

ST. CLAIR SHORES AMVETS POST 121 CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the St. Clair Shores, Michigan, AMVETS Post 121 upon the celebration of its 50th anniversary taking place this February 24th.

For the past 50 years the post has strived to make a home for many American service men and women, while in service and after they received an honorable discharge. The post has been involved in the St. Clair Shores Memorial festivities, and has provided community service and child welfare for both veterans and non-veterans yearly by giving college scholarships, baskets of food during Christmas time, and food and clothing donations to local children's facilities.

I applaud AMVETS Post 121 for its committed remembrance of the men and women who have served our country in the Armed Forces. Their dedication and hard work for veterans and non-veterans alike should serve as a model for other veteran organizations around the country. It is an honor today, on behalf of the U.S. Senate, to recognize AMVETS Post 121 on its 50th anniversary.●

TRIBUTE TO THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP) who are attending their Mid-Winter Training Conference this week. I want to commend Michigan's Chiefs of Police for their dedication to protecting Michigan's citizens—for their unwavering effort to keep our communities safe, even when that means putting themselves in harm's way.

The MACP training conference is evidence of their commitment to learning the most current state-of-the-art practices and systems used by law enforcement in order to keep Michiganders as safe as possible.

Mr. President, I have had the pleasure of working with some of these police chiefs on legislation. Through this work, I have only gained more respect and appreciation for their dedication and their expertise in law enforcement issues.

At a time when some politicians are supporting clemency for terrorists, and others are effectively pitting our law enforcement officers against the very people they are protecting, I think it is essential that we publicly recognize the exemplary role that our police chiefs and officers play.

I am proud to have this opportunity, on behalf of the U.S. Senate, to publicly express our gratitude to police chiefs and officers across the country who risk their lives to keep us safe—who work every day on the side of law-abiding citizens. I call on all elected representatives to join me in supporting the efforts of police chiefs to keep our communities safe.●

CENTER LINE HIGH NAMED A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to offer my congratulations to Center Line High School in Center Line, Michigan, upon its recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School. Fully accredited by the North Central Association and continuously endorsed since 1956, Center Line High School has demonstrated excellence in a variety of areas, including student focus and support, active teaching and learning, leadership, community partnerships, and educational vitality.

The Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Program promotes and supports the improvement of education in America by: identifying and recognizing schools that are models of excellence and equity, that demonstrate a strong commitment to educational excellence for all students; making research based, self-assessment criteria available to schools looking for a way to reflect on how they are doing; and encouraging schools, both within and among themselves, to share information about best practices which is based on a shared understanding of the standards which demonstrate educational success.

Center Line High School demonstrated its excellence to the Department of Education through a variety of innovative programs intended to prepare its students academically, physically, and socially to participate productively in this rapidly changing world. Center Line High is in its second year on an alternating A/B block schedule, which has allowed the school to implement 11 new courses this past year. Beyond its academic and curricular superiority, Center Line offers an array of student-run activities that integrate learning and service with community involvement. One such program allows students the opportunity to operate a branch of the Metro Credit Union (one of the first student-run credit unions in the county and state) while the student-initiated Community Outreach Program gives students the chance to engage in area service projects.

I applaud Center Line High School on its excellence in education and its commitment to the development of students and the community. I also wish to congratulate the school once again upon its designation as a Blue Ribbon School by the Department of Education.●

THE RETIREMENT OF THE MOST REVEREND MOSES B. ANDERSON, S.S.E.; AUXILIARY BISHOP ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to make a few remarks concerning the retirement of the Most Reverend Moses B. Anderson, S.S.E. Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit. Bishop Anderson was the first

African-American Catholic Bishop in the State of Michigan.

Bishop Anderson will be honored at a Gratitude Dinner at the Sacred Heart Major Seminary in the City of Detroit on February 17, 2000, at which time he will also be presented with the Mother Theresa Duchemin Maxis Award.

Bishop Anderson has served the Catholic Church since his ordination as a priest in 1958. He was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit in 1982, was consecrated in 1983 at the Blessed Sacrament Church, and was appointed Pastor of Precious Blood Parish in Detroit in 1992. While in service to the Catholic Church in Greater Detroit, Bishop Anderson has specialized in several areas, most notably those dealing with black theology, art, and evangelization.

Bishop Anderson's membership list includes: the National Catholic Conference of Bishops—United States Catholic Conference, the Society for the Study of Black Religion, the New Detroit Board of Trustees, Boysville of America, and the Ecumenical Forum. He has also given lectures or written papers on the following topics: Black Theology, Evangelization—

Indigenization, the History of the Black Church in Louisiana, Racism—The Impoverishment of the Body and the Spirit, Black Awareness—The Harlem Renaissance and the Negritude Poets, and Black Spirituality.

Bishop Anderson's lengthy list of accomplishments also includes educational achievements, including the following degrees: Doctor of Humane Letters, St. Michael College; Honorary Degree in L.L.D. from Kansas Newman College; Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree from Madonna College; and Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the University of Detroit Mercy.

