

me," he said. "I'm no Lincoln, but even Lincoln got beat two or three times."

Longstanding alliances within the small Senate Republican caucus had largely kept Williams out of a leadership position there. But the number of Senate Republicans grew during the 1990s.

During the 1998 session, after the Republican minority had grown to 18 senators, Williams was part of (but he insists did not lead) an attempt to oust Sen. Dan Kelly's Republican leadership team—a coup that failed when Republican senators voted 9-9.

After the 1998 elections changed the makeup of the caucus, Williams finally had the votes he needed to win election as Senate Republican leader.

And defections of two Democratic senators to the GOP mean he's likely to become Senate president.

A MIX OF ATTORNEY AND PREACHER

Williams said Kentuckians can expect him to take generally conservative stands on most issues.

"But I don't hate government," he said. "I'm not a person who is afraid to use government to effect change. . . . I come from an area of the state that has needs. I've grown up and lived with people who have needs. I've grown up in areas that needed roads, that needed schools."

In fact, in 1990 Williams was one of only three Senate Republicans who voted for the Kentucky Education Reform Act, which included a massive tax increase.

"I voted for it because the school districts in rural Kentucky did not have adequate resources, the students there did not have adequate opportunity," Williams said. "I'm not unalterably wed to every aspect of the Kentucky Education Reform Act. . . . But I still feel like I cast the right vote."

Besides his support of KERA, Williams is known in the legislature for his long fight to win funding for a resort lodge at Dale Hollow, his advocacy of workers' compensation law reform (which Gov. Paul Patton pushed through in 1996), and helping to increase state spending on adult education.

Williams is better-known, though, for his skill as a debater. "David Williams is and has always been one of the most articulate members of the Senate," said Senate Democratic Leader David Karem of Louisville. "There's a wonderful mix of the courtroom attorney and the traditional Kentucky preacher in the way he delivers his speeches from the floor."

Williams said Republicans are inclined to oppose two ideas Patton has floated this year as ways of raising state revenue—raising the gas tax and expanding legal gambling.

But he said he's not prepared yet to slam the door on either idea. "We haven't seen a bill yet," he said.

And if Williams succeeds in leading the Senate, might he make another race for statewide office?

Williams said he has no plans to seek higher office, though he's not ruling out the possibility.

Sen. Tom Buford, R-Nicholasville, said Williams could be a strong candidate for governor in 2003. "He hasn't said anything," Buford said. "But I would watch that."●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BETHESDA FALCONS

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Bethesda Soccer Club Falcons for winning the Under-16 girls Maryland State Cup Championship.

The Falcons defeated their opponent, the Soccer Club of Baltimore Force, 11-

0. This victory marked the team's seventh consecutive state title—one for every year that they have been eligible to win—which also happens to be a Maryland record.

Every Falcons team member was a contributor to this important victory. On the offensive, the game's leading strikers were Audra Poulin and Jenny Potter, who had three goals apiece. Jenna Linden added two goals to the team's fight, while Christi Bird, Stephanie Sybert, and Allison Dooley chipped in the remaining scores for the Falcons. This overpowering offense was aided by the passing and play-making abilities of the Falcons' talented midfielders: Beth Hendricks, Tara Quinn, Jennifer Fields, Susannah Empson, and Tanya Hahnel.

One of the keys to the Falcons' victory was their unwavering and steadfast defense which allowed no goals and only a few shots by the unrelenting Baltimore Force. This defense was anchored around defenders Caitlin Curtis, Amy Salomon and Alison West, while the goal posts were kept clear by goalies Anna Halse-Strumberg and Kerry York.

It was a fitting ending to the tournament in which the Falcons, through five games, outscored their hard-working opponents 29-0. The following day, the Falcons continued their winning efforts by defeating the Baltimore Soccer Club Pride—another great Maryland team. The Falcons finished in first place in the Washington Area Girls' Soccer Association Under-17 Premier Division.

Mr. President, as many of my colleagues know, I believe we must get behind our kids and support them in their hard work. The importance of this principle was demonstrated by Falcons coach, Richie Burke, who did just that. As a result, the team fought hard and produced a definitive victory. I'm proud to have such a great team and a fantastic coach in Maryland, and I'm proud of all the participants in the Maryland State Cup Championship for their hard work and dedication.●

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRANCIS WILSON

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Francis M. Wilson and his wonderful and admirable life.

Mr. Wilson served as a tech-sergeant during World War II in Germany when he was only 18 years old. He was an engineer in the Detroit Public School District, a devoted family man, and an active citizen. The challenges he successfully faced in these capacities have distinguished him within his family, his town, his state, and his country.

As a very young boy, he sold "Liberty" magazines to supplement his family's income during the Great Depression. Growing up during a time of financial strife led him to find solace in nature. Mr. Wilson was exposed to nature during his experience in the military and developed a love and

knowledge of it. As a young adult he was able to identify a variety of birds, insects, trees, and flowers. He then went on to form and preside over a group of citizens that forced new construction to adhere to guidelines designed to protect nearby lakes.

Once he reached adulthood, Mr. Wilson found his real love, Dolores. Together they found great joy in their children and grandchildren. Mr. Wilson wanted to ensure that they received all the advantages that he did not have. He inspired his children to put themselves through college. He provided them with the opportunity to grow up in a safe environment, allowing them to mature at a more deliberate pace than the one that was forced upon him. His wife, Dolores, expresses the best tribute to Mr. Wilson when she writes "this brave, honest, dedicated, ordinary man was to his family and America 'the staff of life' that fuels generations to come."

Mr. Wilson expressed his passion for education through his involvement with children as an engineer of thirty years in the Detroit Public Schools. He gave and received respect from all he knew. He not only led by lecture but, more importantly and effectively, by example. He never left any doubt as to where he stood in a debate and firmly believed in right and wrong. Mr. Wilson offered little patience for individuals passing on responsibility as an excuse for negligent or bad behavior. Personifying Winston Churchill's statement, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give," Mr. Francis M. Wilson left this world an honorable, loyal, selfless servant to his country and a loved and missed father, grandfather and husband.●

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF OAKLAND, MARYLAND

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Town of Oakland, Maryland. The Mayor of Oakland, Asa McCain, Jr., and the entire community are planning numerous events to commemorate this milestone.

Like so many of Maryland's historic cities and towns, Oakland, which was founded in 1849, has carved its own unique place in American history. At Oakland's center is one of the oldest railroad stations in the country. The Queen Anne style railroad station designed by E.F. Baldwin and built in 1885 by the B & O Railroad is now in the National Registry.

The railroad was responsible for popularization of the Oakland area as a resort in the late 1800's and resulted in Garrett County's flourishing export of timber and coal. Recently purchased by the "Save the Oakland Station Committee," the station will be restored to its original splendor in an effort to provide a cornerstone for continued growth in the County. In recognition of

Oakland's community effort to revitalize its economy and preserve its historic past, the Town received a National Mainstreet Designation from the National Historical Trust in May of this year.

Another historically significant location in Oakland is the Church of the Presidents, built in 1868. Three United States Presidents, Grant, Harrison, and Cleveland, attended services there and preferred Garrett County to any other place for their vacations.

Today, Oakland and Garrett County are well known as one of the finest all-season resort areas, offering abundant sports activities including fishing, hiking, skiing—both alpine and cross-country—and boating. The natural beauty of this pristine area of our state led to Oakland's original name, "The Wilderness Shall Smile." In addition, the town of Oakland, with its large Victorian homes and beautiful tree-lined streets, enhance the appeal of this cool, mountainous retreat.

Oakland has faced its share of economic difficulties. The departure in 1996 of Bausch and Lomb, the largest employer in the area, dealt a severe blow. Nevertheless, Oakland faced the problem head-on and orchestrated an intense effort to recruit alternative employers. In April of this year, Simon Pearce, a premier glass maker and Vermont's largest tourism attraction, opened a factory just outside of Oakland. Through the inspired leadership of Mayor Asa McCain, the town of Oakland will continue to thrive and prosper well towards the Town's 200th anniversary.

Oakland is a model of community spirit and cooperation. The activities planned to commemorate the 150th anniversary exemplify the deep devotion of its residents to their community. I share the pride of Mayor McCain and all of Oakland's citizens in their Town's historic past and optimism for Oakland's continued success in the years to come.●

VET CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to publicly acknowledge the five Vet Centers from around this country that are being recognized for their superior services as "Vet Centers of Excellence." While I am proud of the fine facilities located in California, Arizona, Georgia and West Virginia, the one I want to praise today is in my state of Vermont.

