

Northwest and has provided inspiration to similar organizations around the country and the world.

Oregonians pride themselves in doing their part to protect and conserve the State's treasures and natural resources. The first beach cleanup in the United States was held in Oregon in 1984. Since then, annual beach cleanups now occur all along the west and east coasts of our country and in over 100 countries around the world. Just last month, SOLV organized Oregon's 24th annual spring beach cleanup. All 362 miles of Oregon's coastline were canvassed by almost 4,000 volunteers who accumulated over 110,000 pounds of trash.

As a young Boy Scout, I was taught that one's duty was to respect and protect the world around you. I believe that we have a responsibility to encourage efforts in conserving our natural resources by responsibly using them, not abusing them. Jack and Jan McGowan have made major contributions to a proud Oregon pioneering spirit of innovation and conservation. What they have given back to their community is invaluable, for they have taught us that everyone doing their small part can achieve huge successes. I wish Jack and Jan well as they pursue future endeavors in their retirement.●

#### RECOGNIZING BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Black Hills State University as they celebrate their 125th anniversary.

Throughout the past 125 years, Black Hills State University, BHSU, has served the State of South Dakota by providing a quality educational experience. BHSU's commitment to education began in 1883 when the school was founded as the Dakota Territorial Normal School. With only 40 students and a 2-year budget of \$2,000, BHSU began its journey in becoming a premier educational institution in South Dakota.

The school underwent a name change in 1941 and became the Black Hills Teacher's College. In the early 1940s, the rise of World War II resulted in a nationwide decline in university enrollment. In response, BHSU chipped in and hosted the training operations for Air Corp Cadets for the Manpower Commission to assist the war effort. After the war, the school rebounded and enrollment increased rapidly with the help of the G.I. Bill of Rights and BHSU's addition of graduate courses to its university catalogue.

Black Hills State University received its present name in 1964, and since, has continued to thrive in the South Dakota educational community. Now with three different colleges, an excellent academic environment, and many

athletic opportunities, I am confident that BHSU will continue to serve the Spearfish community and the State of South Dakota for the next 125 years.

It gives me great pleasure to rise with the students, faculty, and alumni of Black Hills State University on this milestone anniversary and wish them continued success in the years to come.●

#### HONORING THE LOUISIANA HONORAIR

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge and honor a very special group, the Louisiana HonorAir. Louisiana HonorAir is a not-for-profit group that flies as many as 200 World War II veterans a year up to Washington, DC, free of charge. On April 12, 2008, a group of 95 veterans will reach Washington as part of this very special program.

I want to take a moment to thank all the brave veterans visiting our Capitol city this trip:

Durelle L. Allen, Sr.; Elmer R. Allison; Daniel Angelle, Jr.; Aline M. Arceneaux; Louis Armes; Charles Barber; Billy J. Barrett, Sr.; Charles Barber; Harry P. Beanel; Nicholas D. Bernard; James H. Booksh, Jr.; James L. Boulet; Valentin D. Breaux, Jr.; Warren J. Breaux, Sr.; John W. Broussard; Don L. Broussard; Emery Broussard; Tony Collette; Elmer Corkern; Jack H. Crouchet; Frank J. Culotta, Sr.

Frank Deerman; Joseph I. DeVillie; James G. DeVillie; Julian A. Didier; Irving A. Domingue; Carl Dougherty; Charles H. Driggers; Russell J. Duet; Stanley T. Duhon; Donald K. Dutt; Robert M. Fleming; Ernest E. Fontaine; Lucius J. Forsyth, Jr.; Thomas R. Fournet; Paul U. Gary; Buren J. Gautreau; Hewitt B. Gomez; Gerald M. Gossen; Milton L. Guilbeau.

Donald C. Harmon; Didier J. Hebert, Jr.; Joseph W. Hebert; Adlar Hebert; James M. Jennings, Jr.; Joseph Kenner; Ruth M. Kilgore; Robert S. King, Jr.; William A. Koch, Jr.; John E. Landry; Wilfred R. LeBlanc; Walter A. Leonard; Grady A. Lewis; Robert H. Little; Thomas W. Logan; Jack P. Martin; Frank M. Mathews; Remie McGee, Jr.; Ray J. Melancon; John M. Menard; A.G. Moulder.

William G. Neef; Richard D. Nunez; Peter C. Piccione, Sr.; Charles D. Pierce; Ulysses J. Prevost; Wilfred Racca; Antoine W. Richard; Javis J. Robert; Forrest Sadler; Leroy Salsman, Jr.; Shirley L. Savoy; Lannie Scarborough; William P. Scott; Emmet G. Sellers; William R. Shelton; Robert D. Snyder; Hubert Sonnier; Albin H. Steiner; C. W. Sunday; Robert Sutter; Edward Swearingen.

Vernon O. Tekell; Joseph Thibodeaux; Andrew Thibodeaux; Wilbur P. Thousand; Emery F. Toups; Prudhome J. Trahan; Frances C. Trahan; Walton Trahan; William O. Walker; Camille E. Weber, Sr.; Charles Webre, Jr.; Richard M. Whaley; Walter C. White; Frank S. Williams.

While visiting Washington, DC, these veterans will tour Arlington National Cemetery, the Iwo Jima Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, the Korean Memorial, and the World War II Memorial. This program provides many veterans with their only opportunity to see the great memorials dedicated to their service.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a treaty which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### LEGISLATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THE UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT—PM 43

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement (the "Agreement"). The Agreement represents an historic development in our relations with Colombia, which has shown its commitment to advancing democracy, protecting human rights, and promoting economic opportunity. Colombia's importance as a steadfast strategic partner of the United States was recognized by President Clinton's support for an appropriation in 2000 to provide funding for Plan Colombia, and my Administration has continued to stand with Colombia as it confronts violence, terror, and drug traffickers.

This Agreement will increase opportunity for the people of Colombia through sustained economic growth and is therefore vital to ensuring that Colombia continues on its trajectory of positive change. Under the leadership of President Alvaro Uribe, Colombia has made a remarkable turnaround since 1999 when it was on the verge of being a failed state. This progress is in part explained by Colombia's success in demobilizing tens of thousands of paramilitary fighters. The Colombian government reports that since 2002, kidnappings, terrorist attacks, and murders are all down substantially, as is violence against union members.

The Government of Colombia, with the assistance of the United States, is continuing its efforts to further reduce the level of violence in Colombia and to ensure that those responsible for violence are quickly brought to justice. To speed prosecutions of those responsible for violent crimes, the Prosecutor