

money and the congressional district where the contract's services are performed. We will see which agencies are purchasing what, from whom, and where. Technology makes it possible for every American to know what is happening and to hold elected officials accountable.

If Government spending can't withstand public scrutiny, then the money shouldn't be spent. If a Government agency isn't willing to be held accountable for the grants or contracts it awards, then that agency shouldn't have control over Federal resources. Whether you believe the Government ought to spend more money or spend less, you should certainly be able to agree that the Government ought to spend every penny efficiently and transparently. Democrats and Republicans can all agree that wasteful spending is unacceptable, whether it is by FEMA, HUD, DOD, or any other Federal agency.

Transparency by itself is not enough, but transparency is the first step to holding Government accountable for its actions. Transparency is a prerequisite to oversight and financial control. We can't reduce waste, fraud, and abuse without knowing how, where, and why Federal money is flowing out the door.

USAspending.gov is a very good beginning. The Web site does not yet deliver everything that it is required to under the law, but its limitations and shortcomings are transparent, and it will get better and more complete week after week. I am also confident that people will use the site and will provide feedback directly on the site's community "Wiki" function for collecting and sharing public comments. This will raise the expectations of all Americans for greater transparency, access, and accountability. Now it will be up to us elected officials to meet those expectations.

It is important to point out that this site would not have been possible without the grassroots efforts of watchdog groups across the political spectrum who lobbied for passage of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act, which Senator COBURN and I like to call the Transparency Act. The story behind the Transparency Act embodies the best of our democratic traditions—a bipartisan effort fueled by ordinary people who refused to accept that the Government couldn't make public information freely and simply available. Throughout this process, it has been an honor to work with Senator COBURN and to witness the dedicated work of the staff at OMB.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COACH SONNY LUBICK

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a legend in the Colo-

rado State University and Fort Collins, CO, community: Coach Sonny Lubick. For 15 seasons, he led the CSU Rams to a record of 108-74, six conference titles, and nine bowl games.

Originally from Butte, MT, Coach Lubick graduated from the University of Montana-Western in 1960 and began his coaching career 10 years later at Montana State University. After eight seasons as an assistant coach, he was promoted to head coach. His hard work and early success served as the foundation for what would become a remarkable coaching career.

After serving as an assistant coach for various other programs, Coach Lubick accepted the head coaching position at Colorado State University prior to the 1993 season. He began by implementing an aggressive effort to recruit players and expand the program beyond anything previously achieved. With new recruits and under new leadership, the CSU Rams reached new heights during Coach Lubick's second year with CSU. During that remarkable season, the Rams finished with a 10-2 record, clinching the university's first ever WAC Championship and a trip to the Holiday Bowl. The 1994 season was the beginning of a new era in Colorado State football, earning Sonny Lubick National Coach of the Year honors from Sports Illustrated magazine. Lubick also joined an elite list of coaches in 2005, as active Division IA coaches with 100 or more career wins with their current institution. This group includes only nine members.

The success Coach Lubick's program achieved led to the construction of the McGraw Athletic Center in 1999, and recently the university has announced its intention to build indoor practice facilities and an academic and training center, both of which are attributed to Sonny Lubick's leadership and efforts. Coach Lubick's personal philosophy of responsibility, character, respect, and perspective has been the driving force behind the success of both the football team and the surrounding community.

Sonny Lubick's family-oriented approach to coaching and life has earned a multitude of accolades. In 2003 he was recognized as "Father of the Year" by the American Diabetes Association—Colorado Chapter. That same year he was also named one of the four national finalists for the Eddie Robinson Coach of Distinction Award for his community service. Coach Lubick regularly gives his time to St. Jude's Children's Hospital and several other local charities. In 2005 the Fort Collins Board of Realtors named Coach Lubick "Citizen of the Year," and most recently the Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce awarded him the Collins Award, given to local figures that exemplify leadership and service to the community.

Coach Sonny Lubick's charisma and good nature have made him an icon among students, fans, friends, and Coloradans. This popularity was cemented when a large donation was

made to renovate CSU's stadium under the condition that the field would be named for Coach Lubick. Today, the Colorado State Rams meet their opponents in Hughes Stadium, rushing out on to Sonny Lubick Field.

