

Satcher, in his recent report, "Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General," that the rate of major clinical depression and the incidence of suicide among senior citizens is alarmingly high. This report cites that about one-half of patients relocated to nursing homes from the community are at greater risk for depression. Moreover, up to 37% of older adults treated in primary care settings experience symptoms of depression. At the same time, the Surgeon General emphasizes that depression "is not well-recognized or treated in primary care settings," and calls attention to the alarming fact that older people have the highest rates of suicide in the U.S. population. Contrary to what is widely believed, suicide rates actually increase with age, and, as the Surgeon General points out, "depression is a foremost risk factor for suicide in older adults."

Clearly, Mr. President, our nation must take steps to ensure that mental health care is easily and readily available under the Medicare program. S. 3233, the Medicare Mental Health Modernization Act, takes an important first step in that direction. It is time to take this potential fatal illness seriously. I believe we must do everything we can to make effective treatments available in a timely manner for older adults and others covered by Medicare, and help prevent relapse and recurrence once mental illness is diagnosed.

The mental health community is very aware of the problems in the Medicare system and is fighting to improve it. I want to thank those groups that have supported this initial effort to improve mental health care in the Medicare program, particularly the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA) for their leadership role in fighting for improved mental health care coverage for seniors under Medicare. Their support joins that of the other major mental health groups mentioned in my earlier statement, as well as the Association for the Advancement of Psychology, the Clinical Social Work Federation, the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, the International Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services, and the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare. I want to applaud the determination of these groups for stepping forward to fight for the rights of those with mental illnesses, and their commitment to improving mental health services funded by the Medicare program.

#### HONORING THE MARINE CORPS 225TH BIRTHDAY

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, On November 10th, we honored the 225th birthday of the United States Marine Corps. For more than two centuries, the United States Marine Corps has exemplified the highest virtues of loyalty, service, and sacrifice. From the Barbary coast to the far reaches of the Pacific, in the jungles of Vietnam and

across the vast expanse of the Arabian desert, America's Marines have shown the world the meaning of "Semper Paratus."

Through the long march of our history, few military organizations have been held in such high esteem as the United States Marine Corps. Our Marine Corps are men and women of great character. They are smart, tough, dedicated, and faithful, truly the best America has to offer. For 225 years, they have stood for all that is great about this nation: honor, courage, and commitment. Their values, sense of courage, and quiet, steadfast character remain timeless and valuable commodities for an age in which our Nation's interests face considerable new threats.

Throughout their great history, Marines protected America's interests, struggled against foes who attempted to do our country harm, and remained at the forefront of our Nation's efforts to maintain global peace and stability. In hundreds of distant lands, from Nicaragua to Lebanon to Somalia, Marines restored and maintained order, aided people in distress, provided protection for the weak, and upheld the values that have come to define our country on the world stage. Many made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country, and we honor their memory.

In my hometown of New Orleans, we are fortunate enough to be rich in Marine Corps history and tradition. We are the proud home of the Marine Forces Reserve Headquarters where Major General Mize commands more than 104,000 Reserve Marines all across the United States. We are also the home of the last Medal of Honor winner in the Vietnam War, General James E. Livingston. Despite the fact that then-Captain Livingston was wounded a third time and unable to walk, he steadfastly remained in a dangerously exposed area, supervising the evacuation of casualties. Only when assured of the safety of his men did he allow himself to be evacuated. His valor on the battlefield epitomizes the spirit of the Marine Corps.

As we set out in this new century, the importance of our Marine Corps has never been more clear. Tomorrow, as today and for generations past, the razor sharp readiness of the United States Marine Corps serves as a beacon to America's friends and a warning to our enemies, promising swift action, great victories and richer traditions yet to come.

On this day, I offer warmest regards to all who have worn the eagle, globe and anchor, and to the families who also serve by supporting them. You represent all that is wonderful about our Nation.

#### HELPING SOUTH DAKOTA COMMUNITIES FIGHT CRIME

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, throughout the past year, I continued working with local and state community leaders and law enforcement offi-

cial all across South Dakota in an effort to find solutions to the most pressing problems facing the people of my state. A number of issues that Congress can address were brought to my attention through these meetings, and I continue to find this statewide dialog extremely valuable on further developing a community approach to reducing crime. I've worked on a bipartisan basis with my colleagues in the United States Senate to help South Dakota communities get the resources they need to address the crime problems they face.

