

# TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL LIFE

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an organization that has served the state of Vermont, and the nation, for 150 years. National Life has served the needs of millions of Americans during this time, starting with its first policy, issued in 1850, and continuing into the contemporary insurance business. As Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee, I can personally attest to how valuable their services have been and continue to be. However, National Life is more than just a business, it is an archetype of community relations and a leader in the promotion of ethical market conduct.

National Life was founded in 1848 by Dr. Julius Dewey as a mutual life insurance company. The first claim was paid to a policy owner who had traveled to California for the Gold Rush. From this beginning, National Life has expanded to include 800 career and general agents, and over 3,000 independent brokers. National Life has also grown to include some of the most prestigious services in America, including the Sentinel Fund—established in 1968, the American Guaranty and Trust—chartered in Delaware in 1914, and the national Retirement plan Advisors—founded in 1940.

In 1998, National Life joined the Insurance Marketplace Standards Association. This group promotes ethics in market conduct of the life insurance industry. Among the criteria that National Life had to meet were high standards of honesty in fairness to customers, fair competition, quick resolution of customer disputes and complaints, and customer-focused sales and service. Needless to say, National Life met the criteria in 1998, as they have throughout their long and prestigious history.

This 150th Anniversary also marks a rare meeting of past, present, and future, in 1960, the National Life building was opened. At the dedication ceremony, a time capsule was interred in the floor of the lobby. This time capsule will be opened on May 12, 2000, and we will be able to compare where we are today with where we thought we would be. The hopes and wishes of yesterday have evolved into today's reality, and the year 2000, once an incomprehensible milestone, is no longer the distant future.

While the past and present will merge at this ceremony, the anniversary also provides an opportunity to look forward. True to form, National Life again initiates a bond with the community; among the entries in the Year 2000 time capsule will be the predictions of children of Central Vermont. The hopes and wishes of these children for the future are significant, as they will be the ones living it. Recognizing this, National Life is also contributing money to each participating public elementary school. The students' whose predictions will be included in the time capsule, along

with their respective schools, will receive an additional contribution.

On this occasion of celebrating the venerable and storied past of National Life, let us pay tribute to their Vermont roots and their contributions to the Vermont economy during the past century and a half. Far from simply administering to their community, National Life is a part of it. National Life has realized from the start that the investment we make in the children of today will pay dividends in the leaders of tomorrow. For their continued commitment to the community and their customers, they should be commended.●

## A TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ALLIANCE

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) Alliance. This year the SDSMA Alliance will celebrate its 90th anniversary, making it the oldest continuous medical Alliance in the United States. For ninety years, this physicians' spouses organization has proudly been the volunteer hands and voices of the South Dakota State Medical Association.

Though their accomplishments may not be always easily enumerated or quantified, their impact has been felt across every mile of the state of South Dakota. The SDSMA Alliance has led or united with other organizations in an effort to insure that our communities are healthier and safer. Members of the SDSMA Alliance have always reached out to feed the hungry, give warmth to those who were cold, provide shelter and safety to the abused, and bring smiles and joy to children in need of books or toys. Health promotion and community projects are, indeed, the cornerstone of the Alliance.

Oftentimes, the mission statement of an organization tells us all we need to know about the character of the individuals who have joined together. In the case of the SDSMA Alliance, this statement holds true once again. Their mission to promote public health, create safer communities, protect the patient-physician relationship, and generate funds to help educate future physicians is a testament to their desire to positively impact every South Dakota community in which their work is done.

As just one example of the Alliance's hard work and dedication, last June they declared-not war-but peace on all school campuses throughout our state. Their focus was not just on guns and grenades, but bullying and fist fights, taunting and threats, intolerance and isolation, because that, as we all know, is where the problems usually begin.

To emphasize the need to provide our children and educators with a safe school environment, the SDSMA Alliance launched a campaign to provide K-3rd grade students with conflict res-

olution and self-esteem building activities. Thousands of "I Can Choose," "I Can Be Safe," "Hands Are Not For Hitting," and "Be A Winner" workbooks were distributed to schools and shelters throughout our state. Their goal was to arm children with self-esteem and to teach them how to make healthier and safer choices. It is efforts such as these that weave the fabric of our communities closer together and promote safe, learning environments for South Dakota's children.

Mr. President, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the South Dakota State Medical Association Alliance for ninety years of hard work and dedication to the health and safety of the people of South Dakota. I applaud the SDSMA Alliance's efforts to combat those forces in our society which would jeopardize the mental and physical wellness of any citizen. I sincerely thank the Alliance for their positive contributions to South Dakota's communities, and I hope that one day we can stand together and say, "Mission accomplished."●

## TRIBUTE TO STERLING EDWARDS RIVES, JR.

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a friend and patriot Sterling Edwards Rives, Jr. of Petersburg, Virginia who died on February 13, 2000, at the age of 78 years.

A native of Surry County, sterling served in the Army at the close of World War II and then spent a year building airfields in the Philippines. He returned to a position as an inspector with the U.S. Department of Agriculture traveling with his wife Virginia Anne and newborn son Sterling III throughout the Southeast grading peanuts, potatoes and produce. Two more sons Andrew II and Bailey were born as they moved to Petersburg where he began his 35-year career where he held leadership positions in the Christ and Grace Episcopal Church.

Sterling Rives served on the Virginia Republican State Central Committee, as a delegate to four national conventions, vice-chairman of the Petersburg Electoral Board, and as a delegate to the White House Council on Aging.

President Ronald Reagan once told me that "Politics is not a spectator sport."

No one took that more to heart than Sterling Rives who believed that it was his civic responsibility and patriotic duty to contribute freely his time and talents to elect those he supported to public office. I was privileged to be one of those public servants whom Sterling took by the hand and guided towards election day after election day.

Sterling Rives drove the original footings for the foundation of the Republican Party of Virginia. He and his family gave tirelessly in election after election.

Just last year Virginians elected a Republican Governor, Lt. Governor,

Attorney General and a new Republican majority in the House of Delegates and the Senate for the first time in our state's history. That impressive victory was a most appropriate tribute to Sterling Rives' long public service encouraging people to be active in politics.

We have far too few citizens who recognize the importance of the political process in preserving our democracy and our freedom. The life of Sterling Rives will stand as a model for patriots who seek to preserve our liberty. I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Sterling Rives and extending to his family our deepest sympathy.●

#### RECOGNITION OF MOUNTAIN HOME JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I am honored to rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional group of students from Mountain Home Junior High School in my home state of Arkansas. These students won first place in the state competition of the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program. I am proud to report that the following students will represent my home state at the national competition this May 6-8 in Washington, DC:

Matthew Brinza, T.C. Burnett, Patrick Carter, Cody Garrison, Meredith Griffin, Kayla Hawthorne, Delia Lee, Megan Matty, Zachary Milholland, Stacy Miller, Jennifer Nassimbene, Rebeca Neis, Patty Schwartz, Carrie Toole, and Kris Zibert.

I also want to say a special word of thanks to their teacher, Patsy Ramsey, who deserves much of the credit for the success of the class.

The We the People . . . program is an outstanding educational initiative developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Students who compete at the three-day national competition, which is modeled after hearings in the U.S. Congress, testify as constitutional experts before a panel of judges representing various regions of the country. The students are then asked a series of challenging questions to test their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

Teaching students about the benefits of public service and the value of representative government is essential to the long-term viability of our nation's democracy. Since its inception in 1987, more than 26 million students and 75,000 educators nationwide have participated in this worthwhile program designed to encourage civic awareness and understanding. I am extremely proud of the Mountain Home students who have earned the opportunity to compete in the We the People . . . finals in Washington, DC. I wish them well in their endeavor and know they will provide an excellent example for others in my state and the nation to follow.●

#### GOODWILL INDUSTRIES WEEK

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate Goodwill Industries Week and call attention to a leader in job training and employment services for people with disabilities and other barriers to employment.

Nearly a century ago, Reverend Edgar Helms, a Methodist minister from Boston, founded Goodwill on the premise of reusing household goods and clothing from wealthy neighborhood homes to create a system that provides the poor with training, jobs, and self-esteem. The Goodwill philosophy of "a hand up, not a hand out" was born, and has blossomed into a \$1.5 billion non-profit organization. Dr. Helms' own words described Goodwill Industries as both an "Industrial program as well as a social service enterprise . . . a provider of employment, training and rehabilitation for people of limited employability, and a source of temporary assistance for individuals whose resources were depleted."

Just a few of the programs offered include retail skills training through a partnership with Target stores, service technician training on-site at Valvoline Instant Oil Change locations, and construction skills training at Habitat for Humanity building sites. These programs, matched with Goodwill employment services, prepare people to enter the workforce in high-demand fields.

Goodwill Stores funnel nearly 84 cents of every dollar spent at Goodwill towards employment and training programs for people faced with barriers to employment. This includes individuals with disabilities, people with limited work history, those who have experienced corporate downsizing, and recipients of government support programs. By operating autonomously, each of the 182 Goodwill member organizations adapts its services to meet the needs of its local community. This allows them to design specific programs and services that give Goodwill graduates the appropriate skills they need to find work close to home.

Goodwill programs may not be for everyone, but Goodwill Industries International, through its employment and training efforts, provided necessary services for nearly 321,000 people worldwide in 1998, people who now have the tools to accomplish the goals in life that were once beyond their grasp.

For this week of May 7-13, I commend those who have made a difference in someone's life through the services of Goodwill Industries and those who accomplish new heights in their careers thanks to these much-needed programs.●

#### SISTER CITIES OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS AND NOISIEL, FRANCE

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it's a privilege for me to commend the new sister cities of North Adams, Massa-

chusetts and Noisiel, France. They will officially establish a sister-city relationship on May 20. I extend my warmest congratulations to both cities as they embark on this excellent opportunity.

North Adams and Noisiel have a great deal in common. They have similar population sizes, and they are communities that worked effectively to overcome economic difficulties during the 1980's. Both cities have revitalized former manufacturing plants to create contemporary arts facilities that will attract visitors from many other nations. These two cities have shared remarkably similar experiences, and I commend them both for their impressive success.

Last year, the City of North Adams welcomed Deputy Mayor Daniel Vachez of Noisiel. He visited the many cultural and historic treasures that make North Adams a wonderful example of New England's history and heritage. Mayor John Barrett III has done an outstanding job of supporting impressive development initiatives for the city, and I commend him for his leadership.

I'm sure that the new sister city relationship will be a successful initiative. The relationship is a tribute to the vision and dedication of Mayor Barrett, Deputy Mayor Vachez and the many others in both cities whose enthusiasm and energy have made this project possible. I'm confident that both North Adams and Noisiel will benefit significantly from this relationship, and that their program will be an outstanding example to cities worldwide. I congratulate them for their achievement, and I look forward to a very productive sister city relationship.●

#### THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANTHONY WAYNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Anthony Wayne Elementary School in Detroit, Michigan, which on May 12, 2000, will officially celebrate its 70th Anniversary. Events have been scheduled throughout this week, providing administrators, teachers, students and parents an opportunity to reflect upon the history of their elementary school, and at the same time witness how far it has come in seventy years.

The roots of Wayne Elementary School lie in a two room portable building near the heart of Detroit, where Mrs. Jessie Baum and Ms. Etta Coetzer, under the guidance of Principal Ms. Florence Kessler, began teaching kindergarten through fifth grade students in March of 1928. Their efforts led to the construction of a six-room building at 10633 Courville Street in February of 1930, officially marking the birth of Wayne Elementary School.

Though the face and shape of the building have been forced to change often to accommodate a growing number of students, the teachers and administrators of Wayne Elementary School