

Third, they must have measurable results. Programs must achieve their aims. Their effectiveness must be evaluated—not on the basis of individual projects which can have varying rates of success—but on basis of the entire program.

Fourth, they must employ a consistent approach. Federal policy must be applied consistently across the entire spectrum of federal research agencies. High quality, productive research programs must be encouraged regardless of where they are located.

Accompanying the four first principles, are four corollaries:

(1) Flow of Technology. The process of creating technology involves many steps. However, the current federal structure clearly reinforces increasingly artificial distinctions across the spectrum of research and development activities. The result is a set of programs which each support a narrow phase of research and development, but are not coordinated with one another.

Government should maximize its investment by encouraging the progression of a technology from the earliest stages of research up to commercialization, through funding agencies and vehicles appropriate for each stage. This creates a flow of technology, subject to merit at each stage, so that promising technology is not lost in a bureaucratic maze.

(2) Excellence in the American Research Infrastructure. We must foster a close relationship between research and education. Our investment at the university level creates more than simply world class research. It creates world class researchers as well. We must continue this strong to a research infrastructure, and find ways to extend the excellence of our university system to primary and secondary educational institutions.

(3) Commitment to a Broad Range of Research Initiatives. Revolutionary innovation is taking place at the overlap of research disciplines. We must continue to encourage this by providing opportunities for interdisciplinary projects and fostering collaboration across fields of research.

(4) Partnerships among Industry, Universities, and Federal Labs. Each of these has special talents and abilities that complement the other. Our federal dollars are wisely spent by facilitating the creation of partnerships, in effect creating a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.

These first principles and their four corollaries, Mr. President, provide a framework that will not only guide the creation of new, federally funded research and development programs, but validate existing ones. Taken together, they create a powerful method for elevating the debate by increasing Congress' ability to focus on the important issues; decreasing the likelihood that it will get sidetracked on politically-charged technicalities; and ensuring that federal R&D programs are consistent and effective. They will also help us establish both a consistent set of national goals, and a vision for the future.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

However, Mr. President, even if we are to accomplish all that we hope—in terms of setting and fully funding our current science and technology prior-

ities, creating a vision for the future, and developing a strategy for attaining it—our work will still be incomplete if we fail to accomplish one more thing: We must prepare the next generation for the century to come.

We must create a scientifically-literate work force capable of prospering in a world not only driven by a science and technology economy, but dependent upon science and technology excellence.

Yet as evidenced by the results of the latest TIMSS (Third International Math and Science Study) study, America's high school seniors are among the industrial world's least prepared in math and science. And in math and physics, no nation performed more poorly than the United States.

Why? Part of the reason is teacher qualification—28 percent of all high school math teachers, and 55 percent of all physics teachers neither majored nor minored in these subjects.

Part of the reason is unrealistic curricula—which forces teachers to teach a little bit of everything, but nothing in depth.

Part of it has to do with textbook publishers who seem to be more concerned with continually adding new material than with advancing students' skills.

And part of it, no doubt, has to do with the fact that, in many cases, we simply have not fostered in our children the same spirit of wonder that was fostered in us.

Mr. President, it's time to, once again, get America excited about science.

It's time we recovered our heritage, and became again a nation of people who build the future—a future filled with hope and promise.

And it's time we inspired the next generation to continue the process of exploration and innovation that made America possible in the first place, and that will take her into a 21st century future brighter than any point in her past.

Mr. President, as a physician, as a scientist, as a Senator, those are my goals. I hope they are the goals as well of every Member of this body. For whether we, as a nation, use and develop the knowledge we gain to its highest potential for the benefit of ourselves, our Nation, and our fellow man depends, in large measure, on whether we are able to achieve them.

Mr. President, I thank the chair.

MEMORIAL DAY

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. “A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers.” What better way to pay tribute to America's veterans on this Memorial Day than to quote our former President, John F. Kennedy. He knew then, in 1963, that it was imperative we honor and remember our veterans, as should know today. We must not forget the sac-

rifices of the many men and women who gave so much for the sake of this great country, and we must honor them with our gratitude.