I applaud the Most Reverend Moses B. Anderson for his contribution to the Catholic Church and the Greater Detroit area and wish to take this opportunity to personally thank him for his many years of selfless service to the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan.●

MICHIGAN STUDENTS HONORED AS EXEMPLARY YOUTH VOLUNTEERS BY THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate and honor two young Michigan students who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Jonathan Quarles of Flint and Gopalkrishna Trivedi of Grosse Pointe Park have just been named State Honorees in The 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on only one high school student and one middle-level student in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Mr. Quarles, a high school senior at Flint Northern High School, founded Students Against Violence Everywhere

(S.A.V.E.), a group that helps discourage crime through creative presentations. Since the group was founded in 1997, they have worked in collaboration with many organizations, including leadership workshops. "In the past year, not one teen was killed by violence in Flint," says Jonathan.

Mr. Trivedi, an eighth-grader at Pierce Middle School, repaired and upgraded 120 obsolete computers to help non-English speaking students learn and work in English. He encouraged two of his computer classmates to help with the project, and the three students proceeded to carry the outdated computers from the school basement to the computer lab. They then inspected each computer to diagnose problems, and replaced all defective parts. Once the computers were repaired, Gopal then formatted the hard drives, installed CD-ROM's, and loaded each with an operating system. Most of these modified computers were donated to students who had recently arrived from Albania with very few financial resources. Gopal donated the rest of the computers to the school's science lab and the computer keyboarding lab. "It is a really good feeling when sacrifices are made for other people and those sacrifices actually change some lives for the better," said Gopal recently.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions these young people have made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Mr. Quarles and Mr. Trivedi are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought these young role models to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. In only five years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with nearly 75,000 youngsters participating since its inception.

Mr. Quarles and Mr. Trivedi should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. As part of their recognition, they will come to Washington in early May along with other year-2000 Spirit of Community honorees from across the country, for several days of special events, including a Congressional breakfast reception on Capitol Hill. While here in Washington,

ten will be named America's top youth volunteers of the year by a distinguished national service selection committee chaired by Senators Byron Douglas of North Dakota and SUSAN COLLINS of Maine.

I heartily applaud Mr. Quarles and Mr. Trivedi for their initiative in seeking to make their communities better places to live, and for the positive impact they have had on the lives of others. I would also like to salute other young people in my state who were named Distinguished Finalists by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for their outstanding volunteer service. They are: Nupur Kanodia of Rochester Hills, Lauren Lubowicki of Fenton, David Sherman of Dearborn, Korina Smith of Douglas, Brooke Southgate of Unionville, and Perry Williams of Grand Rapids.

All of these young people have demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world. They deserve our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in their communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.●

RICK JONES TO RECEIVE 1999 SERVICE TO CHILDREN AWARD

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Rick Jones, Captain of the Road Patrol for the Eaton County Sheriff Department, on his selection as the 1999 Service to Children Award winner. This award will be presented to Captain Jones by the Eaton County Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Council.

Captain Jones was selected for his volunteer work benefitting youth activities throughout Eaton County. Captain Jones' involvement in youth activities in his area range from efforts to build both the Eaton Rapids Playground of Dreams and the Pottsville Imagination Station Playground, to volunteer work with the "Kids to the Rescue" Earth Day activities, Grand Ledge Kid's Day, 4H programs, and the Special Olympics.

Captain Jones' efforts toward improving his community also reach beyond his work with area youth. He has participated in area programs including Meals on Wheels, 4-H, Eaton Shelter, and Eaton Community Hospice.

The newsletter of the Eaton County Child Abuse and Prevention Council said this about Captain Jones: "Living a life of service is paramount to Rick Jones * * * As a young Sheriff's deputy, Jones learned that 'life could be pretty short.' After being shot at, Rick Jones found himself evaluating life's meaning and concluding that what is truly important are contributions to his community."

Eaton County, and all of Michigan, are lucky to have Rick Jones to call their own. I am sure that his outlook

on life and his volunteer work have made a positive difference in the lives of many in his community. It is an honor today, on behalf of the U.S. Senate, to congratulate Captain Jones on his receipt of the Service to Children Award.●

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS NATIONAL HOME

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home on their 75th anniversary. The VFW National Home—also known as the VFW National Home for children—located in Eaton Rapids, MI, celebrated this milestone birthday on the seventh of January, 2000.

The VFW National Home for Children has served more than 1,600 people across the country who have family ties to members of the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary. The 600 acre facility grew from a plot of land that was initially donated by a Jackson farmer in 1925. Originally created as an orphanage for children of dead or disabled veterans, the home now has professional case workers on staff, while offering full college funding for children, a program for single parents, and other social programs.

The house is home to 91 children and 27 single parents. In addition to social services, it offers a nursery, sports programs, and several extracurricular activities. And, as if this wasn't impressive enough, the VFW National Home is run totally on private donations.

Mr. President, Michiganians are privileged to have this important home in their state. It is an honor today, on behalf of the United States Senate, to offer congratulations on their anniversary and thanks to all of those who donate their time, their love, and their financial resources to the VFW National Home.●

WARREN YMCA CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS GOURMET DINNER

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the Warren, Michigan, YMCA upon the 20th anniversary of its annual "Gourmet Dinner." The Warren YMCA holds a unique dinner each year, raising money for summer camp and similar youth projects. The banquet is attended by area residents who are treated to food and drinks prepared by area restaurateurs and served by notable community members.

Part of the funds raised from the gathering will go toward camperships for needy children, while some of the monies will supplement the Friday night drop-in centers for youths currently held at various church and school buildings around the city. Gym time, craft projects, pool and ping-pong games, and dances are also part of the available activities.

The event, believed to be the first of its kind in the Warren area, has been