

age, this mature workforce is breaking down the negative stereotypes that cast older workers as frail, unproductive, and resistant to technological advances. Today's older generation of Americans has persevered through economic hard times and flourished in prosperity, endured war and enjoyed peace, and embraced more dramatic technological advances in science, medicine, transportation and communications than any other generation in our history. This breadth of experience should be viewed as a valuable asset bridging this country's past and future. National Employ Older Workers Week is our opportunity to recognize the wealth of experience older Americans have acquired and can contribute to the 21st century workplace, as well as the importance of work in helping seniors maintain their independence, health, and well-being.

Mr. President, I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognition of National Employ Older Workers Week. As chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I look forward to working with my colleagues to encourage the hiring and retention of older workers. We honor these workers for their experience and the contributions they have made throughout their lifetimes, and look forward to their continued contributions to our country's prosperity.

IMPROVING ELECTION PRACTICES FOR NOVEMBER 7TH

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, there has been much discussion and debate over the last 6 years on the best way to modernize the way we run Federal elections. As a result of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, HAVA, the Election Assistance Commission, EAC, a bipartisan independent agency, was created. One of the EAC's duties is to serve as a clearinghouse of election administration information for the use of election officials, the information of voters, and the good of our democracy.

The Election Assistance Commission has recently released four documents that serve as an overview on good election administration practices in preparation for the November 7 Federal elections. States are making the final push to implement the new election administration requirements enacted in HAVA which must be in place by November. As with any new Federal requirements, it is anticipated that there may be problems with new technologies, administrative failures, or human error. In light of some of the challenges faced by election officials in primaries over the last few weeks, these best practices guidelines are both timely and instructive for those who are responsible for conducting our Federal elections this fall.

The first document, "Quick Start Management Guide for New Voting Systems," covers basic polling place planning and management operations for those jurisdictions that have re-

cently purchased new voting equipment. This document includes recommendations on contingency plans, testing procedures, and security.

The second document, "Quick Start Management Guide for Poll Workers," discusses best practices for recruiting, training, and retaining poll workers. These best practices include election day recommendations for establishing a dedicated phone line for poll workers and creating a troubleshooting guide for problems at the polls.

A third guide, "Quick Start Management Guide for Voting System Security," discusses methods of assessing technological or procedural flaws in election security, and suggests protocols on how to improve the secure functioning of the elections process. These protocols include installing only certified software, implementing procedures and systems to control physical access to voting systems, and maintaining an inventory of all election materials.

Finally, the fourth guide, "Quick Start Management Guide for Ballot Preparation/Printing and Pre-election Testing," provides recommendations for ballot preparation and logic and accuracy testing of systems. These best practices include testing all components of the system prior to election day, replacing all batteries before each election, and ensuring that all state laws and procedures for logic and accuracy testing have been followed.

These guides have been developed based on best practices used successfully by election officials across this Nation. While many jurisdictions may already be considering these procedures, I wanted to bring these guides to the attention of my colleagues in the hope that they will pass this information on to their state and local election officials for use in the November Federal elections.

These recommendations may not cover every potential election problem faced by poll workers and voters in the fall elections. State law in some jurisdictions may even preclude election officials from implementing some of these best practices. However, these documents raise potential issues for everyone involved in the elections process to consider, and offer concrete solutions to the challenging administrative problems that impact state and local election officials. Most importantly, these procedures can help ensure that every eligible American will have an equal opportunity to cast a vote and have that vote counted in the November Federal elections.

The text of these four Quick Start Guides can be accessed on the Election Assistance Commission Internet Web site, <http://www.eac.gov> by following links to: Guide for New Voting Systems; Voting System Security Guide; Poll Workers Guide; and Ballot Preparation/Printing & Pre-Election Testing Guide.

THE KYOTO DECLARATION OF RELIGIONS FOR PEACE

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, the organization known as Religions for Peace constitutes a global network of inter-religious councils and affiliated groups, harnessed to encourage cooperation among the world's religious communities to transform conflict, build peace and advance sustainable development.

Founded in 1970 as an international, nonsectarian organization, Religions for Peace is now the largest coalition of the world's religious communities.

President of Religions for Peace is His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan.

Secretary General of WCRP, as the organization is known, is Dr. William F. Vendley, of the United States.

Our former colleague and my fellow Hoosier, John Brademas, who served in the House of Representatives from Indiana for 22 years and then became president of New York University, which he now serves as President Emeritus, is an International Trustee of Religions for Peace.

Last month, in Kyoto, Japan, more than 800 religious leaders, from all major traditions and over 100 countries, met at the Eighth World Assembly of the World Conference of Religions for Peace.

The theme of this assembly was Confronting Violence and Advancing Shared Security.

At the request of our former colleague Representative Brademas, I ask unanimous consent to have the final statement issued by the Kyoto Assembly printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE KYOTO DECLARATION ON CONFRONTING VIOLENCE AND ADVANCING SHARED SECURITY— RELIGIONS FOR PEACE EIGHTH WORLD ASSEMBLY

PREAMBLE

Representing all major religious traditions and every region of the world, more than eight hundred religious leaders from over one hundred countries convened in Kyoto, Japan as the Eighth World Assembly of the World Conference of Religions for Peace to address the theme, "Confronting Violence and Advancing Shared Security." We, the Assembly Delegates, come from the global Religions for Peace network of local, national, regional, and international inter-religious councils and groups, as well as networks of youth and women of faith. We recognize and build on the significant contributions and statements of youth and women of faith made in their respective assemblies.

The first Religions for Peace World Assembly that convened in Kyoto in 1970, and every Assembly since, affirmed deeply held and widely shared religious principles that still inspire our search for peace with justice today. We share a conviction of the fundamental unity of the human family, and the equality and dignity of all human beings. We affirm the sacredness of the individual person and the importance of his or her freedom of conscience. We are committed to the ethical values and attitudes commonly shared by our religious traditions. We uphold the value of life manifest in human community