

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, each year the American Immigration Law Foundation and the American Immigration Lawyers Association sponsor a national writing contest on immigration. Thousands of fifth grade students across the country participate in the competition, answering the question, "Why I'm Glad America is a Nation of Immigrants."

In fact, "A Nation of Immigrants" was the title of a book that President Kennedy wrote in 1958, when he was a Senator. In this book, and throughout his life, he celebrated America's great heritage and history of immigration as a principal source of the nation's progress and achievements.

As one of the judges of this year's contest, I was impressed by the quality of writing that was presented and the great pride of these students in America's immigrant heritage. Many of these essays told the story of their own family's immigration to the United States.

The winner of this year's contest is Kaitlin Young, a fifth grader at St. Anne Elementary School in Warren, Michigan. She wrote about her diverse immigrant background and how this diversity enriches her life. Other students honored for their creative essays were Shayna Walton of Arizona, John Klaasen of Washington, Allison Paige Sigmon of North Carolina, and Christa Conway of Connecticut.

I believe that these award winning essays from the "Celebrate America" contest will be of interest to all of us in the Senate, and I ask that they may be printed in the RECORD.

The essays are as follow.

IMMIGRATION & ME

(By Kaitlin Young, Warren, MI, grand prize winner)

If it weren't for immigration, the diversity in me
I might be a Who-not on my family tree.
English, Irish, Dutch, American Indian too
Italian ancestry in the mix, a family tree in bloom.
America welcomed my ancestors—a promise to be free
Ellis Island & the Statue of Liberty are symbols dear to me.
Our country's promise, the freedom to worship here
Practice our family customs and belief we hold dear.
The promise of America rings throughout me
The Torch of Freedom helped shape my family tree.
My Grandmas and Grandpas are from here and there
So when Mom married Dad, I came from everywhere.
I eat different foods from across the world
Irish stew, potatoes and pasta that is curled.
Salmon steak, pot roast, and Dutch Apple pie
Egg rolls, pizza, a menu diversified.
Soccer, Bocce Ball, and Cricket too.
Without immigration, you might not play the sports you do.
Without immigration what would you hear?

The same old sounds filling your ear.
If it were not for immigration, what would we see?

All the leaves the same on my family tree.
That is why I am so happy for diversity,
Because of Immigration—I am me!

WHY I'M GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Shayna Walton, Tucson, AZ, finalist)

Hooray Hooray for the U.S.A.
Life is good the American Way.
Immigrants come from far and near
To have a much better life right here.
They come in hopes of a freer life.
Sometimes they come to leave their strife.
What a better place we have become
because of all that immigrants have done.
They've shared their different ways they cook
and written many stories in a book.
The unique styles that they wear—
now you see them everywhere.
They've brought us lots of delicious foods
which certainly has improved our moods!
They've created dances, songs and art
Which has caused happiness in my heart.
All the immigrants' different languages are so neat
To learn them all would be quite a feat!
In this country you can have your say
You can give your opinion and talk all day!
We are all immigrants in our own way—
I'm so glad that we're all here to stay!

WHY I AM GLAD THAT AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By John Klaasen, Olympia, WA, finalist)

Iceland
Madagascar
Mexico
India
Germany
Russia
Afghanistan
Nepal
Taiwan
South Korea
Oceania
Finland
Thailand
Haiti
Ecuador
Uruguay
New Zealand
Indonesia
Turkey
Egypt
Denmark
Spain
Tanzania
Albania
Togo
Ethiopia
Sri Lanka
Oman
France
Algeria
Mongolia
Eritrea
Romania
Iraq
Canada
Argentina
All
Refugees
Enter Looking for
Freedom,
Respect and
Open arms into our
Merry nation
Asylum

Legal residence and
Liberty
Offer
Values,
Education,
Rights,
Traditions,
Honor and
Equal treatment.
We
Offer
Refugees
Lasting
Democracy.

WHY I AM GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Allison Paige Sigmon, Sparta, NC, finalist)

Intelligence, inventions
Movies, medicine, music, melting pot
Medical breakthroughs, marketing
Innovations, instruments (musical)
Global diversity, gods, government
Racial equality, restaurants, religion
Ancestors, agriculture, architecture, artists
News, Nobel Peace Prize, nationalities
Teachers, theatre, trade, technology,
transportation
Space travel, sports, science
All of these words are what I think immigrants have brought to our country to make us a strong and powerful nation.

WHY I'M GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Christa Conway, Manchester, CT, finalist)

What do the people bring when they come to America's shores?
What do the people bring on their boats rowing with oars?
What do the people bring in their trunks, bags, and cases?
What do the people bring?
They bring a world of new faces.
The first sight that they get of land, is like a cavern of gold
They see all brand new faces, all both young and old.
They see the green fresh grass, or see the glittering snow.
What do the immigrants see?
They see a new world to know.
What were the gifts they brought?
They weren't gold, riches and powers!
They brought just simply their culture,
Which now we proclaim as ours.
Music, festivals, stories,
Which we can now enjoy.
Everyone will enjoy it!!
Every girl and every boy!!
So why I'm glad America
Is a nation of immigrants true,
Is something that really matters,
It matters to me and you.
Immigrants are what make America whole,
What makes it pure and unique.
This melting pot of cultures,
Will never spring a leak!!!●

"THE WONDERS OF WARD 8"

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, it gives me pleasure to bring to my colleagues' attention a truly remarkable program that, unfortunately, is not located in my home state of Vermont, but nonetheless, does great work for Vermonters. Let me talk for a moment about the "Wonders of Ward 8." To enlighten my colleagues, "Ward 8" houses the inpatient Post Traumatic

Stress Disorder (PTSD) treatment program at the Northhampton VA hospital. According to Friends of Ward 8, a group of veterans whose lives have taken on new meaning as a result of their treatment at this facility, there is no better place on earth to deal with the psychological wounds of war.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is recognized worldwide as a true leader in the area of PTSD research and I applaud my friend Dr. Matt Friedman and his staff at the National Center for PTSD for the incredible work they have done to bring this often debilitating condition to the forefront of public recognition and scholarly research. Thanks also go to Dr. Friedman for making treatment of PTSD a priority for the VA. Ward 8 is a shining example of what an inpatient program specializing in trauma treatment should look like. Although Ward 8 is located in Massachusetts, veterans from all over the country have benefited from this program—including many, many Vermonters. It was established to offer inpatient rehabilitative treatment to veterans suffering from PTSD as a result of their wartime service and is one of eight inpatient VA programs. Ward 8 provides this high quality service while running one of the most efficient and cost effective inpatient treatment program in the VA system.

According to the Friends of Ward 8, the staff at this facility are the reason for its success. I would like to recognize and thank the "heroes" of Ward 8 beginning with the Program Director Dr. Sonny Monteiro and his dedicated staff of men and women including Dr. Richard Pearlstein, Bruce Bennett, Sherrill Ashton, John Christopher, Ken Zerner, Gary Kuck, Fran Lunny, Joe Polito, Brooks Ryder, Judy Zahn, Heather White, Wayne Lynch, Alec Provost, Mike Connor, Barbara Graf and Delores Elliott. I hear again and again from Vermonters about how they bring compassion and healing to the science of mental health. It is the human touch that they so generously dispense that makes such a difference in the lives of veterans who struggle to recuperate from their wounds of war. Their dedication to their jobs and to the lives they touch has built a legacy for this program unrivaled by any other PTSD program in the country.

I thank you, Ward 8, and the many veterans from around the country who have crossed your threshold, thank you.●

RECOGNIZING QWEST COMMUNICATIONS INTERNATIONAL

● Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise to comment on some significant developments that have recently taken place in my home state of Colorado that will positively benefit the entire world of telecommunications.

Qwest Communications International, Inc. of Denver, a young, worldwide leader in broadband Inter-

net-based communications, continues to expand its technologies and vision for the coming century. Just three and one-half years ago, this innovative company catapulted the world into the Information Age beginning by branding its nation-wide fiber-optic network and developing connections into Mexico, intercontinental cable to Europe and transpacific submarine capacity to the Pacific Rim. The Company's services provide a full range of leading-edge data, voice, video, e-commerce, web-hosting and related services to consumers and business customers, including a variety of multimillion dollar government contracts recently awarded to Qwest, such as the Treasury Department and DOE's Energy Sciences Network.

Qwest has positioned itself for the new Information Age economy by combining its strengths and forming numerous strategic alliances, partnerships and evolving its next-generation infrastructure through a variety of acquisitions.

About one year ago Qwest and U.S. WEST announced their intent to merge. On Friday, June 30 that merger became reality.

I applaud the FCC, the states and other appropriate agencies for reviewing and approving this complementary merger in a respectable timeframe and in accordance with the 1996 Telecommunications Act. This now allows the "new" Qwest to bring a different competitive dynamic to the global marketplace.

I ask my colleagues today to join me in commending the regulatory bodies for enhancing the process of this merger and to the Companies' merger review team, led by Drake Tempest and Steve Davis, as well as other Company officials. In closing, I extend my best wishes for continued success to Qwest and its Chairman and CEO, Joe Nacchio. Mr. Nacchio will resume the leadership of the "new" Qwest to bring the benefits of this global Company to all of our constituents.●

RECOGNITION OF THE YOUTH INVESTMENT PROGRAM OF THE TUKWILA SCHOOL DISTRICT

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, in February of 1999, I awarded my first Innovation in Education Award to the Tukwila School District for their "Friends and Family Program." Now, over a year later, I am standing on the Senate floor again to recognize an innovative program in this same district, the Youth Investment Program at Cascade View Elementary. As both these awards indicate, great things are coming out of the Tukwila School District and this innovative summer school program is no exception.

Teachers and educators at Cascade View Elementary realized that many of their students were in need of additional help to be ready for their upcoming school year. Cascade Valley wanted to take advantage of the summer

months to target students who need extra help in reading, math, and writing skills. Thus, the Youth Investment Program was created. Last week, I visited with teachers and students from this program and witnessed first-hand the tremendous impact that it has on its students.

In classes where approximately 22-percent of the students speak English as a second language and skill levels range across the board, these teachers have produced spectacular results in their students' academic achievements and social development.

Michael Silver, Superintendent of the Tukwila District, says "There is a high percentage of kids from different ethnic groups who are at different skill levels. Our program has been able to streamline their learning to catch them up for their new grade level."

The Youth Investment Program is also preparing students to succeed in the 21st century by incorporating computer training into many of the traditional academic subjects. The computer skills of each child are monitored throughout program. Teachers have also used computers to teach non-traditional courses such as drama and music which has enabled students and teachers to bring new meaning to the classroom. I am positive that these students will return to school in the fall not only equipped with renewed confidence but also with the skills and knowledge demanded by the new technology age.

After spending a time with the students and teachers involved in the Youth Investment Program, it was not hard for me to see why the efforts of the Tukwila School District continue to stand out among local education in Washington State. Mr. President, the Youth Investment Program demonstrates once again that our local educators know how to meet the needs of their students. I applaud the work of the staff and teachers at Cascade View and I am pleased to present my 44th Innovation in Education Award to the Youth Investment Program.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. McCathran, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 1:09 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by