I stand before you today to salute these veterans. In my home state of West Virginia, generations of veterans have served in the Armed Forces, and many have lost their lives. This country would not be the world power that it is today had it not been for these men and women who fought so bravely. Let us not just know that this day is Memorial Day, let us take a moment to put names, faces, on these veterans. Husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, and children. Friends to us all; friends who fought for our freedom. Freedom that we share every single day of our lives. Freedom that makes America as great as it is.

Stand proud when you see the American flag waving high in the air. Sing along to the Star Spangled Banner. Nod your head in respect when you pass by a veterans' cemetery. Behind these symbols of America are the people who have made them so remarkable, the veterans of this country. They deserve our gratitude on this day and everyday.

So many veterans gave their lives for this Nation. We cannot forget what they did for us. The lives that were lost and the lives that were changed forever. It does not matter whether they served in combat or peace time. Each left behind familiar surrounds, undertook risks, and faced the unknown. We should honor them all for their courage. They joined the Armed Forces of this country to defend and protect it, to make it safe for their, and our, loved ones.

We vowed to take care of our veterans when they returned home to us. In many ways, we have, by setting up a benefits program and a health care system, creating two Committees in Congress to oversee these efforts, devoting enormous amounts of resources to their health and well being. But I am forced to say that the recent record of this administration, and of many in Congress, has deteriorated in the area of protecting veterans' benefits. Our commitment to meeting the needs of veterans has been eroded, and we can and must do better. There are still many areas that need improvement. It is not a perfect system. We must strive to better it and not let any of our veterans be shortchanged of the benefits and care they so dearly earned and deserve.

I would like to speak about just a few of the ordeals that our veterans have had to face after their return from service. I do this to acknowledge these problems and to pledge to continue in my fight for solutions.

Gulf War veterans. Even though the war is over, many are struggling with illness, often undiagnosed, but nevertheless debilitating. Seven years have passed since the end of the Gulf War, and DOD and VA still do not know what is wrong with the veterans who

fought in this war. We need to be able to answer the questions of "How many veterans are ill?" and "Are our ill veterans getting sicker over time?"

We also need to provide a permanent statutory authority to compensate these veterans. That is why I have introduced legislation, S. 1320, that targets these important issues. It took our government 20 years after the Vietnam War to assess the effects of Agent Orange and 40 years after World War II to concede the problems of radiation-exposed veterans. We must learn from the lessons of the past and act. We cannot allow our Gulf War veterans to keep waiting for the benefits and care that they earned seven years ago.

Or take atomic veterans, who were exposed to ionizing radiation during service. I have serious concerns about the way atomic veterans' claims are being handled and the way regulations to administer those claims are being created. These veterans were intentionally placed in harm's way, sworn to secrecy, and abandoned by their government for many years. It is critical that we search for a better way to address their compensation claims.

I recently cosponsored legislation that would authorize health care for veterans treated with nasopharyngeal radium irradiation, veterans who have so far been excluded from access to VA services. These veterans, primarily Navy submariner and Army Air corps pilots, received nasopharyngeal radium treatments in the 1940's and 1950's to treat and prevent inner ear problems that developed due to the inadequate pressurization of their respective vessels. Unfortunately, the health effects of the treatments that were given to these veterans are unknown. However, when such high levels of exposure are sustained, we must be concerned about long-term health effects, and thus, we have a responsibility to ensure these veterans' access to health care. Simply put, it is the right thing to do.

We owe these veterans. They risked everything for us—their health and sometimes even their lives. We should, at least, give them appropriate research, health care, and compensation. At least.

An important issue concerning veterans at this time is the VA budget for benefits and health care. I would like to share with America where these issues stand.

First, the benefits side of the budget. The administration this year requested a very modest increase of \$565 million in funds for benefits payments, just what is needed to cover cost-of-living allowances. VA has also requested \$850 million—\$63.5 million above the FY 98 level—for the account that funds the administration of nonmedical benefits. Although these amounts appear to be an increase, VA's benefits delivery staff will lose 45 FTE. In a time when it takes VA 157 days to decide a new compensation claim, and years longer in appeals cases, it concerns me greatly that VA is seeking funds that will not

allow it even to maintain, at the very least, its current level of staffing.

