

National Gathering, Silver Anniversary Celebration, and Annual Lobby Day. I want to take this opportunity to welcome them and to congratulate Bread for the World and its tens of thousands of members for 25 years of accomplishment in the service of humankind. It is a great honor for me to be a member of Bread for the World's board.

Bread for the World remains true to its origins as a grassroots organization working from local churches on through to the national and international levels to address the fundamental causes of hunger and poverty. The organization was founded in 1974 by a small group of Catholics and Protestants who sought to mobilize persons of faith to influence United States policies relating to hunger and poverty. Bread for the World grew rapidly under the outstanding leadership of the Reverend Arthur Simon, and now includes more than 44,000 members and churches. The Reverend David Beckmann serves very capably as the group's current President.

As a nonpartisan citizen's movement based in the Christian community, Bread for the World members work hard to promote policies that will improve the lives of hungry and poor people in the United States and around the world. Through their dedicated advocacy, Bread for the World members have been instrumental in winning key victories in the fight to alleviate hunger and poverty. They have, for example, worked successfully to improve and devote more resources to WIC and other child nutrition programs, to enhance food security in Africa by increasing investment at the farm and village level where it really counts, and to restore food stamp benefits to vulnerable legal immigrants. This year Bread for the World members are participating in the laudable worldwide effort, known as Jubilee 2000, to reduce poverty in developing nations through critically needed international debt relief.

I am proud to be able to give thanks for the moral commitment and grassroots mobilizing of Bread for the World members as they celebrate their 25th anniversary year. I sincerely wish them continued blessings as they carry on their efforts toward seeking justice and ending hunger.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 1999 MISS NEW MEXICO

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Miss Katie Kelly, an exceptional young woman from my home state of New Mexico who was recently crowned 1999 Miss New Mexico. Miss Kelly, a Santa Fean, will go on to represent New Mexico in the Miss America contest in Atlantic City, New Jersey, this fall.

Miss Kelly is representative of the selfless, poised, and self-assured young women that I am proud to have represent our state on a national level.

This year's Miss New Mexico laureate is a Christian Life Academy graduate who is now attending Santa Fe Community College. She plans to attend Pepperdine University next year and study broadcast journalism and voice. Her previous achievements include, being named 1998 Miss Albuquerque Teen USA, 1999 Miss Santa Fe America, and second runner-up of the Miss New Mexico Teen USA pageant.

I have no reservations that she will dutifully fulfill the responsibilities that accompany this accolade. I wish her the best of luck in the Miss America Contest and in all her future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO THE LADIES OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED, BETA ALPHA OMEGA CHAPTER

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated Beta Alpha Omega Chapter, commemorating 65 years of service to the people of Newark.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated was founded in 1908 at Howard University by 16 dynamic women. It is the oldest and largest Greek-letter sorority established by and for African-American women. Today, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is an international network of professional women, with over 150,000 members and 900 chapters located in the United States, West Africa, Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, and Europe.

The ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority have dedicated themselves to the spirit behind their motto "service to all mankind." After 91 years of service to the community, they continue to send college-trained women into the world to improve the social and economic conditions throughout the United States and abroad.

Beta Alpha Omega became an affiliate chapter in January of 1934 and now holds the honor of being New Jersey's oldest affiliate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. The women of the Beta Alpha Omega Chapter have contributed immeasurably to the city of Newark and its surrounding areas. In 1998 alone, the chapter awarded \$15,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors from high schools in Newark and Irvington; co-sponsored the Kwanza Celebration at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center; sponsored continuous voter registration events and provided "Share Baskets" for the needy at Thanksgiving.

The theme for the chapter over the next four years will be "Blazing New Trails" in the 21st century. This initiative will focus the chapter's community efforts on improving programs in the arts, education, health and economic empowerment, as well as in strengthening the African-American family.

The women of Beta Alpha Omega have faithfully served the people of

Newark and its surrounding areas for over six decades. Their ability to respond to the challenges of our society is demonstrated through their active service in outreach programs. Moreover, these women represent an integral part of American history. As stated by the sorority's historian, Marjorie Parker: "History is of small worth unless its gifts nourish the seeds from which tomorrow's great achievements blossom." The women of Beta Alpha Omega are the seed of hope for the next generation of African-American women.●

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN EDWARD STEPHENS

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Jonathan Edward Stephens on his graduation summa cum laude from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. I commend his outstanding academic achievements.

