

critical help to visually impaired individuals and their families.

Low vision is the third leading cause of disability in the United States whose causes, among others, include macular degeneration and glaucoma. Low vision is a life altering condition which prevents millions of Americans from performing ostensibly elementary tasks such as reading, walking without aid, dialing the telephone, and even recognizing the faces of family and friends. Unlike other vision complications, low vision cannot be corrected with glasses and contacts, nor are there medical or surgical solutions available. There are, however, research and rehabilitation centers which address low vision, including Maryland's own Johns Hopkins Lions Vision Research and Rehabilitation Center at the Wilmer Eye Institute, which research the condition and help formulate ways in which the challenges posed by low vision can be reduced.

The LVIC provides a related but unique service. Established 20 years ago, LVIC is dedicated to helping individuals with low vision cope with daily tasks in a home-like setting with the most up-to-date technology. LVIC has served more than 40,000 clients and their families during its 20-year history. Currently, LVIC staff and volunteers see up to 150 clients a month in their downtown Bethesda office. LVIC helps people with everything from successfully pouring a cup of coffee, to writing personal checks, to learning how to use a talking watch. Additionally, LVIC often shows vision professionals what it is like to suffer from low vision by providing them with goggles that simulate various eye afflictions. Staff and volunteers also visit senior centers and nursing homes to educate this populace about low vision.

Mr. President, it has always been my firm belief that public service is one of the most honorable callings, one that demands the very best, most dedicated efforts of those fortunate enough to serve their fellow citizens. LVIC provides a critical public service to countless individuals in our society, both by directly helping those who suffer from low vision, and by educating professionals and lay people alike on the causes, symptoms and technology available relating to low vision. I am pleased to join with all of LVIC's clients and their families, staff and volunteers in celebrating 20 years of public service that has significantly improved the quality of life for low vision individuals in our society.●

THE CLEAN GASOLINE ACT OF 1999

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, today I am adding my name as a cosponsor of S. 171 the Clean Gasoline Act of 1999. This bill sets a national, year-round cap on the sulfur content of gasoline sold in the United States. The bill would bring American gasoline standards in-line with the low sulfur levels required in Japan, Australia, the European Union and the State of California.

As we all know, cars are a significant source of air pollution. This bill would have an effect on pollution equal to removing 54 million vehicles from the road. The reason for such a dramatic improvement is that sulfur in gasoline coats the car's catalytic converter and spoils its ability to reduce emissions smog-forming pollutants. More than 30 percent of these pollutants are emitted by cars and trucks.

In the new breed of low emission vehicles, sulfur is particularly damaging. Engineers have created a new generation of pollution control devices for these vehicles that more effectively reduce smog-forming emissions. But, these cutting-edge technologies are poisoned by even moderate sulfur levels in the gasoline. According to industry research on this new class of clean cars, reducing gasoline sulfur concentration from the current national average of 330 parts per million to 40 ppm will reduce hydrocarbon emissions by 34 percent, carbon monoxide emissions by 43 percent, and nitrogen oxides emissions by 51 percent.

If these devices fail to work properly because they are clogged with sulfur, those emissions reductions will be lost and much of our investment in cleaner automotive technology will be wasted.

More importantly, lower sulfur levels in gasoline will reduce emissions from nearly every car on the road today—not just those with the latest pollution control devices. This is because reducing the sulfur content of gasoline instantly improves the performance of all catalytic converters in all cars. Low-sulfur fuel adds value to our existing investments in pollution control technology. There are more than 125 million passenger cars on the road today, and this bill will make almost every single one of them cleaner.

I'm sure my colleagues recall the phase-out of leaded gasoline in the late 1970s. We undertook that phase-out because we understood that catalytic converters—a new technology at the time—would not work with lead in the gasoline. Now is the time to phase-out sulfur because, by reducing sulfur levels, we can reap more rewards from existing technology and eliminate barriers to new technology.

Reducing sulfur levels in gasoline will require some changes to oil refining and processing techniques, and there is a modest cost associated with that. But, no other strategy can achieve such large reductions in air pollutants so quickly. We must capitalize on two decades of improvements in automotive technology by making similar advances in the gasoline used in those cars.●

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER DEDICATION

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I would like to share with my colleagues a very special occasion for education. I proudly want to share in the celebration as Oglebay Institute announces its

new and sophisticated 11,700-square foot Schrader Environmental Educational Center in Wheeling, West Virginia. The incredible opportunities that will be offered by this state-of-the-art facility characterize the Oglebay Institute's dedication to educating students and adults about science, nature, and the environment.

The Oglebay Institute in Wheeling, West Virginia is a non-profit organization with a particularly distinguished mission of promoting lifelong learning in a variety of creative ways and areas. The Institute lends its support to the visual and creative arts, sponsoring regional and national artists in two museums as well as a fine arts center. By hosting numerous plays and concerts every year, the Oglebay performing arts department is equally important in adding to the cultural richness of the surrounding community. To promote regional natural history interpretation and preservation, the Institute carefully maintains 4.5 miles of discovery trails and a butterfly and wildflower garden in the 1,650 acre Oglebay Park. Such resources are well utilized in programs for regional wildlife education. The opportunities available range from nature walks to bird observation, and travel programs to celebrations of Earth Week. The environmental education department, whose accomplishments we honor today, caters to a wealth of individual interests while promoting universal environmental literacy and motivation. Particularly noteworthy in such endeavors are the hands-on experiences with various aspects of nature. In the program offerings such options abound; participants choose from among astronomy, maple sugaring and interactive computer simulations.

