Staubach played at NMMI for a year in the early 1960s.

Roswell, on the 125th birthday of its post office, is a city approaching 50,000 in population. There is no larger city within a radius of about 200 miles, so Roswell serves as a hub for southeast New Mexico. It is still small enough that traffic is not a big problem; and the business, educational, medical,

legal, religious, fraternal and industrial communities provide for virtually all the needs of the folks in Roswell and the area.

The next 125 years will no doubt see similar developments—growth, problems, ups and downs—as these years since 1873 have witnessed. But the good folks of Roswell will be proud to live here and enjoy being a part of the Land of Enhancement!●

VERMONT HOME HEALTH CARE

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it has been a long road to get us where we are today to a modification of the unfair Medicare home health interim payment system (IPS) reimbursement that passed last year as part of the Balanced Budget Act (BBA). Making sure that this change was passed this year was not about politics but about helping those with the most to lose, the seniors and disabled Americans who rely on home health care.

At the beginning of this year, when I discussed with my colleagues a problem with the "Medicare Home Health IPS," I received a lot of blank stares. The rising level of understanding about this problem—and the rising level of support to fix it—was a commendable and effective team effort on the part of home health beneficiaries and their care givers. They were able to explain to their representatives in Congress why the short-term tinkering in health policy that created the IPS was unfair and was done with too little thought for the consequences.

The IPS passed last year sought to reduce overall spending on home health care by eliminating fraud, waste and abuse to preserve the benefit for those who truly need it. But as Vermont providers know all too well, there were unintended consequences of this proposal that severely harmed their ability to provide care to the most vulnerable populations.

Under this faulty system, Vermont's 13 non-profit home health agencies predicted millions of dollars in reduced payments this year while already boasting the lowest average Medicare costs in the country. The skewed thinking behind the IPS created a system under which Vermont was punished for its low-cost, efficient provision of home health care while high-cost, inefficient providers were rewarded.

A year ago this month, my office began to receive phone calls and letters from Vermont home health beneficiaries and their care givers who were beginning to understand what the overwhelming impact of the new IPS would be. In an effort to raise this issue to the level of where we are today, concerned senators and representatives began the drum beat of highlighting this as a critical issue that must have relief this year.

From the beginning there was a lot of reluctance by the congressional leadership to take up any Medicare legislation this year.

The home health agencies in my state were relentless in their efforts to

continue to call attention to the fundamental unfairness of the Medicare IPS that punished their prudent and efficient provision of service to Vermonters.

My staff and I met with home health officials, and we agreed early on that any and all pressure that we could put on the Administration and other members of Congress would be critical to ensuring the ability of home health care providers to meet the needs of Vermonters.

Several bipartisan Senate bills were introduced over the past year, the first being one sponsored by Senators KENNEDY, KERRY, JEFFORDS and myself. We knew at the time that this was not the perfect answer but that we needed to start a process to get the ball rolling.

Subsequently, several other bills were introduced which I also cosponsored, most notably by Senator COLLINS and another by Senator GRASSLEY. I also joined Senator BOND in offering an amendment in the Appropriations Committee which we withdrew once we were assured that the Republican leadership was taking this issue seriously and would deal with it separately. My colleague from Vermont, Senator JEFFORDS, has pushed hard for this solution as a member of the Finance Committee.

I applaud the bipartisan nature of the work to get this situation turned around. The beneficiaries, the agencies which serve them, and Members of Congress continued to press until we found some relief from the fundamental unfairness in the payment system for home health care.

The Omnibus Appropriations Act conference agreement passed today makes necessary changes to the IPS payment system for the Medicare's home health care benefit. In short, the agreement is expected to provide some equity to agencies which have low-cost, low-utilization practices relative to other agencies by increasing the per beneficiary limits. Agencies below the national median per beneficiary limit will have their limit increased by one-third of the difference between their limit and the national median. The agreement also delays the implementation of the prospective payment system (PPS) until October 1, 2000, and delays an across-the-board 15 percent reduction in payments to home health agencies until that date.

Like most contentious issues, this fix does not go as far as I would have liked and as far as I believe efficient providers like those in Vermont deserve. I support it however because it is better than the status quo.

In the longer term, we need to stop ignoring a more fundamental problem. Congress needs to address the long-term health care needs of the American people.

Stepping back to understanding why the IPS was passed last year, we can see that it was in recognition of the difficulty of designing a more permanent PPS for Medicare home health re-

imbursement, coupled with the need to immediately control spending.

In the long term, a well-designed PPS will provide the Medicare program with the best means to control home health spending and address the problems Vermont home care agencies, and other agencies around the country that are able to provide quality, low-cost care.

The BBA requires implementation of a PPS by agencies in FY 2000. The PPS would establish a fixed, predetermined payment per unit of service, adjusted for patient characteristics that affect the cost of care. Under a well-designed PPS system, efficient providers would be financially rewarded. Conversely, inefficient ones would need to better control their costs to remain viable. If a PPS is not properly implemented, Medicare will not save money, cost-control incentives will at best be weak, and access to and quality of care could suffer.

I am committed to working with my colleagues to make sure that we work steadfastly in overcoming any hurdles in developing a well-designed PPS so that we do not find ourselves in the same situation that we found ourselves with the IPS.●

KIRK O'DONNELL

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, two weeks ago, a number of my colleagues and many members of the Washington community gathered at the National Guard Museum for a memorial tribute to a highly respected and admired figure in modern American political life: Kirk O'Donnell. As most of my colleagues know, Kirk O'Donnell was the chief counsel to former Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. and Boston Mayor Kevin White, and he also served as an advisor to Mayors, Congressmen, Senators, and even Presidents. Tragically, Kirk O'Donnell recently died at the age of 52.

As a fellow Democrat, New Englander, and Irish-American, I had many occasions to cross paths with Kirk O'Donnell, and we eventually became friends. And I have met few people in my political career who were as capable and well-liked as Kirk.

Al Hunt of the Wall Street Journal remembered Kirk as "one of the ablest and most honorable people in American politics." Tom Oliphant of the Boston Globe said, "he was arguably the best mayor Boston never had. . . . Kirk O'Donnell's life demonstrates that all of us can make a difference and that each of us should try."

In an era of growing cynicism toward politics, he made people feel optimistic that government could have a positive impact on people's lives. It is always difficult to lose someone who is clearly so special, but it is made all the more difficult by the fact that Kirk was so young and had so much more to offer.

The afterword from the O'Donnell funeral program was Ralph Waldo Emerson's definition of what constitutes a successful life: