

With the support of area residents, the Cheshire Lions Club has reached out to assist many members of the community. The Lions Club has developed a national reputation for advancing such worthwhile local causes as the D.A.R.E. Program for schools, academic scholarships for local students, and area food banks, and the Cheshire club has been an important part of that legacy. Over the years, members of the Cheshire Lions Club have actively involved themselves in countless civic activities and made a real difference in Connecticut. Their hard work has reached far beyond the Town of Cheshire and the Lions Club stands tall as an example of the principles upon which our nation was built.

As the Cheshire Lions Club has grown, its numerous good works have touched many lives and demonstrated the true value of community spirit. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the club and all its members for their service, dedication, and contributions to our state.●

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THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
"WOMEN HELPING BATTERED  
WOMEN"

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to stand before the Senate today and speak of an organization that has, for the past 25 years, been committed to ending violence toward women and children. The organization is called Women Helping Battered Women (WHBW) and their goal is simple: create a living environment for women and children that is free from fear of battering—sexual, physical, emotional or financial. On the occasion of their 25th anniversary, WHBW, through their direct service, their advocacy and their educational and outreach programs stands as an example for us all and, unfortunately, are as crucial today as they were 25 years ago.

We must not shy away from the impacts of domestic violence. In the United States, a woman is battered by a partner every seven seconds and thirty percent of Americans know a woman who has been physically abused by their husband or boyfriend in the last year. In my home state of Vermont, I shudder when I hear that domestic violence touches over 16,000 Vermonters each year. In Chittenden County alone, an overwhelming 59% of all reported crimes since January 1998 have been domestic-related disturbances. We often perceive Vermont as one of the safest states in the nation, however, the incidence of domestic violence in Vermont continues to rise.

As a result of WHBW's work, over 3,500 Vermonters' lives were positively touched during difficult and dangerous times in their lives. I'd like to highlight their PARADIGM project, a joint educational partnership with the Woman's Rape Crisis Center. The PARADIGM project serves to educate students, churches and professional and

community groups, in the hope of breaking the cycle of violence in the home and in our communities.

Mr. President, you may see me and others wearing a purple ribbon, to symbolize our commitment to ending violence against women and children in our state, and across the nation. Yet it is the day to day work of Women Helping Battered Women—it is their strength and advocacy—that continues to make a difference and helps Congress focus on this issue. Congress made a commitment to the women behind the statistics when we passed the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). I will continue to work to fulfill this pledge to millions of women and families who have suffered, by fully funding this important Act which supports shelters, counseling, training, and law enforcement. In fact, my work helped to double the fiscal year 1997 allocations for community level demonstration projects and to increase the domestic violence hotline funds. Congress also included funding targeted exclusively to combat domestic violence in rural areas—especially important in my home state of Vermont. We must continue the work we began with the passage of VAWA and pass a reauthorization of these vital programs. I am proud to be a cosponsor of S. 51, the Violence Against Women Act II. I pledge to work with my colleagues to get this needed legislation passed in the near future.

I applaud WHBW's leadership and the creative initiatives they have undertaken to build and maintain a multicultural organization which empowers staff, volunteers, and the women and families they serve. I commend Woman Helping Battered Women for their crucial work in breaking the silence for victims, supporting women and children in meeting their most basic needs in times of great difficulty, educating our communities, and working to heighten public awareness of this growing epidemic.

Mr. President, thank you for the opportunity to provide my colleagues with a shining example of a group of dedicated individuals actively engaged in the war against domestic violence. I join other Vermonters in offering my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to Women Helping Battered Women for their many years of good work.●

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COMMEMORATING THE AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SISTER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE STATE OF MONTANA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND GUANGXI ZHUANG AUTONOMOUS REGION, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the establishment of the sister-state relationship between my home state of Montana and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China.

The establishment of this sisterhood marks a successful conclusion to many

years of building mutual cooperation, trust and friendship, as well as a bright beginning of a continued strong relationship between our countries.

