

benchmark in evaluating pension and retirement plans.

As the chairman of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, I can attest to the effectiveness of NARFE members in making the case for equitable retirement and health benefits for the more than two million federal retirees and their survivors.

My State of Tennessee is home to more than 37,000 Federal retirees. These folks, like all federal retirees, served their country through their commitment to public service. Federal retirees deserve our Nation's thanks for the dedication they have shown. I hope all my colleagues will join me today saluting Federal retirees for a job well done.●

THE GREATER DETROIT BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL RECEIVES 2000 GENDER AND RACE DIVERSIFICATION EXCELLENCE AWARD

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on May 2, 2000, the Great Lakes Construction Alliance will hold its annual Gender and Race Diversification Excellence Awards dinner. Each year, the G.A.R.D.E. Awards are given to labor owners and contractor organizations which have made significant efforts in improving the recruitment and retention of women and people of color in the unionized construction industry. Each award winner has developed, or engaged in, some substantial program with the goal of furthering opportunities for women and people of color, which is one of the fundamental principles upon which the Great Lakes Construction Alliance was founded.

Nominees are judged by a jury of construction industry representatives. To be considered for the G.A.R.D.E. Award, programs must show documentation, including numbers for minorities and women, of the number of people added to the organization's labor force, and promote quality, acceptable construction practices. Ultimately, the awards are given to those programs which have made significant efforts to improve the recruitment and retention of women and people of color in the unionized construction industry. The recipients of the 2000 G.A.R.D.E. Awards are the Human Rights Department of the City of Detroit, the Greater Detroit Building and Construction Trades Council, and the Comerica Park Construction Management Team.

The Greater Detroit Building and Construction Trades Council, with Barton-Malow acting as program manager, formed twenty construction management teams, which together coordinated over 750,000 hours of service during the Detroit Public Schools Summer Emergency Maintenance Program. 130 minority students, thirty-seven percent of whom were female, participated in the Summer Emergency Maintenance Program. The twenty construction management teams provided these students with the opportunity to work

directly with prime contractors in a multitude of capacities, including administrative activities, painting, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing. Students were also assigned a mentor who helped them develop objectives and document their work experiences. The construction management teams also prepared outcome reports, which provided guidance for educators to continue support of the students' interests once the school year began.

Mr. President, I applaud the Greater Detroit Building and Construction Trades Council, and the members of the twenty construction management teams, for their willingness to help these students. Undoubtedly, their efforts had a profound impact on the lives of each and every one of them. Furthermore, this is the type of work that must be done if the revitalization of Detroit is truly to come about. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate the Greater Detroit Building and Construction Trades Council on receiving the 2000 Gender and Race Diversification Excellence Award.●

THE BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER HONORS MS. ROBIN TRUMBULL

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Ms. Robin Trumbull, whom the Battle Creek Enquirer will present with a George Award Tomorrow evening. These awards are given annually to individuals who "Don't wait around for George to do it." Recipients are recognized for their leadership, and they are usually individuals who have spearheaded projects. Ms. Trumbull is being honored because she is the volunteer founder and president of Amber Alert of Michigan, a nonprofit organization in Battle Creek which works to create an effective communication system between local police and radio stations to immediately alert community members in the event of a child abduction.

The first few hours after an abduction has occurred are the most crucial in recovering the child, and the implementation of this effective emergency broadcast plan has the potential to save the lives of many children. The organization, which started in the Dallas/Fort Worth area in the memory of Amber Hagerman, has since spread throughout the country. It has done so because of the incredible efforts of individuals like Robin Trumbull.

I have had the privilege of working with Ms. Trumbull on this worthwhile cause, and I think I can safely say that all residents of Michigan owe her a debt of gratitude for the work she has done to save children from being abducted, and to help recover those who have been abducted as quickly as possible. Because of her efforts, and her dedication to the children of Michigan, the Amber Alert program has been kicked off successfully.

I applaud Ms. Trumbull for bringing this wonderful program to the State of

Michigan. I also applaud the Battle Creek Enquirer for acknowledging her tireless efforts to do so. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate Ms. Robin Trumbull on receiving her George Award. I could not imagine a more deserving recipient.●

COMERICA PARK CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT TEAM RECEIVES 2000 GENDER AND RACE DIVERSIFICATION EXCELLENCE AWARD

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on May 2, 2000, the Great Lakes Construction Alliance will hold its annual Gender and Race Diversification Excellence Awards dinner. Each year, the G.A.R.D.E. Awards are given to labor owners and contractor organizations which have made significant efforts in improving the recruitment and retention of women and people of color in the unionized construction industry. Each award winner has developed, or engaged in some substantial program with the goal of furthering opportunities for women and people of color, which is one of the fundamental principles upon which the Great Lakes Construction Alliance was founded.

Nominees are judged by a jury of construction industry representatives. To be considered for the G.A.R.D.E. Award, programs must show documentation, including numbers for minorities and women, of the number of people added to the organization's labor force, and promote quality, acceptable construction practices. Ultimately, the awards are given to those programs which have made significant efforts to improve the recruitment and retention of women and people of color in the unionized construction industry. The recipients of the 2000 G.A.R.D.E. Awards are the Human Rights Department of the City of Detroit, the Greater Detroit Building and Construction Trades Council, and the Comerica Park Construction Management Team.

Comerica Park is the new home of the Detroit Tigers. It is a breathtaking, state-of-the-art facility. In my somewhat biased opinion, it is not only the newest, but also the nicest, stadium in the Major Leagues. Its construction would not have been possible were it not for the efforts of the many people who helped to build it. The construction of Comerica Park was a conglomerate effort, which was led by the Construction Management Team of Hunt, Turner, and White, Tigers General Manager John McHale, Jr., and aided by many Detroit City organizations: the Downtown Development Authority, the Minority Business Development Council, the African American Association of Business Contractors, and the Majority Business Initiative.

The Comerica Park project, with the cooperation of the aforementioned individuals and organizations, and also Detroit residents, targeted specific

groups for participation in its completion. The program resulted in the participation of 25 percent minority businesses, five percent women-owned businesses, 34 percent Detroit-based businesses, and 25 percent small businesses. Workforce utilization resulted in minorities comprising 38.15 percent of employees constructing the stadium. Women comprised 4.28 percent, and another 30.53 percent were residents of Detroit.

Mr. President, I applaud the diverse group of people who were responsible for the building of Comerica Park. The stadium stands as a symbol of the hope that I think many Detroit residents now feel for their city. More importantly, all Michigan residents can take pride not only in the final product, but in the production itself. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate the Comerica Park Construction Management Team on receiving a Gender and Race Diversification Excellence Award.●

THE WAVERLY WARRIORS WIN THE MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CLASS A BOYS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Waverly Warriors Boys Basketball Team, who defeated Detroit Pershing 75-63 to win the Michigan High School Athletic Association Class A State Championship. This victory brought Waverly High School its first ever state title. More importantly, it brought the entire west side of Lansing together, as it was an experience enjoyed not only by the players on the team, or even the students of the school, but by the entire community.

Coach Phil Odlum's team went 25-2 on its way to capturing the state title. The Warriors were led by seniors Marcus Taylor and Cortney Scott, who will attend, respectively, Michigan State University and the University of Iowa on basketball scholarships in the fall. Seniors Terry Reddick, Melvin White, and Chris Miller rounded out the starting five. These five players were backed by an extremely solid bench, both in the remaining players on the team and in the community support they received.

In the hierarchy of athletic competition, Mr. President, high school athletics represent the last time a community is able to look out onto the playing field, or, in this case, court, and say, "These are our kids." There is an attachment there, and also, I think, a certain level of pride, that cannot be found at higher levels of play. A community can embrace a team as its own because that is what it truly is. And the west side of Lansing did embrace these kids. Clad in bright yellow t-shirts, a large band of Waverly supporters staked a claim on the northernmost side of the Breslin Center in East Lansing, Michigan, and cheered on their Warriors.

This community spirit and support played a large role, perhaps not in the on the court success of the team, but definitely in the overall enjoyment of their accomplishment. I am sure that the championship was made all the more special for the players when their victory lap was halted by a sea of yellow shirts. And for all the students and community members who occupied those yellow shirts, I am sure it was just as wonderful an experience seeing kids that they grew up with, or watched grow up, successfully complete their run for the title. And this, Mr. President, is the aspect of high school athletics that is truly irreplaceable.

Mr. President, I applaud both Lansing Waverly and Detroit Pershing on the completion of very successful seasons. And, on behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate the Waverly Warriors on winning the 2000 M.H.S.A.A. Class A Boys Basketball Championship.●

LATIN AMERICANS FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INC., ANNUAL RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Latin-Americans for Social and Economic Development, Inc., a nonprofit, community based organization which has served Southwest Detroit area individuals and businesses with a variety of social and self-help services for the past thirty-one years. On May 2, 2000, LA SED will hold its annual Recognition Luncheon, an event which provides the organization the opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of outstanding Hispanic citizens of the Detroit community.

It is appropriate that the theme of this year's luncheon is, "21st Century: Hispanics Count in Detroit's Future." Since its founding in 1969, LA SED has been instrumental in ensuring that Hispanic citizens play a large role in the Detroit community. And now, Mr. President, there is finally an excitement about the future of the city of Detroit that has not been evident for quite some time. There is a real feeling that the city's future is going to look brighter than the past. And groups like LA SED, who outwardly display their own optimism for the future of Detroit, and for the integral role that Hispanics can play, and have played, in this picture of success, are a large reason for the excitement.

Mr. President, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration, it has been my pleasure to hold hearings on the positive contributions immigrants make to this country in areas such as science, the arts, and the armed forces. It was my pleasure to sponsor legislation awarding the Congressional Medal of Honor to Alfred Rascon, a Mexican immigrant who heroically saved the lives of men in his platoon during the Vietnam War. And though I have my critics, their unfounded attacks will

have no impact on my defense of America's tradition as a nation of immigrants. Organizations like LA SED illustrate to me everyday that in this regard, I am doing the right thing.

Mr. President, I extend my warmest regards and appreciation to Jane Garcia, chairperson of the luncheon, and also a wonderful friend whom I have had the pleasure of working with over the years. I would also like to acknowledge Mr. Anthony F. Early, President and C.E.O. of Detroit Edison, who will be the keynote speaker of the Recognition Luncheon. Finally, I thank everyone who is involved in making LA SED such a tremendous and effective organization. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I wish LA SED continued success in the future.●

THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF DETROIT RECEIVES 2000 GENDER AND RACE DIVERSIFICATION EXCELLENCE AWARD

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In 1998, the City of Detroit's Human Rights Department, which is responsible for promoting and enforcing a construction workforce diversity program through its administration of Executive Order 22, recognized an increasing number of construction projects coupled with a shortage of qualified skilled trades people. Their solution to this problem was to implement a Construction Workforce Diversity Program, altering the monitoring guidelines of Executive Order 22. The new