

the occasion of their community bicentennial celebration. Almost 200 years ago on June 16, 1796, the town of Alton was incorporated by the New Hampshire House and Senate and approved by then-Governor Gilman. To honor 200 years of history, the citizens of Alton have designated 1996 as a year of bicentennial celebrations with a variety of special town activities. Alton's big Bicentennial Day celebration is planned for June 16 and the bicentennial parade will take place August 17.

The history of Alton began around 1770 when the first pioneers arrived in the area. Early settlers worked diligently to construct roads and bridges, schools and churches. The area now known as Alton these settlers first moved to was truly majestic—the southern tip of Lake Winnepesaukee along the shores of the Merrymeeting River, and nestled by the mountains. Today, Alton still sits in a very picturesque area of the lakes region of New Hampshire—not too far from my hometown of Tuftonboro.

Alton's first town hall meeting was held at the home of Capt. Benjamin Bennett. Town officers were elected on that day, March 13, 1797, and other pertinent town matters were discussed. For hundreds of years now, Alton has continued the town meeting tradition. As Alton's bicentennial proclamation states on behalf of Alton's residents, "the principles of democracy and self-governance have prevailed on issues such as spending appropriations, building of meeting houses, support of education, construction of highways and bridges, collection of taxes, election of political representatives, and enforcement of laws."

A number of significant events occurred for Alton in the 1800's. In 1849, the railroad arrived in the town and the trains continued to stop in the Alton Bay area until 1935. Then, in 1872, the steamer, *Mount Washington*, was first launched in Alton Bay after being constructed there. From 1880 to 1920, the Rockwell Clough Co. employed a number of residents and became nationally known as the first manufacturer of cork screws and the company that invented paper clips.

Recently, the people of Alton suffered through a devastating flood that destroyed many homes. I had the opportunity to visit the area after the flood and witnessed how quickly this community had joined together to rebuild. Rescue teams and volunteers, along with families and friends, worked together day and night to help their neighbors who were victims of the flood. I was very impressed with the strength and fortitude this community displayed.

The public officials and residents of Alton have planned some festive activities to recognize the 200 years of history their town has enjoyed. A number of exhibits will be on display in the townhall featuring clay pipes, summer camps, railroads, and the Alton Central School. The Alton Historical Society

will provide a walking tour of the city and conduct various other historical programs. A haunted hay ride and haunted house are also planned later in the year for Halloween. June 16 will mark the big anniversary celebration with day-long activities including a family picnic, fireworks, and a bicentennial march to Alton Central School.

My wife taught school in Alton, so this scenic lakeside town holds a special place in the hearts of the Smith family. I congratulate all the residents of Alton on this historic milestone and wish them all an enjoyable year of celebration and remembrance. You all should be very proud of your heritage and 200 years of history.●

MARK HIMEBAUGH

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to observe Mark Himebaugh's 16th birthday.

For those who do not know Mark, he is one of America's many missing children. In November 1991, when he was 11 years old, Mark left his home in Cape May County, NJ, to play. He was never seen again. His parents have not seen him in 4½ years. Despite the efforts of his parents, law enforcement, and an outstanding group of volunteers, his parents say they are no closer to recovering Mark than in November 1991.

Mr. President, it is difficult to imagine the heartache and suffering of a parent who has a missing child. With each passing day, there is continuing concern, continuing fear, and continuing prayers for a safe return.

Unfortunately, each year, thousands of people across the country disappear. Most of these are children. Despite the increased awareness and the additional tools law enforcement has acquired, the problem continues to be serious.

Our children are our most precious resource. They are our future. I hope with all my heart that the Himebaugh family is reunited with their son in the near future. And I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them strength to continue their search for Mark.●

PREVENT TELEPHONE FRAUD

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I would like to briefly highlight the work of several telecommunications companies and organizations, which together have created the Alliance To Outfox Phone Fraud. This cooperative alliance, which includes the Illinois Consolidated Telephone Co., is working to educate and enlist the assistance of consumers in preventing telephone fraud, a rapidly growing crime which costs consumers nearly \$3.7 billion every year.