I would like to commend Governor Marc Racicot of the State of Montana for his continued efforts to bring new opportunities to the state through education, business relations and cultural exchanges. I would also like to thank the People's Republic of China and Governor Li Zhaozhuo for linking Guangxi Province to Montana. The richness of culture, citizens, history, and boundless environmental beauty make our state and your province a perfect match.

Montana and Guangxi have worked a long time in building this relationship. In fact, a high level delegation from Guangxi Province joined the first Mansfield Pacific Retreat on "Trade and Agriculture," held in Bigfork, Montana, in May 1996.

The idea of establishing friendly exchange relationships between American states and cities and Chinese provinces and cities goes back to the late 1970s when China, as a country, began to "open up to the outside." These sister relationships have proved to be very helpful in establishing cultural and grassroots relations. A good example is the product relationship between the city of Seattle and Chongqing in Sichuan Province.

The establishment of Montana's sister ties with Guangxi Province in South China fits within this tradition of promoting people to people communication. Such a relationship is especially relevant to Montana because of the life, work, and legacy of Mike Mansfield. He is Montana's "favorite son" who has also made a name known for himself in China. His promotion of sister relationships with Asia began during his tenure as American Ambassador to Japan. He proposed and helped to establish Montana's sister relationship with Kumamoto Prefecture. He also established the University of Montana's sister relations with Toyo University in Tokyo and Kumamoto University in Kumamoto City.

Although Senator Mansfield is better known for his promotion of mutual understanding with Japan, his impact on American Chinese relations is also significant. His interest in East Asia began when he served in the U.S. Marines soon after World War I and visited the American Garrison then in the city of Tianjin.

Senator Mansfield continued his work in the Far East as a Congressman from Montana. He visited China at the request of President Roosevelt to report back with advice on American policy following the defeat of Japan in the Pacific War. He is also credited with opening relations with China in the early 1970s and he was the first American Senator to visit China, soon after President Nixon's historic visit in 1972. The current ties between Montana and Guangxi are a fitting expression of the value of people to people communication between America and China. They

are also a fitting tribute to the legacy of Senator Mansfield.

Finally, I was pleased to have the opportunity to visit Guangxi's beautiful city of Guilin last summer during President Clinton's visit to China. I was impressed by the great efforts the Guangxi's citizens have taken to ensure that their children and generations to come will continue to enjoy the natural wonders and beauty of their province. We in Montana also take such pride in our state's natural treasures—our mountains, our lakes and our wildlife.

I am very proud of the establishment of Montana and Guangxi's sisterhood. This is just the beginning. As we enter the new Millennium, let us strive to build and strengthen our sisterhood relationship as a model for cooperation and understanding. •

#### TRIBUTE TO ATTORNEY AT LAW JIMMY E. ALEXANDER

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Jimmy E. Alexander, a prominent and respected lawyer from Athens, Limestone County, in northern Alabama. Mr. Alexander passed away last month after a long and distinguished career in law practice. His deep passion for his work took him on a journey from the smallest courtrooms in Alabama, to the great and hallowed halls of the U.S. Supreme Court. His dedication and heartfelt concern for the 'little guy' was an inspiration. Jimmy will be missed by the many people whose lives he touched and affected.

Jimmy was born in Bear Creek, in Marion County, in 1939. After graduation from Russellville High School in 1957, Jimmy went on to continue his education at the University of Alabama, receiving his undergraduate degree in 1960, and his law degree in 1963. Jimmy's innate industriousness and work ethic were tailor-made for his chosen profession. Jimmy quickly developed a reputation as an outstanding criminal defense attorney and successful domestic relations lawyer. Joining the firm of Malone, Malone and Steel directly out of law school, he soon was made partner and ultimately became senior partner of the firm Alexander, Corder, Plunk, Baker, Shelly, and Shipman P.C., in Athens, AL. Jimmy was the city attorney for Athens and Ardmore for 17 years. He served on the city Board of Education for 5 years and was the Alabama Bar Association Commissioner for the 39th judicial circuit for 4 years.

