

70 and the Mechanical Contractors Association of Grand Rapids will join together with Community Action to participate in the 10th annual HEAT'S ON Day. The HEAT'S ON—Handicapped and Elderly Assistance to Serve Our Neighbors—Program began in 1987 in Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN. HEAT'S ON Day has become an annual event in the Grand Rapids area, as members of plumbers and steamfitters local 70 and the Mechanical Contractors Association of Grand Rapids donate their time and talents to ensure that the homes of elderly and disabled people in Grand Rapids and the nearby cities of Grandville, Kentwood, Walker, and Wyoming are safe for the winter.

Participating servicepeople check homes approved for the program and repair and replace broken parts in furnaces and heating units. They also install easy-to-read thermostats and smoke alarms for people who need them. In the past 9 years, HEAT'S ON participants have discovered more serious—and potentially life-threatening—problems, such as plugged chimneys, defective furnaces, and homes exposed to carbon monoxide poisoning. These discoveries have enabled homeowners to have the problems repaired before suffering dangerous accidents.

HEAT'S ON is a community effort, as evidenced by local businesses who contribute time, money, and products to help defray the costs. Consumers Power, Meijer, and Dominos are just a few of the local businesses who participate in this vital program.

HEAT'S ON Day brings together many people to help ensure that nobody who requires assistance needlessly suffers through a cold winter. In Grand Rapids, union workers and business owners combine their resources and abilities to serve those in need. They are an inspiration, and they deserve our recognition. I know my colleagues will join me in extending our congratulations and thanks to the HEAT'S ON partnership of Grand Rapids, MI for 10 years of service to their community.●

CHARACTER COUNTS IN NEW MEXICO

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, as we approach National Character Counts Week, October 19–25, I want to relate another example of how character education programs are expanding across the State of New Mexico.

In New Mexico, over 30 communities and cities have adopted partnerships with their school systems to promote the Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. There are literally thousands of young people involved in character-related programs in their youth organizations and public or private schools. Some communities have expanded their local efforts to include Character in the Workplace programs.

Character Counts is not just a slogan. It represents, instead, exciting and well-developed programs by citizens

who believe there are important and positive benefits to be derived from good character. Because families, churches, community groups, civic leaders, and school administrators and teachers want to place more emphasis on the value of ethical behavior, Character Counts has become one of the fastest growing and localized movements in the State's history.

As an example, in Farmington, NM, the Navajo Preparatory School is initiating an all-encompassing character education program for its students. The Navajo Preparatory School is chartered by the Navajo Nation to operate as a college preparatory school program for Navajo and other native American youth. Its mission is to educate highly motivated and talented students who have the potential and desire to achieve a college education and become leaders of their respective communities. It has 195 boarding and day students from the Navajo Nation, Jicarilla Apache, and various Pueblo Tribes. It has an excellent academic record, with 85 percent of its graduating students enrolled in college.

Some weeks ago I was invited to visit the school to hear about its Character Counts Program. Attending were teachers, students, school administration officials, and members of the board of trustees. The briefing included an innovative audio-visual program designed to transfer the concepts of the Six Pillars of Character into traditional Navajo teachings, as well as a review of the schools's translation of the Six Pillars into the Navajo language. In addition to its Character Counts curriculum, Navajo Prep also supports the development of student activities that will maximize the messages of the Six Pillars. It wants to ensure that its students have a comprehensive and cohesive program that surrounds both their academic and social conduct.

The board of trustees presented their resolution for "Endorsing and Implementing the Character Counts Program at the Navajo Preparatory School." I would like to quote from this resolution so Members of Congress will know how thoroughly the school's officials have developed this character education program.

The Navajo Preparatory School Board supports and endorses Character Counts which are based on six core ethical values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

The Navajo Preparatory School Board requests its staff to examine the curriculum and integrate Navajo-specific character development teachings, strategies, methods and partnership initiatives into the overall school program as an ongoing part of school instruction.

The Navajo Preparatory School Board empowers the school staff to join forces with the State of New Mexico Navajo Nation and other local organizations and become a leader for community action through teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling the six pillars of character.

