

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego consistently excels as a supportive, productive, and contributing member of the community. Miramar hosts and supports many events that integrate the San Diego community into the work of the base. It stages the largest military air show in the United States, has Cockpit Days at the Flying Leatherneck Museum which hosts 16,000 visitors annually, bimonthly tours which give community members a chance to become familiar with the Marine Corps, as well as Educators' Workshops, Community Leaders' Forums, and it provides color guards at local events.

Integral to the most powerful concentration of Navy bases in the Nation, Miramar is responsible for supporting combat-ready expeditionary aviation forces capable of worldwide, short-notice deployment as part of a Marine Corps Air-Ground Task Force. Miramar is the home of Third Marine Aircraft Wing Headquarters, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area and Reserve Support Unit and more than 10,000 Marines, Sailors, and civilian Marines.

Miramar's Marines continue to significantly contribute to Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. While friends and family members are serving abroad, Operation Enduring Families, a support network for families of deployed service members, operates on the base. Miramar's dedication to defending our country while enhancing quality of life for its service members and broader community is evident as the Marines contribute to the San Diego community as speakers, teachers, mentors, and sport coaches.

Miramar achieves excellence in environmental standards, innovation, safety, efficiency, and a dedication to teamwork, honesty, and integrity. Their exemplary service continues to lead the Nation and to innovate for the next generation. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Miramar and the women and men who support it for their receipt of the 2004 Commander-in-Chief's Installation Excellence Award.●

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ON MENTAL RETARDATION AWARD WINNERS

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to join the Illinois chapter of the American Association on Mental Retardation, AAMR, in recognizing the recipients of the 2004 Direct Service Professional Award. These individuals are being honored for their outstanding efforts to enrich the lives of people with developmental disabilities in Illinois.

These recipients have displayed a strong sense of humanity and professionalism in their work with persons with disabilities. Their efforts have inspired the lives of those for whom they care, and they are an inspiration to me as well. They have set a fine example of community service for all Americans to follow.

These honorees spend more than 50 percent of their time at work in direct, personal involvement with their clients. They are not primarily managers or supervisors. They are direct service workers at the forefront of America's effort to care for people with special needs. They go to work every day with little recognition, providing much needed and greatly valued care and assistance.

It is my honor and privilege to recognize the Illinois recipients of AAMR's 2004 Direct Service Professional Award: Mary Alimi-Seiwart, Patricia Baldrige, Linda Christianson, Willie Mae Clinton, Avis Ganter, Ruth Just, Linda Koch, Patricia Matuske, Harshida Mody, Barbara Purches, Mark Rodgers, Dwight Sanders, Chris Shell, Marie Sonnan, Linda Sweeney, Marla Tegtmeier, Clarence Woods, and Kim Wren.

I know my fellow Senators will join me in congratulating the winners of the 2004 Direct Service Professional Award. I applaud their dedication and thank them for their service.●

WILLIAMS CHARTER TOWNSHIP

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to join in celebrating the 150th anniversary of Williams Charter Township. Located in the heart of Michigan, this rural township is a close-knit community that reflects much of the best America has to offer.

John Gaffney, Charles Bradford, William Spafford, Charles Fitch, George W. Smock, and Lyman Brianard were the first to arrive in 1854 on the land that officially became Williams Charter Township. The area's waterways and roads soon became an essential route of transportation for travelers in the region. The fertile soil led to the establishment of many farms, which are providing harvests over a century later. The earliest settlers saw this land as an ideal place to begin their new lives, and by doing so, built a strong foundation for the generations that have followed.

The sesquicentennial festivities of Williams Charter Township took place this past weekend, and its residents and their families and friends came together to commemorate the land's rich history and to celebrate the continued growth of this wonderful community. The occasion was marked with many memorable activities, including living historical re-enactments and an awards ceremony to honor some of the township's most outstanding citizens.

I know my Senate colleagues will join me in congratulating the residents of Williams Charter Township on this important milestone. I am proud to represent this township and wish them many more years of success and happiness.●

HONORING COLONEL ART WHITE, USMC

● Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, as a veteran Marine and friend, I rise today to pay tribute to COL Art White, who will complete his 3-year tour of duty with the United States Marine Corps' Office of Legislative Affairs on December 1, 2004. I have had the pleasure to work with Colonel White on many occasions. In his role as the director of the Marine Corps' Senate Liaison Office, he has provided tremendous support while acting as the principal conduit for information between the Marine Corps and many Members of this eminent body. His affable personality and attention to duty contributed to a highly successful relationship between the U.S. Senate and the U.S. Marine Corps. His dedication to the Members of the United States Senate will be sorely missed.

Art White was born and raised in Westchester, NY. After high school in New York, he attended Georgetown University, where he also played basketball for the Hoyas, graduating in 1976. In 1977, Colonel White received a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps and subsequently reported to Quantico, VA, to take on the challenge of becoming a marine officer. During his subsequent 27-year career in the Marine Corps that included both active and reserve duty, Art served as an infantry officer, aide de camp to the assistant division commander of the 1st Marine Division, a communications officer, a civil affairs officer, a counterintelligence officer, and a reserve mobilization officer.

In 1980, Colonel White left active duty and transitioned to the Marine Corps Reserve. He then attended the Seattle University School of Law, graduating in 1983, and began a long, distinguished career in public service. He served as a professional staff member for the Republican Policy Committee chaired by our former colleague from the great State of Texas, Senator John Tower; as a staff member in the U.S. House of Representatives; as the director of legislative affairs for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in the Commerce Department; and as the deputy assistant director for legislative affairs for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

In December, 2001, Colonel White was ordered to active duty to serve as the director of the Marine Corps' Liaison office in the Senate. Since that time, he has been a key player in maintaining effective relationships between the Marine Corps, my colleagues in the Senate, professional committee staff, and personal staff members. In particular, he responded to thousands of congressional inquiries, ranging from such sensitive issues as notification of combat casualties during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, to providing timely information on the operation, organization and budget of the Marine Corps. He also planned and executed approximately 33 international congressional delegations. I