As an alumnus of Colorado State University, I want to thank Coach Lubick for his dedicated service and leadership to the football team, the university, and the community. •

REMEMBERING LODICE GRANT

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, on October 9, 2007, a beloved Idahoan passed away. Lodice Grant was raised in Nampa and, after moving out of State for a number of years, moved back to Nampa for the remainder of her life. She was small in stature but strong in her direction and devotion. She was a friend of mine and, together with her husband of 51 years, Fred Kelly Grant, worked closely with me in recent years on the Owyhee Initiative. Before her children were born, Lodice worked as the assistant sales manager for the University of Chicago Press and the Johns Hopkins University Press. Prior to her move back to Nampa, Lodice became the sales manager for Johns Hopkins University Press, earning such an outstanding reputation that noted authors refused to have anyone but her serve as their principal assistant and adviser as they were publishing their works. In Nampa, Lodice raised two boys and dedicated much of her time to working for and supporting the Roman Catholic Church in Caldwell and then for the Diocese of Idaho.

When Lodice retired from the church in 2003, she continued her staunch support of her husband's work as legal counsel for Owyhee County; they both made improving Owyhee County the capstone of their labor and life's work over the past few years. Lodice was a pillar of strength for her entire family. Her influence for good and her acts of service benefited countless people who loved her and will miss her energy, friendship, and spirit. She tended people in the same way she lovingly tended her beautiful yard and garden—with tenderness, careful attention, and tireless devotion. I was blessed to know her, and I offer my heartfelt condolences to Fred, their children Andy and Jon, five grandchildren, and family and friends during this difficult time. •

CONGRATULATING DR. WALTER BRYZIK

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Dr. Walter Bryzik as he retires after 40 years of service to the men and women of our Armed Forces and our Nation. Since 1968, Dr. Bryzik has held a variety of positions at the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center, TARDEC, in Warren, MI, and is retiring early next year as its chief scientist. His career is one to be admired and he will be surely missed

by all of us who are fortunate enough to have worked closely with him.

As he rose to become the Army's senior technical leader in ground system technology, Dr. Bryzik established a legacy of accomplishment that will be difficult to equal. Ten years ago, he was promoted to the highest scientific professional rank in the Army. In 2004, he was presented with the Distinguished Presidential Rank Award for his leadership and technical contributions to the U.S. Government.

Dr. Bryzik's generation of scientists and engineers, and the technologies and systems they developed, are the forgotten part of America's success in winning the Cold War. I often worry that we aren't doing enough to replace this generation of innovators—especially with the quality of individuals like Dr. Bryzik. However, Dr. Bryzik is making an important contribution to this effort. Outside of TARDEC, he has served on the faculty of Wayne State University as a professor in the Department of Engineering, another example of his commitment to the development of the next generation of our Nation's engineers and to the service of his community.

However, most important among his accomplishments are the technologies that Dr. Bryzik helped develop and transition to soldiers in the field. His efforts have helped give our service men and women the most cutting-edge, effective technology possible, and that has been a critical advantage for our Armed Forces as they engage our adversaries around the world. Most importantly, the technological advancements that Dr. Bryzik has overseen have saved lives.

Throughout his career, Dr. Bryzik has been an invaluable resource to me and my staff. In addition to his insight and expert counsel, he has a remarkable ability to convert highly technical subjects into language that the rest of us can understand! I am told he has mentored at least five generations of my staff and helped them navigate the complexities of the work done at TARDEC and throughout the Army.

I am sure my colleagues will join me in congratulating Dr. Bryzik on an extraordinary career and thanking him for his decades of service to our Nation, the Army and TARDEC.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST

● Mrs. LINCOLN. M. President, it is no surprise why Arkansas is called the Natural State. That is because we have been blessed with a tremendous abundance of mountains, hills, streams, rivers, and lakes that contribute to the beauty of our great State. For generations, national parks and outdoor recreation have played a big part in the lives of Arkansans. They also have been the source of our large tourism industry, attracting tens of thousands of visitors to our State to enjoy all that nature offers.