The Navajo Preparatory School staff shall pursue available funding to develop Navajo curriculum materials which promote the development of good character.

As evidenced by Navajo Prep's creative character education program and

as explained well in its resolution, " * * * no single entity can instill ethical behavior in youth and adults if it is acting without the support of the other institutions and groups." Character-building activities are for all. They can be embraced by the young and old and the public and private sectors in a way the transcends political, cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences.

In New Mexico, Character Counts is a statewide and communitywide effort. It is a program with unbelievable energy because everyone who hears about it believes in it and wants it to work. It works because people, like those associated with the Navajo Preparatory School, are wholeheartedly committed to making it a reality.

I applaud the fine work of the Navajo Preparatory School, and welcome it as a new member of the ever-growing family of Character Counts enthusiasts.●

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS INITIATIVE

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise in strong opposition to the proposed amendment by my colleague from Arkansas.

First, I think it is important to point out that the American heritage rivers initiative does not force designation upon any river or river community. It is a voluntary program.

American heritage rivers enables communities who wish to protect, restore, and revitalize their waterways, who want to protect their vital natural, historical, cultural, and recreational resources, to voluntarily develop and submit a locally driven nomination and to seek designation.

As proposed by the administration, any nominated river must demonstrate broad community support for the nomination. It must demonstrate that members of the river community have had ample opportunities to comment on the nomination and plan of action. The administration has also made it very clear that if a Member of Congress opposes a river designation in his or her district, the designation will not occur in that district.

Second, American heritage rivers establishes no new regulations, and was specifically designed to streamline Federal assistance to community-led riparian restoration efforts. By requiring written approval from all property owners along a river, and subjecting designation to a lengthy congressional selection process, this amendment in effect creates crippling delays and places unnecessary regulatory burdens on the nomination preparation and selection processes.

Third, this amendment unnecessarily restricts the broad objectives of American heritage rivers by focusing only on the water pollution aspects of river revitalization. American heritage rivers is designed to celebrate and address

not only natural resource and environmental protection, but to also promote economic development and the protection of our historical, cultural, and recreational resources.

In my own State of Maryland, and throughout the entire Potomac watershed, a broad coalition of local governments, private citizens, businesses, and others, known as the Friends of the Potomac, has mounted a concerted effort to nominate the Potomac. This coalition is striving to make "Our Nation's River" one of the first 10 designated American heritage rivers, and I fully support and encourage their efforts.

Mr. President, the American heritage rivers initiative is simply an effort to better coordinate and leverage existing Federal resources. The Council on Environmental Quality, participating agencies and departments already have congressionally provided authority and responsibility to carry out this program. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this amendment.●

THE 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE KSEN RADIO STATION IN SHELBY, MT

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to salute the KSEN radio station in Shelby, MT, for 50 years of service to the Golden Triangle area in north central Montana.

As a former broadcaster, I applaud KSEN for the valuable service they provide to the Shelby area, especially to the agricultural community. KSEN works hard to provide the area with farm and market reports, weather, local news, and sports broadcasting as well as national programs. KSEN radio is a very important tool for the area's farmers and ranchers.

KSEN radio has won more broadcasting awards than any other station in Montana and is the smallest market in the United States to receive the Crystal Award from the National Association of Broadcasters for its outstanding public service.

Congratulations to Mr. Jerry Black and the staff at KSEN radio in Shelby, MT, for a fabulous 50 years of service to our great State.●

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today, I want to pay tribute to an important institution in the Wisconsin State Legislature on its 50th anniversary: the Wisconsin Legislative Council.

The legislative council was created as a joint committee of the State legislature in 1947, charged with convening special committees each biennium to study the more complex, controversial or sometimes tedious but necessary legislative issues, and to develop legislative solutions. The unique aspect of the council's directive has been to identify and appoint knowledgeable Wisconsin citizens to work alongside

legislators to craft bills, often recodifying whole chapters of the statutes at a time.