Jonathan was the 1995 Dover High School Valedictorian and went on to a superb academic career at Rensselaer. Ranking first in his class with a 4.0 average, Jonathan was also awarded the Erwin R. Gaertner award, given to a nuclear engineer or engineering physics major. The award recognizes excellence in scholarship, personal character, and promise of outstanding performance in research related to nuclear engineering and physics.

Jonathan was also awarded the Senior Design Project Award for his project, titled the "International Neutron Spherical Torus Explosives Detector." His research will be used to detect land mines. Mr. President, as a veteran, I recognize our need to find land mines.

Jonathan also has exciting opportunities ahead of him. He has been offered a full fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to pursue a doctorate in the field of nuclear physics. He has also received the national full fellowship from the Oak Ridge Labs in Tennessee to pursue a doctorate at any University in the United States. Jonathan has chosen to accept a position as a nuclear engineer with the Knoll Atomic Power Lab, a division of Lockheed Martin, where he will design nuclear reactors for the U.S. Navy's aircraft carriers. He plans to complete his Master's at Rensselaer.

As a former teacher and school board chairman, I recognize the challenges students face to succeed. I applaud Jonathan for his exemplary academic career. I wish him luck as he continues his education and work in the engineering field. I am pleased to recognize such an outstanding young mind, and it is with great pleasure that I represent him in the United States Senate.●

WEST VIRGINIA DAY

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask that we take a moment today to recognize the State of West Virginia.

One hundred thirty-six years ago, on June 20, 1863, West Virginia assumed its proud position as the 35th State of the Union. Since that time West Virginia's natural resources and its citizens have and will continue to play a positive role in our Nation.

The phrases: "the mountain state," "wild, wonderful," and "a welcome change" are always reminders of West Virginia. Indeed, there are countless rolling hills dotted with horses, cows, sheep and their young. The State is home to memorable valleys, known for their rushing streams and rivers filled with bass and trout. Then there are the beautiful colors throughout the fall and spring that bedeck our glorious mountains, attracting tourists from across the globe.

West Virginia is a combination of rural farming communities, coal towns, resorts, and growing cities. It is unquestionably a State in which there is a place for everyone. I believe it is this diversity that attracts many to the State and causes numerous children raised in West Virginia to remain and invest in the State as adults.

West Virginians are proud of their State. As we stand at the dawn of the 21st century symbols of West Virginia pride and achievement can be heard, read, seen, and touched throughout the world via locally produced music, literature, works of art, and crafts. West Virginians are also proud of their people. Almost two centuries ago, the State was known as the fighting place of the Hatfields and McCoys. Since that time, West Virginia has been the home of such remarkable people as, educator Booker T. Washington, pilot Charles "Chuck" Yeager, gymnast Mary Lou Retton, authors Pearl S. Buck, John Knowles, and Denise Giardina, singer and song writer Kathy Mattea, artists Barrie Kaufman, and Susan Poffenbarger, former astronaut Jon A. McBride, scholar Henry Louis Gates, countless athletes, and numerous others.

Today we have the opportunity to honor 136 years of statehood. I ask that we celebrate the people of West Virginia, that we honor the courage of their endeavors and achievements. I ask that we take strength from the majesty of the mountains as do the constituents of West Virginia, and finally that we, as members of this distinguished body, remember the broader message of freedom recognized by West Virginia's logo: Montani Semper Liberi, Mountaineers are Always Free. I am proud of this State and its people and am honored to represent them.●

TRIBUTE TO SHEILA ZELLERS, BRIAN HARDEN, ERNIE JONES, AND DON GREEN

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to four brave individuals who lost their lives last week in a tragic helicopter crash in Breathitt County, Kentucky. Sheila Zellers, Brian Harden, Ernie Jones, and

Don Green, were crew members on a helicopter providing emergency medical service to rural Eastern Kentucky. On Monday June 14, 1999, these dedicated care-givers were returning to the University of Kentucky's Chandler Medical Center in Lexington, Kentucky, from Breathitt County Airport. Tragically, they did not make it.