#### COMMUNITY POLICING AND THE COPS PROGRAM

Community Policing has proven effective in reducing crime rates nationwide, and I am optimistic that such efforts in our small towns will prove equally successful. As you know, the majority of potential offenders, both juvenile and adult, in our state are still within reach of rehabilitation and support to put them back on track as productive, law abiding citizens.

I believe the Congress must assist state and local efforts to crack down on crime by continuing federal support through funding for localized programs. One of the most successful programs in South Dakota has been the COPS program. Since 1995, the COPS program has allowed South Dakota communities to hire 290 new police officers. In addition, the COPS program has expanded recently to help school districts hire police resource officers to deal with youth violence in South Dakota schools. The COPS in School's program has committed \$1.25 million to South Dakota communities.

Although the COPS program has helped reduce the overall crime rate nationwide and has been extremely popular with local law enforcement in our state, I find myself once again working to make sure the program is adequately funded. I support the Administration's request of \$1.3 billion for the COPS program to hire 7,000 new police officers nationwide, provide local law enforcement with advanced crime fighting technology, hire more community prosecutors, expand crime prevention programs, enhance school safety programs, and assist law enforcement on Indian Reservations. At this level of funding, South Dakota would receive an estimated \$734,000 next year to help fight crime in our communities and in Indian Country.

However, the Senate and House Leadership's inability to pass the annual appropriations bills has put COPS funding in jeopardy. I will continue to work with my colleagues to increase funding for this critical program and am hopeful that common sense will prevail over partisan gamesmanship on this crucial issue.

#### THE KYL-JOHNSON FEDERAL PRISONER HEALTH CARE COPAYMENT ACT

Senator JON KYL (R-AZ) and I introduced two years ago a bill to require federal prisoners to pay a nominal fee when they initiate certain visits for medical attention. Fees collected from

prisoners will either be paid as restitution to victims or be deposited into the Federal Crime Victims' Fund. I am pleased that the President recently signed into law the Kyl-Johnson Federal Prisoner Health Care Copayment Act.

South Dakota is one of 38 states that have implemented state-wide prisoner health care copayment programs. The Department of Justice supported extending this prisoner health care copayment program to federal prisoners in an attempt to reduce unnecessary medical procedures and ensure that adequate health care services are available for prisoners who need them.

My interest in the prisoner health care copayment issue came from discussions I had in South Dakota with a number of law enforcement officials and U.S. Marshal Lyle Swenson about the equitable treatment between pre-sentencing federal prisoners housed in county jails and the county prisoners residing in those same facilities. Currently, county prisoners in South Dakota are subject to state and local laws allowing the collection of a health care copayment, while Marshals Service prisoners are not, thereby allowing federal prisoners to abuse health care resources at great cost to state and local law enforcement.

As our legislation moved through the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate last year, we had the opportunity to work on specific concerns raised by South Dakota law enforcement officials and the U.S. Marshals Service. Senator KYL was willing to incorporate my language into the Federal Prisoner Health Care Copayment Act that allows state and local facilities to collect health care copayment fees when housing pre-sentencing federal prisoners.

#### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

I am pleased the President recently signed into law a reauthorization of the landmark Violence Against Women Act. The legislation is part of a larger bill that also includes "Aimee's Law." I've supported Aimee's Law in the past and am pleased this provision will help crack down on states that fail to incarcerate criminals convicted of murder, rape, and dangerous sexual offenses for long prison terms.

I've been involved in the campaign to end domestic violence in our communities dating back to 1983 when I introduced legislation in the South Dakota State Legislature to use marriage license fees to help fund domestic abuse shelters. In 1994, as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I helped get the original Violence Against Women Act passed into law. Since the passage of this important bill, South Dakota has received over \$8 million in funding for battered women's shelters and family violence prevention and services.

In South Dakota alone, approximately 15,000 victims of domestic violence were provided assistance last year, and over 40 domestic violence shelters and outreach centers in the

state received funding through the Violence Against Women Act. Shelters, victims' service providers, and counseling centers in South Dakota rely heavily on these funds to provide assistance to these women and children.