The Wisconsin Legislative Council is derived from the same Wisconsin Idea, fostered by the Progressives in the early part of this century, that created the Congressional Research Service. Senator "Fighting Bob" LaFollette saw the importance of having non-partisan, professional staff provide research, analysis and bill-drafting to legislative bodies. The Wisconsin version, which has been the model for many other State legislatures, further improves on the concept by setting up a mechanism for open discussion and citizen participation directly in the development of legislative solutions in subjects selected by a bicameral body every 2 years.

Since its inception, the joint legislative council has overseen 426 individual studies, conducted by not only State legislators but also including over 6,000 Wisconsin citizens as full voting members of committees. These committees are staffed by the legislative council staff under the direction of the joint legislative council. These nonpartisan professional staff members further support the work of the legislature by staffing committees, providing research and analysis to individual legislators and their staff, and performing a technical review of all proposed State regulations.

Many of the members of the Wisconsin congressional delegation have had the experience of serving on legislative council committees—I served on three, once as chairman of a study committee reviewing laws on interstate sales and use taxes.

On its 50th anniversary, I am pleased to pay tribute to Wisconsin's Joint Legislative Council and the dedication of the legislative council staff. May they continue their service to the state for many years to come.●

DAVID SCHMELTZER

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, today I rise to honor a truly outstanding, dedicated public servant—David Schmeltzer. Dave is retiring from the Federal Government after 35 years of service, including 25 years at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, where he is the Director of the Office of Compliance. Over the years I have been fortunate to have gotten to know Dave personally. A native New Yorker, he received a bachelor of arts degree from Long Island University in 1957. He attended Brooklyn Law School with my dear friend Larry Elovich, and became a member of the New York Bar after graduating in 1960. I want to wish Dave, his wife Louise, and their son Daniel and his family the best of luck on this happy occasion.

David Schmeltzer has had a truly remarkable career in Federal service. I am unaware of anyone with Dave's experience and knowledge when it comes to product safety regulation and en-

forcement. At the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in addition to his current position as Director of the Office of Compliance, Dave has served as both Deputy General Counsel and Acting General Counsel. Before joining the Commission in 1973—at its inception, I should note—Dave served as the Assistant Chief Counsel for Enforcement and Administrative Law with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. He has also served as the Vice Chairman for the International Consumer Health and Safety Organization Symposium [ICPHSO] and is presently on ICPHSO's executive committee.

While the list of Government positions Dave has held is quite impressive, it does not begin to measure his contributions in improving product safety for all Americans of all ages, from infants to our seniors. Dave has never been someone who has ducked the tough calls, and he has been willing to take the heat for doing so when many others would have run away. He has always been fair and balanced in exercising his judgment, a real straight shooter. The results speak for themselves. On behalf of those consumers who have been spared the pain of a loss or devastating injury to a child or other loved one, I want to thank Dave Schmeltzer for his years of service and wish him well in his future endeavors.●

COMMEMORATING THE INDEPENDENCE OF ARMENIA

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the sixth anniversary of Armenian Independence.

With the fall of the Soviet Union, Armenians were quickly faced with the possibility of realizing a vision which they had long sought—independence. On September 21, 1991, Armenia held a referendum to decide its future. More than 94 percent of Armenia's eligible voters turned out to support independence. Two days later, on September 23, the Armenian Parliament made the people's desire official when it declared Armenia's independence from the Soviet Union.

The historic vote for independence on September 21, 1991, has far greater significance when examined in light of Armenia's modern history. Throughout the last century, the Armenian people have experienced incredible hardship and tragedy in their efforts to rule themselves. Armenia began the 20th century under the control of the Ottoman Turks. Ottoman Turk rule turned savage at the beginning of World War I when it waged a government-organized genocide on the Armenians. During the Armenian Genocide of 1915–23, 1.5 million people perished as the Ottoman Turks tried to permanently silence Armenian calls for independence.

Following the defeat of the Ottoman Turks in World War I, Armenians were able to briefly fulfill their wishes of independence. On May 28, 1918, the Republic of Armenia was established.