Mrs. Sheila Zellers, of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, served as the flight nurse on the helicopter and had worked with the University of Kentucky's hospital for more than twenty years. She served in the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit and emergency room before becoming a flight nurse in 1991. More importantly, she was a loving wife and mother. Our hearts and prayers go out to her husband Jeffrey and their four sons.

Mr. Brian Harden, from Richmond, Kentucky, was the paramedic on Monday's flight crew. While only 33, he had already had a distinguished career providing emergency medical services in Kentucky as a paramedic. Flight paramedics, such as Mr. Harden, are critical in providing emergency care from the time they leave the scene until they reach the hospital. I would like to extend the Senate's deepest sympathies to his wife Patricia, and their two young daughters.

The helicopter's two pilots, Ernie Jones and Don Green, were both well-known among their colleagues as experienced, highly-skilled pilots. Frequently, the pilots who fly these emergency helicopters are called upon to land their helicopters in small parking lots, highways, pastures, and gorges, in order to safely evacuate their patients. Their families and friends will be in our prayers.

It is important that we recognize the impact these individuals and their colleagues have on the citizens of Eastern Kentucky. Like so much of rural America, the residents of Eastern Kentucky lack easy access to the advanced medical resources and trauma centers available in more metropolitan areas. In order to provide this much needed care to Eastern Kentucky, the University of Kentucky Medical Center began helicopter flights to the region in 1987. For 12 years, these emergency medical crews have ferried accident victims, critically ill children, cardiac patients, and infants too ill to travel by ambulance to the UK Medical Center. It is not unusual for these dedicated care-givers to work twelve hour shifts and fly up to seven missions a day, each time making a difference in the lives of their patients. It is with this in mind that we recognize the sacrifices of these dedicated care-givers and note that they will be forever missed by their families, friends, colleagues, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.●

FUELS REGULATORY RELIEF ACT

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to express my strong support of S. 880, the Fuels Regulatory Relief Act.

This bill will provide relief to hundreds of propane suppliers, farmers, and ranchers in my State of South Dakota.

The Fuels Regulatory Relief Act would exempt propane from being included under the Environmental Protection Agency's Risk Management Program, or RMP, rule. The RMP rule was crafted as a way to increase awareness among state and local governments and the public of hazardous chemicals in communities. The thinking behind this rule was that if chemical companies had to develop and make public information about a worst case scenario in the event of an accidental release, the companies would take steps to lower the possibility of such an accident. Also, the authors of this rule thought local emergency teams would be able to respond more quickly and efficiently to an accident at a hazardous chemical site if the teams knew in advance how much damage to expect.

I do not have any problems with the RMP rule in that respect. I think communities can benefit from knowing the potential for chemical accidents that could happen within their borders. I do, however, have deep concerns about the inclusion of substances that are not toxic but are flammable. The RMP rule was not created to regulate flammable substances, as demonstrated by the EPA's decision not to include gasoline under the rule. Yet propane is included under the rule, and people who have more than 16,000 pounds of propane on their property will have to submit an RMP.

Complying with this rule is a great burden on propane suppliers, farmers, and ranchers, as the cost per site may be as much as several thousand dollars. I have been contacted by a number of propane suppliers in my State who have expressed their frustration with having to submit an RMP, and the American Farm Bureau has voiced its concerns about the effects of this rule on farmers who use propane for fuel purposes. Small business owners, farmers, and ranchers who possess and use large amounts of propane should not be forced to comply with a rule directed at curbing accidents involving hazardous chemicals, especially when flammable substances are subject to a number of other federal regulations.

For these reasons, I am proud to be a cosponsor of S. 880, the Fuels Regulatory Relief Act. I believe that exempting propane from inclusion under the RMP rule is consistent with the purpose of the rule, as it does not change the way hazardous and toxic chemicals are regulated. The Fuels Regulatory Relief Act will save propane users and suppliers in my State thousands of dollars in compliance costs, and I urge my colleagues to support its expeditious passage.●

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE TUGEL

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute