

work there. Recently, I had the pleasure of leading a trade mission to Ireland with a group of Vermont business owners seeking strategic business alliances to increase trade and tourism between our state and Ireland. One of the members of the delegation, Beth Kennett, traveled to Ireland with specific goals in mind—to increase tourism from Ireland to Vermont and to learn more about agri-tourism.

Beth Kennett is the president of Vermont Farms! as well as a co-owner, along with her husband Bob, of a dairy farm that also serves as a bed and breakfast. On the trip, Mrs. Kennett was hosted by representatives of the agri-tourism industry and visited several agri-tourism farms. She was very enthusiastic throughout her stay and commented later on the diversity of her experiences. She said that one day she found herself wearing Wellies and the next she was meeting the Lord and Lady of the Manor.

I can gladly say that our mission was a success. We were able to open up doors for new business relationships and tourism between Ireland and Vermont, while also bringing back information on how to develop agri-tourism in Vermont. I ask that an article by Associated Press writer David Gram regarding Mrs. Kennett's experience be printed in the record.

The article follows:

[From the Associated Press, June 23, 1999]

FARM LIFE GROWS AS TOURISM DRAW IN VERMONT

(By David Gram)

ROCHESTER, VT. Beth Kennett calls the big, five-story, red barn with its cupola topped with a Holstein-shaped weathervane "one of the cathedrals of the country."

And if people from around the world travel to Paris to see the Notre Dame, why not to Rochester's Liberty Hill to see her farm?

In fact, they do. In addition to milking one of the most productive small herds of registered Holsteins in the state, Kennett, her husband Bob and her sons Tom and David—young men who are following their parents into farming—open their sprawling, two-century-old farmhouse to travelers.

They're part of a growing number of Vermont farmers who are bridging the gap between two of the mainstays of Vermont's economy: agriculture and tourism.

The Kennetts' house dates from 1825, the barn from 1889, there are splendid views of the surrounding hills, a mile of frontage on the White River with several good swimming holes, and hiking trails in the abutting Green Mountain National Forest. Down in the well kept barn, there are 65 milkers and, occasionally, a newborn calf to marvel at.

Kennett got into the hospitality business when a big drop in prices paid to farmers for milk in 1984 prompted her and her family to look for new sources of income.

"We took stock of our assets, and decided that since we had this big old farmhouse

with 18 rooms, we might as well take advantage of it," she recalled.

Now she's got a regular clientele of guests who return year after year, she's president of a statewide association of farmers who offer lodging, tours and other amenities for visitors, and she's just back from joining Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., on a trade mission to Ireland.

For a full dinner, big breakfast and charming country lodgings complete with wide-board floors, flowered wallpaper and a claw-foot bathtub, Kennett charges \$70 per adult and \$30 per child. The house can accommodate 15 guests and occasionally is the destination for reunions of several branches of the same family.

"Not only has it been a diversification of income for the farm, but it's been invaluable in the number of friends we've made over the years. And it's a wonderful opportunity to educate the public about agriculture," she said.

Kennett is president of an association called VT Farms!, which has grown to 56 members in less than three years of existence.

Their offerings range from pick-your own strawberries and apples to wine tasting to petting zoos. Some 15 to 20 accommodate overnight guests, according to Ron Fisher, who tracks the industry for the Vermont Department of Agriculture.

"What we're looking for with agri-tourism is to literally make this another revenue stream for farmers," Fisher said. "It's not going to replace the milk check, but it's another source of cash flow to the individual who's going to open up the farm to agri-tourism."

Agri-tourism may be due for a boost from the federal government. Rep. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., announced earlier this month that the U.S. House had approved a \$1 million appropriation for a pilot project to promote the fledgling industry.

Kennett said if some funds become available, she may look for Vermont to apply some of the ideas she picked up in Ireland, where she said farm-based tourism is widely practiced, accepted and considered an integral part of the country's allure for visitors.

Fisher said state officials hope agri-tourism can help stanch the loss of farms in Vermont. There were more than 20,000 in 1950, the fast majority of them dairy operations; today there are fewer than 3,000 dairy farms in the state. Kennett said there were 11 farms shipping milk when she and her husband moved to Rochester from Addison 20 years ago; today, she said, theirs is the last farm in Rochester shipping milk.

Blending a working farm with a hospitality business is a lot of work. Kennett said she's up at milking time to make breakfast for her guests, and spends afternoon preparing dinner for her family and up to 15 guests.

