

suitable farmland that covers a little more than half the State. Agriculture is Minnesota's largest industry, generating over \$22 billion in goods and services per year. One of every four Minnesota jobs is tied in some way to agriculture, and 25 percent of our overall economy is dependent upon farmers and agri-business. Today Minnesota has approximately 87,000 family farms. Even though times are difficult for many of these family farmers, Minnesota depends upon their successful recovery.

Furthermore, Minnesota is home to some of the world's leading job providers—including 3M, Pillsbury, Honeywell, and Cargill, to name a few. Minnesota is also known for its achievements in the area of health care. It is a leader in the medical device industry and home to one of the world's premier health care facilities, the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

Minnesota is also the birthplace of many great innovations which have become part of our American culture, such as Cellophane Transparent Tape, Post-it Notes, and the world's first enclosed mall located at Southdale Shopping Center in Edina. Today we have the Mall of America in Bloomington which is one of the world's largest enclosed malls and most popular tourist destinations. Among other notable Minnesota facts, we are the source of the Mississippi River, home to the busiest freshwater port in North America (which also happens to be the farthest inland ocean port in the United States), and Minnesota reaches the furthest north of the 48-continental States.

Mr. President, I hope I have managed to convey the pride I have for my state and its people, and in doing so, have perhaps encouraged others to visit. As a U.S. Senator from Minnesota, I wanted to express the honor I feel in representing the people of my State, which I believe is one of the premier States in the greatest country on Earth.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BARBARA MULLEN, RECIPIENT OF THE JEFFREY MAY MEMORIAL AWARD

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Barbara Mullen for being awarded the Jeffrey May Memorial Award from the Londonderry Business Council. It is a pleasure to recognize her contributions to her community and the Granite State.

In 1980, Barbara established the Londonderry Dance Academy and has been teaching children to dance ever since. Her community involvement has helped shape the lives of many young people in Londonderry and across the state. Barbara nurtures the aspirations of the town's youth by sharing her love and expertise of dance.

As a faculty member of the Department of Dance at the University of New Hampshire, Barbara also instructs

dance students at the college level. In addition, during the holiday season, Barbara and her students perform the "Nutteracker" at local schools and in other communities, in an effort to spread a greater appreciation for the arts.

Barbara's dedication to dance, children and the community is exemplary and an example for others to follow.

Mr. President, I wish to commend Barbara Mullen on her achievements and congratulate her on receiving this prestigious award. It is an honor to her in the United States Senate.●

#### MAINE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL AND THE "WE THE PEOPLE" COMPETITION

● Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, last week, high school students from across the United States came to Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program. These young scholars worked diligently to reach the national finals and through their experience have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy. I am proud to announce that the class from Maine South High School from Park Ridge, Illinois won the competition.

The "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program is designed to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The three-day national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. These hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of expert judges. The students testify as constitutional experts before a "congressional committee," that is, a panel of judges representing various regions in the country and a cross-section of professional fields. The student testimony is followed by a period of questioning during which the judges quiz students for their depth of understanding and their ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

I congratulate all the student teams who made it to the national finals. Each of those young people took the time to truly learn about our Constitution and Bill of Rights. In return, they got the opportunity to come to Washington and to meet other students from around the country. I applaud their efforts and initiative.

I am particularly proud that the winning team is from Maine South High School in Park Ridge, Illinois. Led by their teacher, Patton Feichter, the students won the three day competition to become national champions. At a time when so much of our attention is focused on youth violence, it is particularly refreshing to congratulate an outstanding group of young people who worked very hard to achieve their goals. I congratulate the students, parents, and Maine South faculty mem-

bers on all their hard work to win the competition.●

#### TRIBUTE TO KENNETH WINTERS

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Dr. Kenneth Winters on the occasion of his retirement as president of Campbellsville University. Ken is a good personal friend and an admired leader in Taylor County.

Ken served as Campbellsville's president for the past 11 years, and accomplished much during his tenure. Under Ken's leadership, the school gained university status after having been known as Campbellsville College since its inception in 1909. The added prestige that comes with university status, coupled with Ken's hard work to make the school an academic success, helped increase Campbellsville enrollment by stunning 150 percent. The university also has been duly recognized by publications such as U.S. News & World Report, Money and Newsweek for its outstanding academic reputation. Ken's presidency brought a strong, guiding presence to Campbellsville, leaving a legacy of growth and progress.

As importantly, Ken showed unwavering commitment to the students and faculty at CU, and was well-liked and respected by all. Ken's colleagues describe him as a man with great strength of character—a man who demonstrated honesty and integrity, and who served as a campus role-model.

I am certain that the legacy of excellence that Ken Winters has left will continue on, and will encourage and inspire others toward that same goal. Ken, best wishes on your future endeavors, and know that your efforts to better Christian higher education will be felt for years to come. On behalf of myself and my colleagues, thank you for your contribution to Taylor County, the State of Kentucky, and to our great Nation.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CONSTANCE ROSS, THE 1999 LONDONDERRY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Constance Ross for being named the "1999 Educator of the Year" by the Londonderry Business Council.

From teacher to administrator, Constance has built a reputation for excellence and achievement in many areas of education. In addition to serving the community as the Assistant Principal of South Londonderry School, she has become known throughout the State of New Hampshire for her tireless efforts to promote literacy among children. Constance's expertise in the teaching and advocacy of reading have propelled her to the position of co-chair of the "Governor's Best Schools Initiative," as well as president of the New England Reading Association.

Active inside and outside of classrooms and schools, Constance has demonstrated wisdom, compassion, and

sensitivity with children, parents, and co-workers. These qualities are at the heart of what makes a good teacher special.

