

Although she died in 1935, her message lives on at the Birdcraft Bird Sanctuary which remains a museum containing exhibits of Connecticut wildlife and providing frequent tours for school children.

All five of these inductees are richly deserving of this award. I am pleased, indeed, that their remarkable lives will now become better known to the people of Connecticut and the United States for generations to come.●

VETERANS' EQUALITY FOR TREATMENT AND SERVICES ACT OF 1998

● Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, as Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have sought recognition to express my support for the Medicare subvention demonstration project legislation which has been introduced by Senator JEFFORDS. This important legislation was approved by the Senate last year as part of the Balanced Budget Act, but the measure was stricken from the final version of that legislation in conference. I hope that this year, the House will recede from its objections, and we can send this legislation, which is supported by the Administration, to the President for his signature.

This bill would begin the process of opening a new—and vitally needed—source of funding for the provision of health care services by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It would grant to VA, on a demonstration project basis, the authority to collect and retain funds from Medicare—just as VA collects reimbursement funds from veterans' private insurance carriers—for the costs associated with treating Medicare-eligible veterans' non-service-connected illnesses and injuries.

The Balanced Budget Act specifies that appropriated funding for the provision of health care services by VA will be flat over the next five fiscal years. At the same time, 7.7 million World War II veterans and 4.5 million Korean War veterans—veterans who are eligible for Medicare benefits—will require extensive health care assistance as they age. It is critical that these veterans be allowed to bring their Medicare benefits to VA so that VA might be better able to meet their needs.

This legislation will surely assist VA by providing a new revenue stream. But it will also benefit Medicare. Under the plan set out in this legislation, VA would be reimbursed at a level not to exceed 95% of the rate Medicare would otherwise pay a private hospital for care supplied to a Medicare-eligible veterans. In summary, under this legislation Medicare would receive care for its veteran beneficiaries at a discount, and VA would receive a vitally needed new source of funding.

Medicare subvention legislation is supported by all of the members of the Veterans Affairs Committee. It is sup-

ported by the Administration. All of the major veterans' service organizations have urged enactment of this legislation. And, as I previously noted, the Senate approved this legislation last year as part of the Senate-approved Balanced Budget Act.

I am pleased to add my name to this bill as a cosponsor, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.●

RECOGNITION OF DR. LOUIS AVIOLI

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, on May 19, an endowed lectureship, at Washington University in my home State of Missouri, will be named in honor of Louis Avioli, M.D., for his contribution to the field of bone and mineral metabolism. Washington University and St. Louis University employ the largest group of bone research scientists in the world. Dr. Avioli is known as a legend in this field and for good reason.

Dr. Avioli is the founder of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR), and is responsible for individually combining the growing research interests beginning from a large range of disciplines into what is now the top scientific society devoted to bone and mineral research. The membership of ASBMR has grown to more than 3,000 scientists and more than 5,000 attend the annual convention. Dr. Avioli has been appointed to numerous positions, been published countless times and has several honorary degrees.

With so many impressive accomplishments, it is no wonder an endowed lectureship is named in his honor. Commending Dr. Avioli for his many years of service to the field of bone and mineral metabolism, I am glad to say that the State of Missouri is enriched with his wisdom and leadership. I join the many who congratulate and thank him for his hard work and wish him continued success in future years.●

VETERANS' EQUALITY FOR TREATMENT AND SERVICES (VETS) ACT OF 1998

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, as a supporter of the Veterans' Equality for Treatment and Services Act of 1998, introduced last Friday by Senator JEFFORDS on behalf of myself, Senator ROCKEFELLER, Senator SPECTER, and Senator MURKOWSKI, I am committed to ensuring that our aging veterans have access to quality, affordable, reliable, and convenient health services.

However, as budgets decrease so, unfortunately, do services provided. The demonstration project outlined in the VETS Act of 1998 will allow Medicare to reimburse the VA for its services without putting a strain on the Medicare trust, and will provide an additional funding source for the VA. The project authorized by this legislation will be conducted over a three-year period, at up to 12 sites across the nation, and annual Medicare spending will be

capped. Safeguards will also be imposed to ensure the cap is not exceeded. This bill may even save Medicare dollars by imposing a mandatory five percent discount on its reimbursement for services provided to veterans.

Those targeted by this legislation are lower- and middle-income veterans who are no longer eligible for treatment at the VA because of its constrained resources. People like Mr. John C. Elkins, of Columbia, South Carolina, who is in his late seventies and who served over 28 years in the military. Recently, Mr. Elkins wrote this in a letter to me: "Oh, I know some think we hang on to life and drain government resources that are being paid for by the younger workers. But I must ask you and those who question us: isn't three wars in a lifetime worth something?"

The veterans of our nation have served honorably and faithfully, often under perilous conditions, and they have sacrificed both with the loss of their lives and with their livelihoods. Thousands of veterans have experienced any number of health care problems. These veterans should have the same access to health care as all other Americans and, quite frankly, Mr. President, they deserve more for the sacrifices they have made.

Mr. President, you will remember what my good friend, the late President John F. Kennedy said in his inaugural address: "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." The men and women of the armed services, our veterans, did just that. They answered their country's call to duty, and in response they were often put in harm's way. They served 24 hours a day, seven days a week, all around the world. They continue to support and defend our nation's interests, and I believe it is time our nation supported their interests.

I urge my distinguished colleagues to join Senators JEFFORDS, ROCKEFELLER, SPECTER, MURKOWSKI, and me in supporting the VETS Act of 1998. It is among the very least that we in Congress can do to continue our support for these veterans, like Mr. Elkins, who have given so much to this country, while at the same time helping to preserve the VA medical system and the Medicare trust.●

RECOGNITION OF CFIDS AWARENESS DAY

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to reaffirm my support for the tireless efforts of the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association of Lehigh Valley to fight Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome (CFIDS), or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS).

For six years, the CFS Association of Lehigh Valley has been dedicated to finding a cure for CFIDS, increasing public awareness, and supporting victims of this disease. The Lehigh Valley organization is actively involved in

CFS-related research. In addition, they regularly participate in seminars to train health care professionals. Public education is an essential aspect of the association's mission. Likewise, the Lehigh Valley organization raises public awareness through the International CFIDS Awareness Day, which is held on May 12 each year. I would also note that the CFS Association of Lehigh Valley received the CFIDS Support Network Action Award in both 1995 and 1996 for their initiatives in public advocacy.

Although researchers have made some advances in the study of this condition, CFIDS remains a mysterious illness. Presently, there is no known cause or cure. Victims experience a wide range of symptoms including extreme fatigue, fever, muscle and joint pain, cognitive and neurological problems, tender lymph nodes, nausea, and vertigo. Recently, the Centers for Disease Control gave CFIDS "Priority 1" status in the new infectious disease category, which also includes cholera, malaria, hepatitis C and tuberculosis. Until this disease is obliterated, the CFS Association of Lehigh Valley will continue its research and education campaigns.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the Lehigh Valley organization and in supporting the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) Association of the Lehigh Valley joined the Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome (CFIDS) Association of America, the world's largest organization dedicated to conquering CFIDS, in observing May 12, 1998 as International Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome Awareness Day; and

Whereas, the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association of the Lehigh Valley, a member of the Support Network of the CFIDS Association of America, is celebrating their sixth year of service to the community; and

Whereas, CFIDS is a complex illness which is characterized by neurological, rheumatological and immunological problems, incapacitating fatigue, and numerous other symptoms that can persist for months or years and can be severely debilitating; and

Whereas, estimates suggest that hundreds of thousands of American adults already have CFIDS; and

Whereas, the medical community and the general public should receive more information and develop a greater awareness of the problems associated with CFIDS. While much has been done at the national, state, and local levels, more must be done to support patients and their families; and

Whereas, research has been strengthened by the efforts of the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health, and other private institutions, the CFS Association of the Lehigh Valley recognizes that much more must be done to encourage further research so that the mission of conquering CFIDS and related disorders can be achieved;

Therefore, the United States Senate commends the designation of May 12, 1998 as CFIDS Awareness Day and applauds the efforts of those battling the illness.

I appreciate the Senate's consideration of this issue, and I thank my colleagues for their attention.●

TRIBUTE TO DEBORAH MILLER

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I am pleased to extend my congratulations to Deborah Miller on her 14 years of outstanding service to the Solomon Schechter Day School of Raritan Valley in East Brunswick, NJ, where she currently serves as Director. Deborah has decided to leave the school to pursue her own education, and I want to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

While I'm sure that everyone at Solomon Schechter is saddened by Deborah's departure, her eagerness to earn a Ph.D. in Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary is a fitting next step in Deborah's already distinguished academic career. After finishing her undergraduate work at Barnard College, Deborah went on to earn a Masters in Jewish Education and a Day School Principals Certificate from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Deborah has been a devoted educator and administrator during her many years teaching. Since her arrival at Solomon Schechter Day School 14 years ago, Deborah has done everything to develop the school and make it a complete success.

While Deborah has served as Director, the school has been nationally recognized for its excellence in education. It is particularly well known for its integration of Jewish and General Studies curricula and its "immersion" Jewish Studies courses in Hebrew. The school has also grown in size during Deborah's tenure. It originally taught students in pre-kindergarten through 6th grade. Now the school teaches 7th and 8th graders as well. When Deborah started, there were 180 students enrolled. Now there are 315.

As if Deborah didn't have enough to keep her busy, her extracurricular activities are equally impressive. Outside of Solomon Schechter, Deborah teaches Jewish Studies to adults in neighboring educational facilities and synagogues. She also happens to be a well-known author of children's fiction. She currently has written five books for children about Judaism. Her style is clever and fun-loving, and her books are enjoyed by all ages as a result.

Deborah's departure from Solomon Schechter Day School may be bitter-sweet, but she has a great deal to look forward to as she continues to learn about Jewish literature, history and the Torah. The lucky ones are not only those who have known her at Solomon Schechter, but those students who will have the privilege of being in Deborah's classroom when she returns to teaching full time.●

RECOGNITION OF DR. INEZ KAISER

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Inez Kaiser for being named 1997 National Minority Advocate of the Year. She received this prestigious award from the United

States Department of Commerce's Minority in Business Development Agency (MBDA). Dr. Kaiser is president of Inez Kaiser & Associates, Inc., the oldest African-American female-owned public relations firm in the United States.

Dr. Kaiser was chosen for the award based on her forty+ years of advocacy on behalf of minority business development. In addition to her untiring efforts to expand minority roles in the business industry, she was a consultant and advisor to former Presidents Nixon and Ford on minority women's business issues and organized the first nationwide conference of Women in Business for the United States Department of Commerce. Over the years she has strived to help other minority businesses by identifying their problems and offering advice on how to address those problems. Being the only African-American female in the National Hall of Fame of Women in Public Relations, she is also the president of the National Association of Minority Women in Business.

Dr. Kaiser has set a positive example for minority business people everywhere and it is a pleasure to see her impressive accomplishments receive the recognition they deserve. My home State of Missouri is extremely fortunate to have such a shining example of success and hard work. I wish her continued prosperity and achievement in the coming years.●

PRESIDENT OF SUNY FARMINGDALE CELEBRATES TWENTY YEARS

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Frank A. Cipriani, whose long and outstanding career as president of SUNY Farmingdale will be celebrated with much pomp on Wednesday, May 20, 1998.

Dr. Cipriani's outstanding qualities of enlightened leadership and innovation brought unprecedented success to SUNY Farmingdale. Dr. Cipriani took the school from a two year agrarian institution to a four-year college, one of the largest of the nine Colleges of Technology in the New York State University system.

His great success is readily visible on the SUNY Farmingdale Campus. Mr. Cipriani's other associations and affiliations are not as well known but are worthy of commendation. They include: Team Chairman for the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Evaluation; Chairman of the Board, Regional Industrial Technical Education; Member, New York State-wide Job Training Partnership Council; Member, New York State Education Department's Advisory Council on Postsecondary Education; just to name a few of the associations and affiliations that demonstrate the special concern that Dr. Cipriani has for education.

Born in New York of immigrant parents, Dr. Cipriani has been a New Yorker all of his life, with the exception of