

has just been awarded a \$6,000 scholarship for her community service and academic achievements. She has been Junior President of the organization for over 5 years. During this time, she has organized and participated in many fundraisers, from helping veterans to delivering food baskets to the needy during Christmas.

The Dayton Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, a public service sorority, awarded the scholarship, which is presented to young women who have excellent academic records, possess high moral character, participate in their church and community, and have interest in higher education. Shatoya certainly exhibits all of these positive qualities. It is great to see Ohio youths working hard for their communities and being recognized for their achievements.

Congratulations Unit 776 and congratulations Shatoya!

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent today for roll-call vote No. 228, on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2507, the intelligence authorization bill. I was in Minnesota visiting with my constituents in Granite Falls who were victims of a tornado which struck the city last night and caused severe damage and some loss of life. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on the motion.

MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Mr. BROWNBACK. As recently as this morning, upon Chairman Arafat's arrival back in Gaza, Arafat said:

There is an agreement between us and the Israeli government made in Sharm-El-Sheikh that we continue negotiations until Sept. 13th, the date for declaring our independent state, with Jerusalem as its capital, whether people like it or not.

By itself, the threat undermines confidence in the Palestinians' commitment to the peace process and, in effect, would abrogate the foundation of the Oslo accords that all outstanding final status issues will be resolved through negotiations.

Allow me, for a moment, to review the history here. More than 50 years ago, the United Nations created two states: Israel and Palestine. The creation of a homeland for the Jews in Israel was unacceptable to the Arabs, and five Arab states attacked the newly created state. When all was said and done, Israel was a reality, and the

nominal Palestine ended up in the hands of Jordan. We never heard about Jerusalem then.

In fact, when the PLO was created in 1964, Jerusalem was never even mentioned.

When Jordan lost the West Bank and Jerusalem in 1967, then the question of Palestine and Jerusalem became important once again. In fact, we are told that the reason Yasser Arafat walked out of Camp David was because he did not get all of east Jerusalem and the Old City. In other words, when Arafat did not get through the peace process what he could not get through war, he decided to walk away from peace.

One thing has become clear to me in the last few years. The Oslo agreement was nothing less than an admission on the part of the Palestinians and the PLO that Israel would never be defeated in war. The Palestinians entered into a peace process because they had no other choice. Now I am forced to question just how committed they are to that process. If the aim is to win through negotiations what they could not through war, then what kind of a process is it?

There are no ambiguities here: Either the Palestinians are committed to the process, and to a negotiated outcome, or they are not. Arafat's threat to declare a Palestinian state on September 13, 2000 is an abrogation of the peace process, and as such, an abrogation of any understanding with the United States regarding the PLO and Mr. Arafat as negotiating partners.

U.S. assistance to the Palestinians is predicated upon good faith negotiations in a peace process. Nothing else. Nothing. For those that have some doubt, I remind them that as far as U.S. law is concerned, the Palestine Liberation Organization is a terrorist organization.

I and many of my colleagues have always stood ready to accept the outcome of a negotiated peace between Israel and the Palestinians. We have done so reluctantly, because of fears about what a Palestinian state would do, how it would survive, about the commitment to democracy, and real fears about terrorism.

We will not stand idly by and accept a non-negotiated solution, contrary to the Oslo Accords, contrary to the spirit of a peace process. Should Mr. Arafat go forward and declare a Palestinian state, the bill that Senator SCHUMER and I are offering today will preclude the expenditure of funds to recognize that state and preclude further assistance to any Palestinian governing entity. It instructs the President to use the voice and vote of the United States in the United Nations bodies to stop recognition or admission of a Palestinian state.

I hope Chairman Arafat chooses the path of peace. However, if he does not, this legislation makes very clear that the relationship between the U.S. government and the Palestine leadership will change.

We will not recognize the unilaterally declared Palestinian state and we will strongly urge all others not to do so. Either there is peace through a process or there can be no peace. If that is what Yasser Arafat wants, it is a terrible crime against the Palestinians, and a mistake that history will not forget.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: A DECADE OF PROGRESS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, over the past month and a half, a brightly lit torch has made its journey through nineteen cities, carrying with it each step of the way the passionate and able spirit of the disability community. Today the torch arrives at its 20th stop along the way, our Nation's Capital, to mark the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is indeed an important day in our Nation's long history.

President Franklin Roosevelt once said, "No country, no matter how rich, can afford to waste its human resources." I am proud to say that the Americans with Disabilities Act lives up to President Roosevelt's objective. For 10 years now, this momentous, landmark civil rights legislation has opened new doors to the disability community. It has, at long last, allowed handicapped individuals the opportunity and the access to have their potential recognized both inside the workplace and outside in the community. It has brought the American dream within reach for the millions of American families with disabled members.

Over the past decade of the ADA, we have seen dramatic changes throughout the nation in equal opportunity—from new and advanced technology allowing for greater public accommodation at places of business and in commercial establishments, to state and local government services and activities, to transportation and telecommunications technology for disabled Americans. Look around today—people with disabilities are participating to a far greater extent in their communities and are living fuller, more productive lives as students, workers, family members, and neighbors. They are dining out; cheering at football games and other sporting events, often even playing sports themselves; going to the movies; participating in state, local, and Federal Government; and raising families of their own.

It is evident that that the capability of this community far outshines the challenges of a disability. I am proud that the ADA has been particularly instrumental in removing many of the barriers that would otherwise impede the ability and success of the disability community. Take the example of Casey Martin, the professional golfer from Orgeon with a rare disability that substantially limits one's ability to walk.

