

hope we can work in a bipartisan manner to assure an increase in research funding to find a cure.●

TRIBUTE TO OHIO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate students at Ohio County High School for their First Place finish in the Kentucky competition of the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program and for their advancement to the national competition.

I am proud to share with my colleagues that the class from Ohio County High School in Hartford, Kentucky will represent our State in the national competition of "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program. These young scholars have worked diligently to reach the national finals and through their hands-on experience have gained knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

I wish to acknowledge each of the winning students: Amber Albin, Kyle Allen, Rebecca Ashby, Susanna Ashby, Jamie Barnard, Nicole Bellamy, Brian Canty, Susan Fields, Sam Ford, Amanda Gilstrap, Crystal Goff, Chris Hunt, Leslie Johnson, Andrea Leach, Jason Martin, Jason Mayes, Lacey Patterson, Sarah Phillips, Dexter Reneer, Ann Shrewsbury, Luke Sims, Keegan Smith, Erika Underwood, Tara Ward, Michelle Westerfield.

I also would like to recognize and thank their teacher, John Stofer, who taught these students and provided the leadership which brought them to the final competition of this year's program.

The "We the People . . ." program is designed to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. During the final competition, the students will be challenged in a three-day program modeled after Congressional hearings. The students will make oral presentations and testify as constitutional experts to a panel of adult judges, and then will be questioned and judged on their knowledge and grasp of the Constitution. As a strong advocate for the Constitutional rights of all Americans, I applaud the efforts of these young people to understand and apply Constitutional law to real-life situations.

My colleagues and I congratulate these Ohio County High School students in their Kentucky victory, and wish them all the best in their upcoming competition May 6-8, 2000, in Washington, D.C.●

CALIFORNIA'S VETERANS APPRECIATION MONTH

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise in recognition of California's Veterans Appreciation Month, which is celebrated in May 2000. The people of our state and our nation owe more to our veterans than we can ever repay. The

world is a safer place, and our Democracy has thrived because of their heroism.

This year, as in years past, the State of California is making an extra effort to assist its veterans who suffer from a lack of suitable employment. California calculates that about 40,000 of its veterans are unemployed or underemployed. This is a tragic situation for these fine men and women who have given so much to America.

During the month of May, California's Employment Development Department will focus special effort to find jobs for these veterans. Local Veterans Employment Representatives and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program staff will be contacting employers, organized labor and government leaders to promote hiring veterans, and they will provide job training and job-search training to former military personnel. Quite simply, the goal of California's Veterans Appreciation Month is to show the appreciation of a grateful nation by providing the employment opportunities that veterans so richly deserve.

I commend the California Employment Development Department for all its fine efforts on this program and I encourage all Americans to support similar efforts in their states.●

RECOGNITION OF STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, on May 6-8, 2000, more than 1200 students from across the United States will be in Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. It is an honor for me to announce that a class from Stillwater Area High School will represent the state of Minnesota in this national event. These young scholars have worked very hard 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.

The names of the students are: Chad Anderson, Ellen Andersen, Luke Anderson, Sara Apel, Rob Cole, Alexis DuPlessis, Melissa Ellis, Kim Garvey, Elissa Green, Kyle Knoepfel, Joey Korba, Amy Kruchowski, Kirsten Lindquist, Beth Manor, Emily Michnay, Alex Nelson, Steve Peterson, Chris Richter, Chris Siver, Stefan Tatroe, Melissa Zannmiller.

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Kathleen Ferguson, who deserves much of the credit for the success of the class.

The We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically 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 adult judges. The students testify as constitutional experts before a panel of judges representing various regions of the country and a variety of appropriate professional fields. The students' testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the simulated congressional committee. The judges probe students for their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge. Columnist David Broder described the national finals as "the place to have your faith in the younger generation restored."

The program provides students with a working knowledge of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the principles of democratic government. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers and by participating in other educational activities.

I am confident the class from Stillwater High School will represent Minnesota well and I wish these young "constitutional experts" all the best.●

EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to salute a distinguished young man from Troop 66 in Garden City, Rhode Island who has attained the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America.

Not every young American who joins the Boy Scouts earns the prestigious Eagle Scout Award. In fact, only 2.5 percent do. To earn the award, a Boy Scout must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills. A scout must earn twenty-one Merit Badges, eleven of which are required from areas such as Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Safety, Environmental Science, and First Aid.

As one progresses through the Boy Scout ranks, a scout must demonstrate participation in increasingly more responsible service projects. An Eagle Scout candidate must also demonstrate leadership skills by holding one or more specific Troop leadership positions. Ernest Rheaume has distinguished himself in accordance with these criteria.

For his service project, Ernest organized a bicycle and child safety fair at Gladstone Street School in Cranston.

Mr. President, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in saluting Ernest Rheaume. In turn, we must duly recognize the Boy Scouts of America for establishing the Eagle Scout Award and the strenuous criteria its aspirants must see. This program has through its eighty-five years honed and enhanced the leadership skills and commitment to public service of many outstanding Americans.

It is my sincere belief that Ernest will continue his public service and in

so doing will further distinguish himself and consequently better his community.●

TRIBUTE TO BEDFORD SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT DENNIS POPE

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Dennis Pope upon receiving the New Hampshire Superintendent of the Year Award for the 1999-2000 school year. This honor was awarded to Mr. Pope by the New Hampshire School Administrators Association, and both Mary Jo and I applaud the hard work and dedication that has earned him such high esteem.