As telecommunications technology continues to improve, the potential for fraudulent activity also rises. As hackers have become sophisticated enough to keep pace with new technology, telephone fraud has grown because consumers are often unaware of the new dangers. Telecommunications fraud takes many forms—"shoulder surfers

watch or listen as customers enter their calling card numbers on pay phones; criminals posing as police officers or telephone company representatives try to bill calls to homes; and high-technology cellular thieves use cloning devices to steal cellular phone serial numbers.

Summer travelers are particularly susceptible to telephone fraud. As we approach the hectic summer travel season, I urge consumers to take precautions to ensure that they do not become victims of this increasing crime. Certainly, the efforts of the Alliance To Outfox Phone Fraud to increase consumer awareness are a step in the right direction.●

JOSEPH GARDNER: A LIFE DEDICATED TO MAKING LIFE BETTER FOR PEOPLE AND EXPANDING THEIR OPPORTUNITIES

● Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, last week, the city of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and the United States of America suffered a grievous loss because of the death of Joseph E. Gardner. Joe Gardner's life was devoted to helping people, to helping communities, to bringing people into our economy, to bringing economic growth and hope to communities without much of either, and to expanding opportunities for everyone.

I first met Joe when he was working at the Woodlawn Organization, more years ago than I care to remember. And our paths have crossed frequently ever since then. Joe worked on a wide variety of issues, but all of them were fundamentally about helping people, and especially poor people, make their lives better. I always admired his commitment to people and to neighborhoods, and the energy, the enthusiasm, and the savvy he brought to his work.

Chicago is a city of neighborhoods, and Joseph Gardner was a product of Chicago neighborhoods. He was raised in the Lawndale neighborhood on Chicago's West Side, and he graduated from Mount Carmel High School in Woodlawn. He earned his undergraduate degree at Loyola, an institution in Chicago, and went back to the West Side for a masters degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

With his education and his obvious gifts, he could have done almost anything. But for Joseph Gardner, education was not a means to get away from his community and his neighbors. Rather it was a way to open doors for poor neighborhoods and poor people who faced closed doors, and who had the doors to opportunity slammed in their faces for far too long.

Joseph Gardner chose to give back to his city, and to his community. He chose to devote his life to making it possible for disadvantaged young people to match and exceed what he had accomplished. He fought for jobs, for decent housing, for education, for safe neighborhoods, for families, and for children. Throughout his career at the

Woodlawn Organization, at Operation Push, where he was executive vice-president, and in government, the fight was always the same—to open up opportunities for people, to expand the possibilities for people, to build hope, and self-respect, and economic security.

Joe Gardner made Chicago a better place. He died far too soon; there was still so much he wanted to do. I will greatly miss him, and I know the people of Chicago and the state of Illinois will miss him, particularly the poor people he cared so much about.●

TRIBUTE TO HIS MAJESTY KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ OF THAILAND

● Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, who will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his accession to the throne on June 9, 1996. This is indeed an auspicious occasion, as King Bhumibol is the first Thai king to have reigned for 50 years.

King Bhumibol has been the overseer and benefactor of remarkable change and progress for his nation. From the beginning of his reign, he has tirelessly devoted his time and effort to the well-being and welfare of the Thai people. Under his stewardship, government has become an instrument of progress for people, as evident by the more than 1,800 royal development projects he has initiated in the areas of agriculture, environmental conservation, public health, occupational promotion, water resources development, communications, and social welfare.

During his reign, Thailand has experienced a dramatic transformation in its industrial structure to become a leader among developing nations. Manufacturing accounts for over 31 percent of the nation's economy and exports are booming. Textiles have supplanted rice as Thailand's major export item, and Thailand is now a major exporter of sophisticated high-technology products. King Bhumibol's leadership in diversifying his nation's economy and encouraging foreign investment has opened new doors of opportunity and prosperity to his people and has propelled Thailand to a place of respected prominence among the nations of the Pacific rim.

