

Choice is the keystone of MSA's. As many of my colleagues have pointed out, with MSA's people can choose their physician, their hospital, their health care plan. Additionally, MSA's will bring about lower health care spending. Consumers will become more savvy about their health care options, and certainly the system will benefit as a result.

The problem, Mr. President, is that it was absolutely clear that including an MSA provision would derail the entire bill and a real opportunity to enact meaningful health care reform would be lost. If the legislation had included that provision, my Democratic colleagues indicated they would filibuster the bill and the President indicated he would veto the entire measure. In short, this targeted, commonsense bill would have been killed.

I am dedicated to the passage of health care reform and I do not want a good bill to be sacrificed for one provision, however worthy that provision may be. It was for this reason that I did not support the inclusion of MSA's in the final bill, and it's also the reason this MSA effort failed.

Yes, Mr. President, medical savings accounts are a good idea. Although S. 1028 was not the right vehicle, I will look for other opportunities to promote and encourage them.●

TRIBUTE TO THE CADDO MAGNET ORCHESTRA

● Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional group of students from my hometown of Shreveport, LA. The Caddo Magnet Orchestra, combined of 103 high school and middle school students from Caddo Parish in northwestern Louisiana, has for years been recognized as one of the most outstanding student orchestras in our State. Since its inception in 1980, the orchestra has consistently received superior performance ratings in all regional and State competitions and has won several prestigious awards from music festivals around the Nation. In light of its impressive reputation, this year the orchestra was invited to perform at Carnegie Hall, a rare privilege offered to very few young performers.

After many months of intensive rehearsal and fundraising, the Caddo Magnet Orchestra traveled to New York City last month for its March 24 Carnegie Hall debut, where its performance was met by a standing ovation from the 1,000 audience members in attendance. The evening's performance, consisting of pieces by English composers Gustav Holst, John Ireland, Edward Elgar and John Rutter, was flawless and has earned this orchestra national recognition.

Louisiana is enormously proud of these outstanding young people, not only for their individual talents, but also for their overall commitment to excellence and their spirit of community. The students worked together to make beautiful music, and the har-

mony they created represents all that can be achieved when we put forth our best efforts to reach a common goal. This is citizenship at its finest.

The members of the orchestra have represented the State of Louisiana with great distinction. I congratulate these musicians and their director, Ms. Johnette Parker, as well as the parents and faculty of Caddo Magnet High School and Caddo Middle Magnet School for their marvelous collective effort in reaching this pinnacle and for setting an example of excellence from which we all can benefit.●

TRIBUTE TO JUDI BAYLY AND HER IRISH SETTER, LYRIC

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a Nashua, NH, resident, Judi Bayly and her 8-year-old Irish setter, Lyric, who dialed 911 and helped save Judi's life when she noticed Judi had stopped breathing.

Last month, Judi Bayly who has asthma and sleep apnea, stopped breathing temporarily. When the oxygen generator she uses became unplugged and the alarm sounded, Judi did not hear it as she slept. Lyric, her Irish setter, did and tried to alert Judi by barking, pawing and sniffing at her. Unfortunately, Judi didn't wake up so Lyric dialed 911. When rescuers arrived at Judi's house, Lyric continued to bark and guided them to her.

Amazingly, Lyric has also saved Judi's life twice before by dialing 911. Although Lyric is trained by Service Dogs America in New York to recognize Judi's seizures, Lyric has a special loyalty to Judi and is by her side constantly. As an emergency medical technician, Judi also trains dogs professionally. She has bred Irish setters before and she and her husband own three of Lyric's puppies. I admire Judi's devotion to her dogs and her promotion of the use of trained dogs.

Lyric is an exceptional dog and deserves the national recognition she has seen over the past few weeks. Lyric is an example of a truly sensitive and astute dog. As a dog lover myself, I congratulate Lyric and her owner on a job well done!●

REV. ROOSEVELT AUSTIN

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to honor Rev. Roosevelt Austin and his wife, Dr. Nurame Austin, who will be celebrating their 40 years of dedicated service to the Saginaw community and the State of Michigan. Reverend Austin is the pastor of Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Saginaw, MI.

Reverend Austin was ordained June 25, 1953, at Western Seventh District Association in Opelousas, LA. This day was the start of a long and fruitful career of community service. Reverend Austin's pastoral experience began as a youth minister at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Opelousas, LA, the church where he was converted on April 7, 1936. Reverend Austin went on to receive

bachelor's and master's degrees in theology. He received a doctorate of divinity degree with honors from the American Divinity School in Chicago, IL.

Reverend Austin has always stressed the importance of education. He has become a shining example to the community of what a lifetime of learning can accomplish. He has served on local, State, and national congresses of Christian education. He has also served as a board member on the Commission on Quality Education for All Children for Saginaw Public Schools. Reverend Austin sees that improving the condition of our inner cities begins with improving the education of our children.

Reverend Austin's dedication to improving the condition of our Nation's inner cities has been a driving in his life's work. During the course of his career, Reverend Austin has taken part in many institutes, organizations, and community groups that focus on solving problems associated with poverty. He is a board member of the Saginaw chapter of the NAACP and also serves as a spiritual advisor to inmates at the Saginaw County Jail.

On May 4, 1996, Reverend Austin will be awarded an honorary doctor of humanities degree from Saginaw Valley State University for the leadership role he has played in seeking neighborhood improvement.

Through his life's work, Reverend Austin has touched and improved the lives of countless people. I know that my Senate colleagues will join me in congratulating Rev. Roosevelt Austin on his 40 years of outstanding service to the community.●

HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the students and coach of the Highland High School Academic Decathlon Team. This team, comprising of 15 New Mexico students, is the New Mexico representative to the 1996 National Academic Decathlon competition in Atlanta, GA.

The academic decathlon is a unique program that encourages academically well rounded students to compete in a variety of events. The decathlon encourages students to develop a greater respect for knowledge, promotes wholesome competition in academic areas of study and interest, stimulates intellectual growth and achievement, and encourages public interest and awareness of outstanding programs in our schools. This valuable program challenges students to strive for goals and to work hard academically.

Mr. President, these 15 students and their coach have worked extremely hard since early fall to prepare themselves for this event. Through their hard work and their extensive efforts, they have been able to overcome obstacles and achieve very high goals. Too often, Mr. President, we reward students for their athletic prowess instead of their academic abilities. Today, I