Dennis Pope was chosen from eleven other nominees, and it was ultimately his actions and the respect of his peers that elevated him over the competition. He has dedicated nearly three decades of his life to education, the past eleven years of which have been as the Bedford, New Hampshire, Superintendent of Schools. Dennis Pope's goal has always been to make a difference in the lives of his students and in the education process, and he has succeeded. Mr. Pope's efforts exemplify the Association's motto "Champions for Children." Dennis is a champion of both our children and New Hampshire school systems.

Dennis Pope's presence in the Bedford community extends far beyond the walls of its schools. Dennis is an individual who leads by example. He has been a member of the Rotary club, numerous town committees and is currently the Vice-Chairman of the Visitation Committees for the NEASC.

Dennis has illustrated that one can't be a passive participant and prosper. He has taken the initiative of reforming the scholastic curriculum, and he has encouraged community involvement in school affairs. He has shown that being fiscally conservative doesn't detract from an academically rich school system.

Again, I commend Dennis Pope on this very special honor and on his service to the Bedford School System. His work is greatly beneficial to the Town and the State, and I wish him all of the best as he continues to make a difference in his community and in the lives of its young citizens. It is truly an honor to represent Dennis Pope in the United States Senate.●

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF BRIDGEPORT'S ST. RAPHAEL CHURCH

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the 75th anniversary of St. Raphael Church in Bridgeport, Connecticut. I commend the church and its devoted members for their long tradition of faithfulness and service. This anniversary is, rightfully, cause for celebration among St. Raphael's parishioners, and it is a pleasure to recognize their enduring commitment to the Bridgeport community.

The 1920s and 1930s saw a great influx of Italian immigrants into this country

generally and into the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut specifically. These immigrants brought hope and courage to America, and they also brought with them a strong religious faith. A new Roman Catholic parish, St. Raphael's, was soon established in Bridgeport to minister to their needs.

While the church that everyone in Bridgeport recognizes as St. Raphael's was being built, masses were held in the old Caruso Theater. An altar was carried in on Sundays to make the theater more like a sanctuary. Services were modest, but they drew the parish together. On Christmas Day, 1925 the faithful celebrated the first mass in their new church. From that day forward the church has prospered and grown. A convent was added to the parish in 1937 and the sisters who lived there led religious instruction for six hundred public school children every week.

During World War II, hundreds of young men from this church bravely went overseas to fight for their country, and fifty of them never returned.

Despite these losses, the 1940s were a time of expansion for the church. New land was acquired and new buildings were raised. The church's current appearance is a result of the work done primarily during this period.

St. Raphael's is one of the most beautiful churches in Bridgeport, and I believe, in the entire state of Connecticut. What was once a yellow Spanish-style mission has undergone many renovations. Now a Gregorian Romanesque building overlooking a school, convent, and rectory, much of the property surrounding it belongs to the Church. The altar inside was imported to this country from Italy. Some of the woodwork around the altar was carved by Italian artists, while most of the renovations to this building have been the product of devoted parishioners throughout the past seven decades. From the marble steps to the artwork contained within the Church, this place of worship is a proud combination of traditional Italian style and modern American workmanship and dedication.

As St. Raphael's celebrates its 75th Anniversary, it is fitting to remember the rich history and the important role that this parish has had in the community and for the many generations of Italian-Americans that have lived in Bridgeport. It has persisted through the years as a source of spiritual guidance and communal strength, and I applaud their legacy and wish the parish well at the dawn of this new century.●

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to recognize a recent achievement of the men and women at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska. Today, they received the Air Force's 1999 General Thomas D. White Environmental Award for Res-

toration. This award reflects the commitment of the Air Force in Anchorage to making Elmendorf Air Force Base and the surrounding community a better place to live.

Mr. President, the men and women who serve our nation at Elmendorf have always been sensitive to the needs of the communities surrounding the base. Indeed, all of the Air Force installations in Alaska, have gone out of their way to ensure that the environment is not permanently harmed by any military presence. Innovative approaches to cleanup have resulted in Elmendorf being projected to reach Air Force cleanup goals a full ten years ahead of schedule.

Several measures are in place to improve and speed up the cleanup of any future environmental hazards, all at a cost savings of over \$1 million to the taxpayers. All of these efforts have ensured a long standing positive relationship with the civilian community and preserved the beautiful lands in Alaska for future generations to enjoy. For this reason, the Air Force today rewarded the men and women at Elmendorf for their diligence.

Today, the people of Elmendorf can be proud of the fact that they are an example by which other Air Force installations around the nation, indeed the world, will measure themselves for environmental awareness. I join the Air Force in commending those at Elmendorf, like Lieutenant General Thomas R. Case and Colonel Duncan H. Showers, who have made this possible. I also look forward to continued work with the Air Force in Alaska to maintain their excellent relationship with the rest of the communities in Alaska.●

TRIBUTE TO LUCAS MOLLER

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I bring your attention to the recent accomplishments of Lucas Moller. Lucas is 11 years old, a student of Russell Elementary School in Moscow, Idaho, and is currently helping NASA scientists develop sensitive and complex space equipment.

In December of 1999, Lucas was selected by the Planetary Society to have his invention used by NASA scientists on the Mars Surveyor 2001 mission. Mr. President, I know you join Idaho and myself in extending to Lucas congratulations on this achievement.

The Planetary Society asked kindergarten through 12th-grade students to design an experiment that would enhance the Mars Surveyor mission. After learning of this contest, Lucas studied the mission to determine what he could build. What Lucas came up with was both simple and ingenious. He constructed a thimble-sized cylinder designed to help scientists test the angle at which Martian dust falls off space equipment. This invention will allow scientists to learn what angle to position their equipment to prevent dust collecting and interfering with experiments.