Not only are the industrial and technological advances significant, but King Bhumibol has achieved these gains while preserving the cultural integrity and national heritage of the Thai people. He is a much beloved leader and national patriarch, who has created a unique version of the modern monarchy. Firmly committed to the development of democratic principles, he has always been on the side of peace and prosperity and has responsibly guided his nation within the parameters of his constitutional authority.

The United States and Thailand have enjoyed a longstanding friendship and economic partnership from which both

nations have tremendously benefited. I have had the privilege of visiting Thailand on several occasions to promote opportunities for trade and investment and have been profoundly grateful for the assistance and hospitality I have received. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with this remarkable nation for the continued peace and prosperity of both of our countries.

I know that my colleagues in the U.S. Senate join me in congratulating King Bhumibol for his magnificent leadership and prosperous reign, as we look forward to many more years of friendship with his great nation.●

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICE [VAVS]

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service [VAVS]. Its half-century of caring for veterans and their families in communities across the country has generated more than 440 million hours of service and introduced millions of citizens to the fulfillment and satisfaction of volunteering.

VAVS was born in the burgeoning, postwar VA medical system as VA hospital administrators sought a way to organize the spontaneous volunteer movements that developed in communities near military and VA hospitals. From the start, VA officials recognized this volunteer movement as a natural adjunct to the quality of health care provided veterans. In April 1946, under the leadership of General Omar Bradley, then head of VA, representatives of eight national veterans and service organizations met in Washington, DC, to form a national advisory committee. The result of the meeting was a plan through which both community organizations and individuals could participate in volunteering and help manage those volunteer programs locally and nationally through advisory committees.

That plan was approved May 17, 1946, the birth date of the VA Voluntary Service. Today, there are 60 major veteran, civic, and service organizations participating on the National Advisory Committee, with more than 350 other national and community organizations supporting VAVS.

Still based in the VA health care system, VA volunteers have expanded with that system into every area of patient care and support, and have followed the VA mission into community settings such as hospice programs, foster care, hospital-based home care, veterans outreach centers, homeless veterans programs, and special events for the disabled. In addition, community volunteers work increasingly with VA's other service delivery venues such as benefits offices and national cemeteries.

VAVS volunteers have been particularly active in supporting community

programs aimed at reaching and serving the homeless. These 1-to-3 day events offer a variety of services to the homeless, and VA resources focus on assisting veterans, who make up at least one-third of the homeless male population in a typical community.

Volunteers have also become an integral part of the system of national and local showcase events aimed at introducing persons with disabilities back to mainstream activities. These include the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, the National Veterans Wheelchair Games—the largest wheelchair athletic meet in the world—the National Disabled Veterans Golden Age Games, and the National Disabled Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Corporate volunteers play a strong role in these events and have become elemental to their success. Growing participation from the corporate sector is setting the pace for the future of VAVS, along with a strong and growing youth volunteer program that is introducing teenagers and college students to careers as well as to community service.

The focus remains as it was in those early post-World War II years, responding to each community's desire to put its veterans first. That's why last year, volunteers contributed a total of 14,021,586 hours of service through VAVS programs, 12,649,676 of which came from 93,821 regularly scheduled volunteers. Numbers do not tell the real story, however. There is no way to calculate a community's caring and sharing with some of its most important citizens. For 50 years, VAVS has been there to channel that caring in a productive, meaningful way.●

DISTRICT COURT RULING SHOULD SPUR SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO REFORM CLASSIFIED PRICES

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, on Monday, Minnesota District Court Judge David Doty released a decision holding that class I prices used in the Federal milk marketing order system are arbitrary and capricious. I rise today to applaud that ruling. It is the second such ruling by the district court in 2 years. It is my hope that the combination of this most recent ruling and Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman's commitment to restore equity in Federal orders will finally be enough to change this discriminatory pricing system for good.

Mr. President, class I prices, prices that farmers receive for fluid milk, increase at a rate of 21 cents for every 100 miles a farmer lives from Eau Claire, WI. This systematic discrimination against Wisconsin dairy farmers has never been adequately defended by the Department of Agriculture which has great administrative latitude to set these prices. Department officials have chosen to continue the discriminatory pricing scheme when they had the authority to change it and the knowledge that it should be changed.