Vermont is very fortunate to have two Vet Centers—in fact we boast the first in the nation back in the days when the Readjustment Counseling Service (RCS) was just getting started with pilot sites strategically located around the country. The nation's first Vet Center, an excellent facility, was designed to help veterans in the Burlington, Vermont area.

The Vet Center we honor today opened in mid-1981 and is located in White River Junction, Vermont. It

serves veterans on both sides of the Connecticut River in Vermont and New Hampshire. The team leader, Tim Beebe, assesses their work modestly, saying "we are just doing our job." Maybe they don't understand the impact they have. This incredible staff go so far above their "job". They are caring, involved and understanding friends, devoted to offering a safe haven to those veterans suffering the emotional wear and tear of battle, often thirty years after leaving the service.

I am sure I don't need to remind my colleagues in Congress that the work being done at Vet Centers throughout the Country is enormously important. Over the years, the Vet Center program has been so successful in meeting the readjustment needs of Vietnam veterans that the VA Readjustment Counseling Service expanded the scope of their good work to veterans of all eras. This move was heartily endorsed by Congress and is now law. Long before this mandate, however, the White River Junction Vet Center subscribed to an open door policy to all veterans. Their message was simply put: "Welcome home—you are not alone."

Mr. President, I believe in the great work being done by Vet Centers everyday throughout this country. I also know, however, that a "Vet Center of Excellence" award is only given to the those centers that stand a little taller than the rest. The White River Junction Vet Center staff exemplifies excellence. I want to offer my warmest congratulations to this incredibly talented group of professionals and remind them that they are shining examples to their colleagues in the 206 Vet Centers around the United States.●

NORTH DAKOTA STOCKMEN'S ASSOCIATION

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today, I would like to recognize a very important organization in my state, the North Dakota Stockmen's Association. I would also like to congratulate them on their 70th anniversary as an organization. Over the years, the North Dakota Stockmen's Association has been an invaluable asset to their members and to me. In particular, after 70 years of representing North Dakota family farmers and ranchers, the Stockmen have made great contributions to the cultural and economic heritage of North Dakota. Their successes have been accomplished through hard work and their consistent ability to produce the highest quality beef in the world.

Cattle provide an essential source of income for North Dakota farmers. Based on that fact alone, it is easy to understand the importance of the Stockmen's Association to my state's producers. While keeping the interests of cattle producers in the minds of elected officials, the members of this organization also provide valuable stewardship to the land, send their children to rural schools, support busi-

nesses, and help their neighbors through difficult weather and tough economic times. I would like to express my deep appreciation for their enduring efforts to support my state's communities, and again, I congratulate them for 70 years of service to the cattlemen of North Dakota.●

MICHAEL J. MCGINNIS

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Brother Michael J. McGinnis, who will be inducted as La Salle University's 28th President on September 24. Brother McGinnis was previously a member of La Salle's religion department, and for the past five years was president of Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tennessee.

A native Philadelphian, Brother McGinnis joined the Christian Brothers University in 1965 and graduated Maxima Cum Laude from La Salle in 1970 with a degree in English. He obtained his Master's and Ph.D. in theology from the University of Notre Dame. While a graduate student at the University of Notre Dame, Brother McGinnis taught undergraduate courses in the Theology Department.

Brother McGinnis became assistant professor at Washington Theological Union from 1979 to 1984, and in 1984 joined the faculty at La Salle on a full-time basis, reaching the rank of full professor in 1993. Recognized for his leadership qualities, Brother McGinnis became Chair of La Salle's Religion Department in 1991 and the following year received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching.

During his tenure as President of Christian Brothers University, undergraduate enrollment and retention rates increased, a Master's of Education program was established, the Athletic Department joined the NCAA Division II Gulf South Conference, and the Center for Global Enterprise was founded. He also took an active role in the Memphis area community, serving on the boards of the Economic Club of Memphis, the Memphis chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art. Brother McGinnis also served on the Memphis Catholic Diocesan Development Committee and the board of the Christian Brothers High School.

Brother McGinnis has published numerous articles in scholarly journals, written chapters in religious books, and edited six volumes of the Christian Brothers' Spirituality Seminar Series. His book reviews have appeared in journals such as Horizons, Theological Studies, Journal of Ecumenical Studies, and Holistic Nursing Practice. His professional memberships include the Catholic Theological Society of America, American Academy of Religion, and College Theology Society.

Mr. President, Brother McGinnis has distinguished himself through his impressive academic and professional