The mark of a great teacher is one who cares, unconditionally, about the success and well-being of students. Mr. President, as a former teacher and school board member, I understand the challenges, responsibilities and dedication involved with teaching. I admire and respect Constance for establishing herself as a devoted teacher and administrator in the Londonderry school district. Most importantly, she is helping to shape the lives of the young students who are the future of New Hampshire and the country.

I am proud to recognize Constance's achievements and it is an honor to represent her in the United States Senate.●

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MACOMB COUNTY'S TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS WALTER C. WETZEL

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Macomb County, Michigan for its tribute to a brave World War II soldier, Private First Class Walter C. Wetzel. With the dedication of a bust of Private Wetzel at the new county administration building, Macomb County will recognize the selfless actions of an American war hero.

Walter C. Wetzel entered the United States Army in Roseville, Michigan and served in European theater. Private Wetzel was an acting squad leader with the Antitank Company of the 13th Infantry in Birken, Germany, during the early morning hours of April 3, 1945, when he detected strong enemy forces moving in to attack. Private Wetzel alerted his comrades and immediately began defending their post against heavy automatic weapons fire. Under cover of darkness, the Germans eventually forced their way close to the American position, hurling two grenades into the room where Private Wetzel and others had taken up firing positions. Shouting a warning to his fellow soldiers, Private Wetzel threw himself on the grenades and absorbed their entire blast, suffering wounds from which he died. The supreme gallantry of Private Wetzel saved his comrades from death or serious injury and made it possible for them to continue the defense of their post. His unhesitating sacrifice of his life was in keeping with the highest traditions of bravery and heroism. Because of his actions, Private Wetzel was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Private Wetzel and his courageous deeds have considerable meaning to his family, and to the residents of Macomb County and the State of Michigan. Private Wetzel is the only person from Macomb County to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. His life has been honored by the Michigan State

Legislature and an important street in Macomb County was named Pfc. Walter Wetzel Drive.

Mr. President, Private Wetzel is an example of the selfless and courageous commitment our soldiers display every day. I know my colleagues will join me in saluting Macomb County for its recognition of Private First Class Walter C. Wetzel and the sacrifice of the men and women of our Armed Services.●

#### ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL, SPRINGFIELD

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to commend St. John's Hospital in Springfield. This is National Hospital Week, when communities across the country celebrate the people that make hospitals the special places they are. This year's theme sums it up nicely: "People Care. Miracles Happen." It recognizes the health care workers, volunteers, and other health professionals who are there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, curing and caring for their neighbors who need them.

An example of this dedication is the Parent Help Line of St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Illinois. The program won the American Hospital Association's prestigious Hospital Award for Volunteer Excellence, which highlights special contributions of hospital volunteers.

The Parent Help Line provides parents and agencies with easily accessible, low-cost parenting information and support to help strengthen families and prevent child abuse. Trained volunteers give parenting tips, support and referrals to about 100 callers a month. Volunteers also visit parents of newborns and offer information about infant growth and development and about the Parent Help Line services, and a volunteer nurse makes a follow-up call to each family one month after discharge. Volunteers taking part in an intervention program regularly call parents identified as high risk. Parenting classes, program and support groups are made available to parents, and a television show on parenting issues airs weekly on a local public access channel. A monthly newsletter is mailed to more than 1,500 individuals and agencies in central Illinois.

Mr. President, I want to congratulate St. John's Hospital for this award-winning program.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MAUREEN HEGG, THE 1999 LONDONDERRY CIVIC VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Maureen Hegg on being named the "1999 Civic Volunteer of the Year" by the Londonderry Business Council. I commend her outstanding accomplishments and I wish to congratulate her for receiving this distinguished award.

As President of the Londonderry Cares Organization, Maureen has worked diligently toward making a dif-

ference in the lives of Londonderry's youth. Under Maureen's guidance, the organization affords the town's young people a place to go in the evening for planned activities.

Along with a group of dedicated individuals, Maureen has been working to open a YMCA in the Town of Londonderry. As such, Maureen is the chairperson of the Nutfield YMCA Kickoff Fundraising Dinner, an event established to assist in attracting a YMCA.

There is no greater gift to a community than one's time, talent, and energy. Volunteerism is truly special and is at the heart of what makes this community and this nation a great place to live.

Mr. President, Maureen Hegg has demonstrated a deep commitment to the Town of Londonderry and its citizens. Her tireless efforts to improve the quality of life in the town and provide the youth of Londonderry with recreational programs is outstanding. I congratulate Maureen on being named "Civic Volunteer of the Year," and it is an honor to represent her in the United States Senate.●

#### MOUNT CARMEL MEDICAL CENTER IN PITTSBURG, KANSAS

● Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate National Hospital Week. During this week when we pay tribute to our nation's hospitals and health systems, I would like to recognize one particular facility in Kansas that has gone above and beyond the call of duty in order to meet the needs of the community—the Mount Carmel Medical Center in Pittsburg, Kansas.

Mount Carmel Medical Center is located in the southeast corner of Kansas. The community has 20,000 residents. About 25 percent of the town's children are from families who live at or below the federal poverty level. More than half of the families in Pittsburg are headed by single parents who often work two jobs.

As one of the largest employers in the community, Mount Carmel Medical Center recognized that the entire community was suffering from the lack of quality child care. Teachers noticed that children were unready to learn, they needed immunizations and hearing tests. After a confirmation by the hospital's employee assistance program and a staff-initiated community health assessment, Mount Carmel decided to take action. They formed a partnership with the Pittsburg schools and Pittsburg State University to establish the Family Resource Center to meet many of the community's needs. The Family Resource Center now provides child care to more than 200 children and offers a wide range of social services. It also serves as the site of a free clinic staffed with local physicians for those without health insurance coverage.

The Mount Carmel Medical Center has been nationally recognized for its achievements. The American Hospital