One of the crown jewels of our National Forest System is the Ouachita National Forest. Encompassing 1.8 million acres and stretching from western Arkansas to southeastern Oklahoma, the Ouachita National Forest is the largest and oldest national forest in the South. In fact, on December 18, 2007, the Ouachita National Forest will celebrate its 100th anniversary.

Originally named the Arkansas National Forest, the Ouachita National Forest was created from public lands south of the Arkansas River by President Theodore Roosevelt on December 18, 1907. In 1926, President Calvin Coolidge renamed the forest the Ouachita National Forest to reflect the name of the mountains and river that run primarily through it.

Home to breathtaking mountain views and picturesque streams and lakes, outdoor enthusiasts enjoy recreational activities like camping, boating, biking, and hiking on some of the 37 trails that run throughout the national forest. Its thriving wilderness areas provide ample grounds for fisherman and hunters, including nine different turkey hunting areas throughout the park. The forest also supplies ample timber resources to meet the needs of our Nation.

As the 100th anniversary of the Ouachita National Forest approaches, I wish to express my appreciation for the lasting impact that the national forest has made for the people of Arkansas, Oklahoma, and our great Nation. Ouachita Forest supervisor Norman Wagoner has encouraged citizens to join the park staff in celebrating this historic anniversary at any of the forest's 11 district offices on December 18. The meet and greet will be a wonderful time to reflect on the past contributions of the park and the tremendous role it has played in Arkansas' heritage.●

CASIMIR LENARD

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the life and legacy of a great American who passed away last week—Casimir Lenard.

Cas Lenard was an American patriot, who also made a tremendous contribution to strengthening the friendship between the United States and Poland. He served bravely in three U.S. wars. He was a leader in the Polish American Community. He was also a beloved husband to the late Myra Lenard, his partner in life and his partner in his work on behalf of the Polish American community.

Cas Lenard was born in Chicago to a family of Polish immigrants. Like so many children of immigrants, Cas Lenard embraced his country while never forgetting his homeland.

After hearing that the Nazis had invaded Poland in 1939, Cas joined the Chicago Black Horse Troop, 106th Cavalry, Illinois National Guard. Two years later, he requested and was assigned to the 1st U.S. Infantry Division—the first U.S. Army unit to go overseas.

From 1942–1945, Cas was engaged in overseas combat duty, participating in the Operation Torch landing at Oran, North Africa, the invasion of Sicily, and in the D-Day amphibious landing at Omaha Beach, Normandy.

After his discharge from the Army in 1945, Cas married his beloved wife, Myra, and began working in the family restaurant business in Chicago. Again heeding the call to service, Cas volunteered for active duty and served for 6 years during the Korean War. In 1962, he was selected for a 5-year tour of active duty with the General Staff at the Pentagon, where he became Chief of the Army Intelligence Reserve Office. Cas then went on to serve in Vietnam and at the U.S. Army Institute of Land Combat at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia.

After 30 years of distinguished service, Cas retired from the military and was awarded many citations, including the Silver Star Medal with Cluster, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Bronze Star Medal with "V" for Valor, the French Croix de Guerre with Palm, seven overseas campaign ribbons, and the Normandy Medal of the Jubilee of Liberty.

I got to know Cas and Myra Lenard because of their work with the Polish American Congress—where Cas served as its first executive director in Washington.

Cas and Myra worked tirelessly to support the Solidarity movement in Poland. And when the wall came down, Cas and Myra Lenard were strong advocates for Poland's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO. The Lenards were there every step of the way—organizing the Polish American community to educate their Senators about how Poland's membership in NATO would strengthen America's security.

For all of his efforts on behalf of Polish Americans and for improving Poland's position in the world, Cas received many awards, including the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, the Founders Award by the Polish American Congress, and the Polish American Congress Medal of Freedom.

Cas Lenard's life was a triumph. His legacy is a deep friendship and alliance between the United States and a free, democratic Poland. His children and grandchildren are in my thoughts and prayers.●

TRIBUTE TO FIVE VERMONT COMMUNITY LEADERS

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, today I would like to make you aware of five individuals who were recently recognized at the Central Vermont Community Action Council's annual meeting.

Sergio Colon moved to White River Junction with his two adopted sons after his community in Port Charlotte, FL, was devastated by Hurricane Charlie in 2004. A single father working hard to make ends meet, Sergio at one