Casey had long dreamed of playing in a PGA tour, but, because of his disability, Casey encountered a huge barrier. In these tournaments in which Casey wanted to play, the tour would not allow the use of a golf cart. When a Federal trial court in Oregon found that the PGA tour is a "public accommodation" and should modify their policy of no golf carts to accommodate Casey's disability, his vision became a reality. According to Casey, "Without the ADA I never would have been able to pursue my dream of playing golf professionally."

While for Casey Martin the ADA has meant achieving his most far-reaching goal, for other disabled Americans, the ADA has simply allowed them to live each new day with a little more ease and comfort. To name just a few areas in which the ADA has facilitated progress—access to restaurants and public restrooms, modifications to the aisles and entrances of supermarkets, assistive listening systems at places like Disney World and many theaters for the deaf and hard of hearing, and large print financial statements for those with vision impairments. Mr. President, these are the kind of simplicities in life that those without disabilities expect and take for granted, and because of the ADA, they have now come to be a part of the disability community's life too.

Just as the barriers that continue to face each of us in life take many years to craft, they take many years to conquer. Together, we must find the strength and the courage to pick our battles. I commend the disability community today on their passion and their vigilance, and I celebrate with you on this 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act for all that this day has brought to your community, and for all that it will continue to bring in the years ahead. Let today recommit each of us to the ADA for all Americans.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, 10 years ago today Congress passed landmark civil rights legislation, based on the fundamental principle that people should be measured by what they can do, not what they can't do. With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, America began a new era of opportunity for the 47 million disabled citizens who had been denied full and fair participation in society.

We continue to build in Congress on the bipartisan achievements of the ADA. I'm gratified by President Clinton's strong endorsement today of the Grassley-Kennedy Family Opportunity Act now pending in Congress. The goal of our legislation is to remove as many of the remaining barriers as possible that prevent families raising children with disabilities and special health needs from leading full and productive lives. No family in this country should ever be put in a position of having to choose between a job and the healthcare their disabled child needs. The Family Opportunity Act ensures

that no family raising a child with special needs would be left out and left behind.

For generations, people with disabilities were viewed as citizens in need of charity. Through ignorance, the nation accepted discrimination and succumbed to fear and prejudice. The passage of the ADA finally moved the nation to shed these condescending and suffocating attitudes—and widen the doors of opportunity for people with disabilities.

Today we see many signs of the progress that mean so much in our ongoing efforts to see that persons with disabilities are included—the ramps beside the stairs, the sidewalks with curbs to accommodate wheelchairs, the lifts for helping disabled people board buses.

Whether they are family members, friend, neighbors, or co-workers, persons with disabilities are no longer second class citizens. They are demonstrating their abilities and making real contributions in schools, in the workplace, and in the community. People with disabilities are no longer left out and left behind—and because of that, America is a stronger, better and fairer country today.

As the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the many disabled persons who worked so long and hard and well for its passage continue to remind us, equal opportunity under the law is not a privilege, but a fundamental birthright of every American.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to briefly discuss a GAO report that was released earlier this week to be sure that other Senators are aware of.

The report, entitled "Global Health: Framework for Infectious Disease Surveillance," was commissioned by Senator MCCONNELL and myself, and Senators FRIST and FEINGOLD. It investigates the existing global system, or network, of infectious disease surveillance, and will be followed by a second report which analyzes the strengths and weaknesses of this network and make recommendations for strengthening it.

We requested this report in response to a growing concern among public health officials about the inability of many countries to identify and track infectious diseases and respond promptly and effectively to disease outbreaks. In fact, the World Health Assembly determined in 1995 that the existing surveillance networks could not be considered adequate.

By way of background, the term "surveillance" covers four types of activities: detecting and reporting diseases; analyzing and confirming reports; responding to epidemics; and reassessing longer-term policies and programs. I will touch on these categories in a bit more detail, as they illustrate the need for reform.

In the detection and reporting phase, local health care providers diagnose diseases and then report the existence of pre-determined "notifiable" diseases to national or regional authorities. The accurate diagnosis of patients is obviously crucial, but it can be very difficult as many diseases share symptoms. It is even more difficult in developing countries, where public health professionals have less access to the newest information on diseases.

In the next stage of surveillance, disease patterns are analyzed and reported diseases are confirmed. This process occurs at a regional or national level, and usually involves lab work to confirm a doctor's diagnosis. From the resulting data, a response plan is devised. Officials must determine a number of other factors as well, such as the capability of a doctor to make an accurate diagnosis. Unfortunately, in many developing countries this process can take weeks, while the disease continues to spread.

When an epidemic is identified, various organizations must determine how to contain the disease, how to treat the infected persons, and how to inform the public about the problem without causing panic. Forty-nine percent of internationally significant epidemics occur in complex emergency situations, such as overcrowded refugee camps. Challenges in responding to epidemics are mainly logistical—getting the necessary treatment to those in need.

Finally, in assessing the longer-term health policies and programs, surveillance teams can provide information on disease patterns, health care priorities, and the allocation of resources. However, information from developing countries is often unreliable.

I want to emphasize two points. The first is that all the activities that I have just described are done by what WHO calls a "network of networks." There is, in fact, no global system for infectious disease surveillance. Let me repeat, for anyone who thinks there is some centrally-managed, well-organized global system, there is not. Rather, what exists is a loose network, a patch-work quilt of sorts, involving the UN, non-governmental organizations, national health facilities, military laboratories, and many other organizations, all of which depend upon each other for information, but with no standardized procedures.

The second point is that in countries where a tropical climate fosters many infectious diseases, one also finds the least amount of reliable data. If we as a country, or we as a global community, are committed to eradicating the deadliest diseases, building the capacity for effective surveillance in the developing countries is where we need to focus our attention.

The sequel to this report is due to be released by the GAO in a few months. It will assess the strengths and weaknesses of this loosely-organized surveillance system, and make recommendations for strengthening it. We need to