For sixty-eight years, the Oglebay Institute has been a pioneer in this field of nature, science and environmental education, successfully coupling recreation with the promotion of environmental awareness. The new Environmental Education Center, with its exceptional design and ideal location, insures a great contribution to this vision. The Schrader Center's exhibition areas will offer interactive opportunities exploring all issues, ranging from the self-supporting nature of the Earth to our role as its caretakers. At the newly constructed cutting edge learning center, outreach technology will enable adaption of educational programs to extend education to local students and others thanks to distance learning. I have full confidence that the proximity of the Environmental Education Center to the expansive Oglebay Park, where many outdoor activities take place, will serve as further incentive to enjoy the remarkable opportunities available.

West Virginians and tourists from across the country visit Oglebay Park and learn from the Oglebay Institute. For seven decades, the Oglebay Institute has provided education, culture, and recreational activities for crowds

throughout the region. Among the eager participants are school groups who can gain hands-on experience at the new center.

The Oglebay Institute's efforts to educate and fully engage are critical to an environmentally-conscious future, and worthy of our attention and praise. The Schrader Environmental Education Center will undoubtedly prove to be an enormous asset to West Virginians and the entire region as a way to improve our understanding of science and our nature. This is a special day for the Oglebay Institute and the entire Wheeling area.●

CHAMPIONING THE GIFT OF LIFE

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Dr. R. Gordon Douglas, Jr., President of the Vaccine Division of Merck & Co., Inc. as he prepares for his retirement after decades of distinguished service. As a leader in one of New Jersey's largest pharmaceutical companies, Dr. Douglas has been responsible for the research, development, manufacturing and marketing of Merck's vaccine line. In addition to his responsibilities at Merck, Dr. Douglas has helped improve the lives of thousands of people throughout the world through his leadership roles in his company's and the State's blood drives.

In 1998, Dr. Douglas encouraged over 3,400 Merck employees in New Jersey to give the life-saving gift of blood. He took a significant leadership role with the New Jersey Blood Services by chairing the Blood Donor Campaign in 1997-1998 and encouraging colleagues in other corporations to increase their blood drive efforts. Under his leadership, the Merck Blood Drive Program received the America's Blood Centers 1999 Platinum Award, the highest blood drive award given by the Nation's largest network of independent, community blood centers.

Dr. Douglas has served as a physician, academician, and world-class leader in the fight against infectious diseases. As a graduate of Cornell University Medical School, he has served as a clinical investigator at the National Institute of Health, a member of the faculty at the Baylor College of Medicine, and the School of Medicine at the University of Rochester, and later returned to Cornell as Chairman of the Department of Medicine in the Medical College before beginning his career at Merck.

In a career marked by many valuable achievements, I am pleased today to highlight Dr. Douglas' contributions to New Jersey and society.●

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I do have some unanimous-consent requests that I would like to propound at the request of the leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination on the Executive Calendar, No. 36.

I finally ask unanimous consent that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, that any statements relating to the nomination be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Gordon Davidson, of California, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2004.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I do want to inform my colleagues who are waiting to speak that it will not take me long to conclude these unanimous consent requests and that it will not preclude them from being able to deliver their remarks.

COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM CORRECTIONS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 83, S. 574.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

A bill (S. 574) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to make corrections to a map relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I am pleased to offer my support for S. 574, a bill that would direct the Secretary of the Interior to make two technical corrections to a coastal barrier unit in Delaware. Congress enacted the Coastal Barrier Resources Act in 1982 to address financial and ecological problems caused by development of coastal barriers along the eastern seaboard. The law was so successful that we expanded the Coastal Barrier System in 1990 with the support of the National Taxpayers Union, the American Red Cross, Coast Alliance, and Tax Payers for Common Sense, to name just a few.

When we mapped the coastline some mistakes were made, and S. 574 would make technical corrections. The first change modifies the upper north-

eastern boundary to exclude land under development at the time of its inclusion into the system. The second change modifies the northwestern boundary to include a section of the Cape Henlopen State Park that was mistakenly excluded when the boundary was drawn. S. 574 is identical to a bill that passed the Senate by unanimous consent last year.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 574) was considered read a third time and passed, as follows:

S. 574

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CORRECTIONS TO MAP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall make such corrections to the map described in subsection (b) as are necessary to move on that map the boundary of the otherwise protected area (as defined in section 12 of the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 3503 note; Public Law 101-591)) to the Cape Henlopen State Park boundary to the extent necessary—

(1) to exclude from the otherwise protected area the adjacent property leased, as of the date of enactment of this Act, by the Barcroft Company and Cape Shores Associates (which are privately held corporations under the law of the State of Delaware); and

(2) to include in the otherwise protected area the northwestern corner of Cape Henlopen State Park seaward of the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal.

(b) MAP DESCRIBED.—The map described in this subsection is the map that is included in a set of maps entitled "Coastal Barrier Resources System", dated October 24, 1990, as revised October 15, 1992, and that relates to the unit of the Coastal Barrier Resources System entitled "Cape Henlopen Unit DE-03P".

USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR CONCERTS TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 29, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 29) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for concerts to be conducted by the National Symphony Orchestra.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Ms. COLLINS. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.