But she said she has no complaints. It's been a great way to beat the isolation which can be a feature of Vermont farm life. She doesn't need to visit the world's concert halls, because there's a family of accomplished violinists who visit every year from Newton, Mass., and put on a concert at the farm.

Then there's the art professor and his class who arrive en masse for a week occasionally.

They paint the surrounding scenery and then put on an art show at week's end. And there's the magician from New York who comes and puts on a show each Fourth of July.

"I don't need to go off and see the world," Kennett said. "The world comes to me." •

TRIBUTE TO VERY REVEREND A.G. DOUMATO

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President. I rise today to praise and commend the dedication and commitment of Very Reverend Abdulahad Gabriel Doumato who, for the past fifty years, has led the parish of Saint Ephraim's Syrian Orthodox Church in Rhode Island.

Approximately 300 friends, family members, clergymen, elected officials, and parishioners will gather on Sunday, August 1st, to honor Father Doumato on this milestone. A native of Syria, we in his adopted state of Rhode Island have benefitted from and been enriched by Father Doumato's selfless service, devotion, compassion and wisdom—attributes which have characterized his long and distinguished tenure.

Father Doumato is a compassionate individual who cares profoundly for his community. He is a deeply peaceful and religious man who possesses boundless hope and optimism. He has consistently and successfully worked for the betterment of his community and has always served with faith and devotion. Indeed, he is a man of integrity, flawless character, unquestionable commitment, and one who has earned a sterling reputation as a pillar of his community.

The original community of Saint Ephraim's Church in Rhode Island was formed by a group of immigrant families who came to the United States before the turn of the century. This small, industrious community managed to buy a house and use it as a parish center and chapel for worship. The church was subsequently chartered in 1913.

Although Saint Ephraim's has only been in existence for 86 years, the Syrian Orthodox Church has its roots in the original Christian Church of Jerusalem. The dean of Apostles, Saint Peter, who personally anointed his successor before his journey to Rome, founded the Church in Antioch. The Church's current supreme leader, His Holiness Mor Ignatius Zakka I, Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, is the 122nd direct successor of Saint Peter. The church claims a wealth of theological, liturgical, and musical traditions. Indeed, to this day the liturgy is conducted in Aramaic, the language

spoken by Jesus Christ, and was the lingua franca in the Near East.

Mr. President, Father Doumato has enjoyed an interesting and fulfilling career in the ministry of his church. Like many of us, his life has been filled with challenges, hardships and hope. Unlike many of us, however, he has enjoyed some truly unique and rich experiences. He was born in 1918 and raised in the shadow of the Cathedral Church of the Virgin Mary in the city of Homs, Syria. He was educated in Homs, first in his Church's school and later by Jesuit Brothers. His interest in theology and his Church was an early and important part of his life. His father, the late Gabriel Doumato, who immigrated to Rhode Island in 1973, was an ardent supporter of the Church and served his community in many capacities.

Upon completing his education, Father Doumato taught in the Church's schools across Syria. At the beginning of World War II, he entered the French-run National Police Academy and graduated with honors in 1939. For the next ten years, he served as a member of the National Police Force. Throughout this period, he continued to serve the Church as a deacon and was constantly urged by His Holiness Patriarch Ephraim, the Church's supreme leader, to join the ministry. In 1949, he resigned his commission and entered the Seminary of the Syrian Orthodox Church in Syria.

Father Doumato was ordained into the priesthood in August 1950 by His Holiness Patriarch Ephraim and immediately assigned to serve the church in Central Falls, Rhode Island. Because of visa delays however, he was unable to attend to this position for two years. In the meantime, he remained in Homs and served as personal secretary to His Holiness the Patriarch.

Accompanied by his wife, Victoria, and their four young children, Father Doumato arrived in Rhode Island in August 1952 to lead his new congregation. Ever since his arrival, Father Doumato has quietly and faithfully served God, his parish, our State and, indeed, our country. He has also authored numerous publications about the history of the church and its Divine Liturgy. In 1970, his dedication and self-sacrifice was recognized and honored when he was elevated to the position of Cor-Episcopose—the highest distinction of the priesthood. In 1991, he was again honored for his service and was awarded the Holy Cross of the Archdioceses of the United States and Canada.

In closing, I would like to extend my very best wishes on this special occasion to Father Doumato, to his family, and to his parishioners at Saint Ephraim's Church. We are all very proud of Father Doumato, and appreciative of his many contributions to his community, and to our state.