I am particularly troubled by the proposal by the administration, adopted this very day by the Congress, which cut \$10.5 billion from the veterans' benefit account over the next five years. This was done by removing VA's existing authority to pay compensation to veterans who suffer from tobacco-related illnesses, based on the nicotine dependence they developed while in the service. The money saved from cutting this benefit will be put into more high-way spending.

Although I support a strong highway bill, I firmly believe that it should not be funded by cuts in veterans benefits, particularly a program cut that totally bypassed the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. That is why I offered an amendment to the Budget Resolution to protect the funding to the veterans account. Unfortunately, my amendment was defeated by a vote of 52-46.

On the health care side, the VA budget request for medical care is \$30 million less than last year. The base appropriated funding level of \$17.03 billion would be supplemented by approximately \$560 million from veterans' copays and collections from insurance companies. When the base funding level is combined with these collections, the VA health care system would have \$17.6 billion to spend next year—approximately what it is spending this year. Unfortunately, this flatlined budget makes no allowance for cost-of-living increases for VA employees and other rising costs due to inflation.

The VA health care system is a system in transition. Recent changes in lines of authority, resource allocations, and methods of health care delivery, as well as downsizings and facility integrations, have buffeted the system. While all this reorganization is underway, I am concerned that VA have good systems in place to ensure that high quality health care is the standard practiced at all VA facilities, regardless of where they are located around the country. I will continue my efforts to make sure that VA, as the nation's largest health care provider, upholds the highest standards of quality of care.

What is clear is that we still have a lot of work to do for our veterans. We have come a long way, but there are still many miles to cover.

They promised us they would risk their lives. We promised them we would take care of them. Caring for our veterans is the least we can do.

On this day, ladies and gentlemen, be proud of the men and women—veterans and service members from every branch and action—who have served our nation with courage. And, my colleagues, match your pride with a pledge to maintain the nation's commitment to them.

Veterans have earned our respect and admiration. I am committed to upholding their honor the offering them the

thanks they so richly deserve. I ask you, America, to do no less.●

LEHIGH VALLEY AND HEALTH NETWORK

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network, along with the American Nurses Association, who declared May 6-12 National Nurses Week 1998.

The theme of the week, "Nursing: Health Care With a Human Touch," was in commemoration of the ways in which registered nurses strive to provide safe and high quality patient care and find ways to improve our health care system.

The 2.2 million registered nurses in the United States comprise our nation's largest health care profession. The far-reaching duty of the registered nursing profession is to meet the emerging health care needs of the American population, while registered nurses' education focuses on restoring and maintaining the health of the individual.

Registered nurses will continue to be an important component of the U.S. health care system. They play an integral role in the safe, quality care of hospitalized patients, as well as contributing to the growth of home health care services and advancements in life-sustaining technology.

Mr. President, I commend Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network and the American Nurse Association for honoring National Nurses Week 1998. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the registered nurses who care for us all.●

PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS—CENTENNIAL RECOGNITION

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, on May 29th, I will be in Port Arthur, Texas, helping to celebrate the City of Port Arthur's Centennial Day Celebration as well as the tenth anniversary of the Golden Triangle Veterans' Memorial Park. Port Arthur, a city born at the dawn of the 20th century, enters the 21st century confident in its stride as a growing and vibrant community on the Texas' Gulf Coast, not far from my home town of La Marque. Port Arthur, a corner of what some call Texas' Golden Triangle, plays a key role in our national security by contributing to our energy independence through its oil exploration and petroleum refining activities. Nearly every American has benefited from the products that enter the world market from Port Arthur—petrochemicals and oil in particular.

The City of Port Arthur is named for Arthur E. Stillwell, originally of Rochester, New York. In 1895, Mr. Stillwell was searching for a site for the southern terminal of his proposed railroad from Kansas City to the Gulf of Mexico. He chose a site on the north shore of Lake Sabine, where Port Arthur stands today. The railroad to Port Arthur, which eventually became known