The original Violence Against Women Act increased penalties for repeat sex offenders, established mandatory restitution to victims of domestic violence, codified much of our existing laws on rape, and strengthened interstate enforcement of violent crimes against women. I am pleased to support efforts this year that strengthen these laws, expand them to include stalking on the internet and via the mail, and provide local law enforcement with additional resources to combat domestic violence in their communities.

#### JUVENILE JUSTICE

While I am pleased that Congress continued to debate Juvenile Crime legislation this session, I am disappointed that Senate and House Leadership will allow Congress to adjourn without enacting important juvenile crime prevention programs into law. The leadership of several of America's law enforcement organizations, along with prosecutors and crime survivors, have consistently endorsed quality child care and after-school programs as a primary way to dramatically and immediately reduce crime.

I will continue to support significant increases in funding for Head Start, Early Head Start, after-school programs and the Child Care and Development Block Grant program in large part because of the potential these programs have to reduce juvenile crime and domestic violence nationwide.

#### COMBATTING METHAMPHETAMINE IN SOUTH DAKOTA

A number of South Dakota law enforcement officials and local leaders have told me that meth abuse has become one of their top crime-fighting priorities in the past few years. Meth abuse threatens our young people, law enforcement officers, and our environment. Once again, I led efforts to enhance punishments of meth operators, mandate restitution for meth lab clean-up, and increase funding for treatment and prevention efforts. I also joined Senator TOM HARKIN (D-IA) in successfully securing emergency funding for meth lab clean-up efforts in South Dakota and nationwide.

There is much to be done to bring crime rates in our state down, and to help every South Dakotan feel safe in their home and community. I look forward to continuing my work with state and local leaders, law enforcement agencies in South Dakota, and my Republican and Democratic Senate colleagues in Washington. Together, by focusing on community crime prevention and by investing in our kids, I believe we can make progress in addressing the unique needs of our South Dakota communities.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO COL. ROBERT F. SINK

• Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, history gives us many examples of men and women who went above and beyond the call of duty to serve our great country. In our military, there have always been men and women who were not satisfied with maintaining the status quo, but who, instead, strove to make our armed forces the world's finest and the most powerful. One such individual was the late Colonel Robert F. Sink, commander of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment in Toccoa, Georgia.

The 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment was constituted on July 1, 1942 in the Army of the United States, activated July 20, 1942 at Camp General Robert Toombs at Toccoa, Georgia, attached to the 101st Airborne Division on June 1, 1943 and assigned to the 101st Airborne Division on March 1, 1945. The camp located at Currahee Mountain in Toccoa was soon renamed Camp Toccoa and was chosen because of its rugged terrain. The 506th Regiment selected the symbol of the Currahee Mountain as its Coat of Arms and "Currahee" became its battle cry.

It was here, in Toccoa, that Col. Sink initiated his rigorous training program called "Muscle College" and set many of the standards for the paratrooper basic training program of the 101st Airborne Division. Because of Col. Sink's efforts, the 506th Parachute Infantry established records never before reached by any military unit in the world. Furthermore, Airborne infantrymen around the nation recognized the "Currahee trained" men from Camp Toccoa as a cut above their peers in strength and performance.

Col. Sink led his 506th Regiment into combat on D-Day at Normandy, then to Holland, Bastogne, France, Germany, and all the way to Hitler's "Eagle Nest." By the end of World War II, the 506th had received several coveted awards and decorations. The courageous service of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment was due, in no small measure, to the tireless efforts of Colonel Robert F. Sink, a true American hero. In honor of this great man, the Currahee Mountain Road, which changed the boys of the famous "Currahee" Regiment into men, will be fittingly renamed the "Col. Robert F. Sink Memorial Trail."

I hope my colleagues will join with me today in honoring this great man and his groundbreaking work on behalf of our nation's security. For those under Colonel Sink's tutelage who will travel back to Toccoa for this important reunion and celebration, I wish you the best and thank you for your service. Finally, special thanks should be extended to State Representative Mary Jeanette Jamieson for her work on this project. It was a pleasure to be involved in such a worthy effort. ●