I would now like to recognize my colleague, Senator REED, who also wishes to honor Father Doumato.●

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I, too, wish to join Senator CHAFEE in paying trib-

ute to the Very Reverend Abdulahad Gabriel Doumato on the occasion of his fiftieth anniversary as leader of the parish of Saint Ephraim's Syrian Orthodox Church in Rhode Island.

A proud and patriotic "American", Father Doumato loves his adopted country and is happiest when helping the new immigrants within his flock assimilate into American society. Mr. President, Father Doumato is responsible for sponsoring hundreds of new citizens to our great nation, granting them the opportunity to live the American dream. He has educated these families—including those of six of his brothers and sisters—about our system of government and the privilege, opportunity, and responsibility of American citizenship.

Father Doumato is often heard telling his parishioners, "There is no country like the United States. It truly is the land of opportunity and you should thank God for the opportunity you have to live in this great land." A good shepherd, Father Doumato has been a shining example to his family and his flock.

The Doumatos are a sizable and considerable clan in Rhode Island—the extended family numbers over 120 persons. We cannot imagine that there has been a single elected official in the Blackstone Valley area, or across the State, that has not come into contact with a member of the family. Indeed, father Doumato's children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces have been industrious citizens and have served our country in numerous positions of distinction, including as officers in the Armed Forces, diplomats, university educators, U.S. Senate aides and senior advisors, engineers, and leaders in law, the arts, medicine, commerce and industry. He and his family have richly contributed to the betterment of our community in Rhode Island.

Mr. President, in closing, I would also like to wish Reverend Doumato and his wife, Victoria, a happy and healthy 57th Anniversary, which they will celebrate later this year.

May his children and grandchildren—along with his parishioners—continue to benefit from his wisdom!●

CHANNEL ONE NETWORK

● Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I will ask to include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD two letters recognizing the efforts of the Channel One Network in educating school-age children in the dangers of drug use.

These letters were originally included in the transcript of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions hearing on July 13 regarding Drug Free Schools.

The first is from Richard Bonnette, President of the Partnership for a Drug Free America. Mr. Bonnette thanks Channel One for supporting the mission of Partnership for a Drug-Free America by changing millions of young people's attitudes about drugs.

In the second letter, I join Mr. Bonnette's praise of Channel One's airing of \$25 million worth of pro bono anti-drug public service announcements over the last ten years as part of its news broadcasts to school-aged children.

I am pleased to join Mr. Bonnette in congratulating Channel One on their efforts.

I ask that these letters be printed in the RECORD.

The letters follow.

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, July 14, 1999.
Hon. JAMES JEFFORDS,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I respectfully request that the attached letter from Richard Bonnette, President and CEO of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America be made a part of the record for the Committee's July 13, 1999 hearing on Drug Free Schools.

Mr. Bonnette writes in praise of the excellent public service of the Channel One Network in educating our nation's youth about the dangers of drug use. I would like to join Mr. Bonnette's praise of the Channel One Network.

Over the past ten years, Channel One has aired more than \$25 million worth of anti-drug public service announcements as part of its news broadcasts to school-aged children. The efforts of the Channel One Network demonstrate good corporate citizenship. When we in Congress call upon the media and entertainment industries to act responsibly for the benefit of our children, this is part of what we are talking about.

Mr. Bonnette's letter refers to a study conducted between 1995-1997 by the Partnership for a Drug Free America. The study found strong evidence that students in Channel One schools had significantly more negative attitudes about drugs, and were much more aware of the risks of drugs than students in non-Channel One schools. I am pleased to here add my praise of their efforts.

Sincerely,

SAM BROWNBACK,
U.S. Senator.

PARTNERSHIP FOR A
DRUG-FREE AMERICA,
New York, NY, May 14, 1999.

Mr. KEVIN MCALILEY,
President and CEO, Channel One Network,
New York, NY.

DEAR MR. MCALILEY: I am writing to thank Channel One for its unceasing dedication and steadfast commitment to educating the young people of this country about the dangers of drug use. Channel One has supported the Partnership's mission by extensively covering the drug issue through your programming and by airing more than \$25 million worth of anti-drug public service announcements—pro bono—since your inception in 1990. The incontrovertible fact is that because of Channel One, millions of teens are keeping away from drugs.

For the past ten years, Channel One has been instrumental in supporting Partnership for a Drug-Free America's mission by changing millions of young people's attitudes about drugs. This is not speculation—it is fact. The Partnership conducted the Partnership Attitude Tracking Study, 1995-1997 and compared Channel One students' attitudes towards drug use versus those of students from non-Channel One schools. The study found conclusive evidence that Channel One students had significantly more negative attitudes about drugs and were much more