

they fired at targets towed by a B-25. Many of the gunners had been in male-dominated combat and were shocked to greet women pilots in the cockpit. One soldier even exclaimed, "I have to write home about this!"

After spending close to a year at Fort Myers, Blanche and three other WASPs were transferred to the Las Vegas gunnery school where they were used in the engineering squadron to test repaired aircraft. The program generated significant publicity during the war, and Blanche was featured in a famous picture of female pilots walking off of the "Pistol Packin' Mama," a B-17 bomber. The photograph has since been used in advertisements for clothing lines, fashion magazines, and historical chronicles.

Blanche lived to fly, and is quick to point out she always felt accepted by the men in the military. On December 20, 1944, however, a bill sent before Congress that would have allowed women to enter the Air Force did not pass, and the WASP program was dismantled. After being deactivated from the WASPs, Blanche joined the American Red Cross and was sent to Kunming, China where, although she did not fly planes, she was heavily involved in operating clubs for service members stationed overseas.

Following her tour in China, Blanche returned to the U.S. to begin a family. In 1957, she married William H. Bross with whom she had a son, Charles. Together, they moved to Portland, OR, where she developed a seaplane flying base. Later in life, Blanche received a commercial pilot license and flew construction crews to work sites.

For many years, one distinct honor alluded Blanche and the other female pilots. The WASPs had retained their civilian status while flying aircraft in World War II, and therefore, were not considered "veterans" after the war. At long last in 1977, Blanche and other female pilots were finally recognized for their invaluable service to their country when the WASPs were finally designated as veterans.

Today, Blanche resides with her husband in Bend, OR, where she plays golf on a regular basis, and continues to enjoy the outdoors. When asked what one thing she would want others to know about her, she replied simply, "I want people to know I'm proud to be an Oregonian and proud to have served this country."

For her selfless service to others, and to the United States in times of war, I salute Blanche Osborn Bross as an Oregon Veteran Hero.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOHN PATRICK HUNTER

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today, I pay tribute to John Patrick Hunter, a respected journalist and a dear friend.

After growing up in Depression-era West Virginia, witnessing the aftermath of Hiroshima, and the paranoia of the McCarthy era, John Patrick used his opposition to war and fierce defense of civil liberties to fuel his passion for journalism. For nearly half a century, John Patrick served as a reporter and editor for the Capital Times in Madison, WI. He challenged politicians and policies, but at the same time made many friends and established lasting bonds along the way.

After serving in the Navy during World War II, John Patrick attended the University of Wisconsin on the GI Bill and earned his degree. He joined the Capital Times in 1951 and that is where he stayed until his retirement in 1995.

John Patrick will forever be remembered for his work during the turbulent McCarthy era. Many were silenced by McCarthyism but John Patrick took action. For his July 4 assignment in 1951, John Patrick asked people to sign a petition he had put together using only the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. One hundred twelve refused out of fear of what might happen to them, 20 called John Patrick a communist, and only one signed. After the story broke nationally, President Harry Truman heralded John Patrick's efforts.

And as far as my own personal good fortune in knowing John Patrick, he asked me tough question for over 20 years. When I would give him a feisty answer, he would grin and I always felt buoyed by the unofficial but potent encouragement of Wisconsin's glorious progressive legacy.

My condolences go out to John Patrick's wife Merry and his entire family. His unparalleled contributions to Wisconsin journalism will never be forgotten.●

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT DENNIS TAKESHITA

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service of Master Sergeant Dennis Takeshita, a member of the Hawaii Air National Guard. After 37 years of exemplary commitment and dedicated service in defense of our great Nation and 30 years in the Air National Guard, Master Sergeant Takeshita retired on October 3, 2003.

Master Sergeant Takeshita's career experiences have been extensive. He received a commission into the Air Force Reserves in 1966 and served on active duty until 1972. Soon after his honorable discharge from the United States Air Force, Master Sergeant Takeshita joined the Hawaii Air National Guard. He is a decorated soldier who has received numerous citations and awards for his outstanding service and professionalism.

A graduate of St. Louis High School in Honolulu and the University of Hawaii, Master Sergeant Takeshita's career has been one of dedication, service and sacrifice. He served a combat tour

of duty during the Vietnam conflict from 1968 to 1969, as well as Operations Allied Force, Noble Eagle, and Enduring Freedom.

Master Sergeant Takeshita is to be commended for his long tenure, unwavering patriotism, courageous service, unselfish leadership, and individual contributions to the defense of the United States. I applaud the distinguished career of Master Sergeant Dennis Takeshita and express my best wishes for a well-deserved and enjoyable retirement.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

TRIBUTE TO BG EDWARD M. HARRINGTON, USA

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to BG Edward M. Harrington, upon his retirement from the United States Army after more than three decades of distinguished service to our Nation.

Ed Harrington's military career can truly be described as an American success story. A son of Massachusetts, he grew up in the coastal town of Marshfield, where his family's roots extend back three generations. After graduating from Marshfield High School, he attended Northeastern University in Boston, earning a degree in Business Administration. Before the ink was dry on his diploma, Ed received his draft notice and soon donned the battle dress of an infantryman. It wasn't long until his superior recognized his leadership potential, and he was selected for Officer Candidate School. This marked the beginning of what turned out to be an exemplary career as an officer who rose to the pinnacle of the complex world of acquisition management.

As a lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps, he received orders for Vietnam where he was assigned to the First Cavalry Division. After service in Vietnam, he returned stateside and assumed command of the 259th Field Service Company at Fort Bragg. Then, with family in tow, he headed for Germany, serving in various Signal Command positions.

After being promoted to captain, Ed returned to Massachusetts to become a professor of military science at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Fitchburg State College.

In the mid-1980s, Ed's expertise in defense acquisition management prompted his selection for the challenging position of production manager for the M1A1 Abrams Tank at the Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command in Warren, Michigan. There, he met the technical challenge of upgrading the tank's armor plating improving survivability and personnel protection. Years later, he would return to that organization as the Deputy for System Acquisition, a position in which he exercised milestone decision authority for more than 200 Army programs, including the