It was through these professional forums that Jimmy was able to thrive in his work and gain a statewide reputation as a standout trial attorney. In private practice for 36 years, Jimmy has counseled businesses, commercial clients, and recently, had taken a strong interest in championing the cause of the "little guy." Particularly for the last 15 years, he focused on representing the poor, under represented,

physically injured, and financially cheated, many of whom had no where else to turn than Jimmy Alexander. Jimmy developed a particular fondness for taking on big business, insurance companies, and large industry. He represented many high profile cases, and in 1989, won the largest monetary judgment at the time in Limestone County and in another case, setting a precedent for the largest monetary judgement in the entire State of Alabama. His gifted ability even took him before the U.S. Supreme Court, where he argued a case against an insurance company.

Jimmy Alexander will be remembered as a dedicated attorney, who brought human compassion to his work. Many of his colleagues have expressed their respect and admiration for his approach to both his work and his life, and I join them in their prayers for him and his family. My thoughts and wishes extend to his wife Rose, and two children, Tonya and Eric, during this difficult time. Mr. President, I yield the floor. •

#### CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Central Connecticut State University as it celebrates its 150th anniversary. Under the dynamic leadership of President Richard Judd, this fine institution has continued to achieve the vision of academic excellence upon which it was founded.

Originally the New Britain Normal School, CCSU was established by the State General Assembly in 1849 and stands as the oldest public institution of higher education in Connecticut. Whether under the name Normal School, Teachers College of Connecticut, or Central Connecticut State University, its students have never received less than a first-rate education. CCSU has cultivated a rich academic environment in which both graduates and undergraduates have the opportunity to better understand themselves as well as the world around them.

Academically, athletically, and culturally, CCSU and its more than 11,000 students have much to celebrate throughout this special year. What makes CCSU so unique is that it has never isolated itself from the surrounding community. Instead, the university embraces its position within the larger civic arena and, in doing so, offers its students the valuable opportunity to make a real difference in the city of New Britain and beyond. CCSU students, faculty, and facilities have played a significant role in the city's development and will continue to weave themselves into the city's social fabric for many years to come.

Mr. President, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the sesquicentennial anniversary of Central Connecticut State University, one of the Nation's great academic institutions. •

#### ON THE DEDICATION OF THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN/SAINT ALBANS HIS- TORICAL DIORAMA

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the completion of the Lake Champlain/Saint Albans Historical Diorama.

This interactive educational exhibit at the Saint Albans Historical Museum is ambitious in its geographic and historic scope. It spans the entire Champlain Valley, from Fort Ticonderoga to the Richelieu River and also spans time, from pre-history to the present.

The people of Saint Albans have a tremendous understanding and respect for their history, as seen by the fact that this exhibit was funded entirely through local contributions and completed in just over a year, with most of the work done by residents of Saint Albans and neighboring towns. It is a beautiful addition to one of Vermont's finest historical museums.

The Champlain Valley is the birthplace of the United States and Canada. For two hundred years the Champlain Valley was the stage for conflicts between the French and the English, and then for the most critical campaign of the Revolutionary War. In times of peace, the Champlain Valley has been an important corridor of commerce. Important sites from this history are displayed and interpreted in the Diorama, including wonderful scale models of the region's lighthouses.

The Diorama also depicts the local history of Saint Albans, displaying her historic structures, rail yards and neighborhoods in great detail. These events and places are brought to life in three dimensions, engaging and educating the viewer as is possible with no other medium.

Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the Saint Albans Historical Society and all of the others who have helped to create the diorama. This is a significant contribution to the heritage of Vermont. •

#### HONORING ST. PAUL BAPTIST CHURCH

• Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the St. Paul Baptist Church on the occasion of its centennial celebration. Over the past year, the church has been celebrating its more than one hundred years of service. I am honored to have the opportunity to join with them in their celebration of this tremendous milestone. For over one hundred years, the St. Paul Baptist Church has provided the African-American community with a strong sense of unity as the only black Baptist church in Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey.

The church has experienced tremendous growth since it was founded by the Reverend M.R. Rosco in 1899. Today, it can boast not only of being a house of faith and worship, but also of its daily contributions to the community of Atlantic Highlands through its