

that a safe refuge for families was necessary during illness.

David's House gives parents the ability to concentrate on their children without worrying about where to sleep, eat or shower during hospital visits. The House is staffed entirely by volunteers and receives donations from private sources. After fifteen years of operation, David's House has assisted hundreds of families and eased the pain of coping with illness. Such stability and growth is a testament of the true importance and need for institutions like David's House.

Richard's dedication to helping others in a grave time of need is truly inspirational. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO THE BELKNAP COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Belknap County Economic Development Group for receiving the 2000 United States Small Business Administration's New Hampshire "Financial Services Advocate of the Year" award.

Financial service advocates play an integral role in the success of a small business, particularly in their assistance with access to credit. The Belknap County Economic Development Group is no exception. They have been assisting small businesses in surrounding communities with great success since 1992.

Initially formed to address economic issues plaguing the area at the time, it later expanded to assisting small businesses struggling to get off the ground. It currently operates a revolving loan fund and two micro-lending programs, as well as provides technical assistance and counseling.

As a former small business owner in the state, I commend the Belknap County Economic Development Group for their hard work and dedication. It is truly an honor to represent them in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO RUTH GRIFFIN—2000 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Ruth Griffin for being named the "2000 Citizen of the Year" by the Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce.

Ruth's dedication to the citizens of Portsmouth and its surrounding communities has spanned an impressive thirty years. She exemplifies what is good about today's society and proves that everyone can become involved in his or her community in some small way. Ruth genuinely cares for the people of the seacoast and thinks of everyone as her children to some degree. Her unfaltering commitment to assisting those in need or in crisis has touched the lives of many and garnered her an award for her efforts.

Aside from participating in countless community service events and programs, Ruth served on the Portsmouth School Board and the Police Commission. She extended her service beyond the seacoast to all of New Hampshire by serving terms in the New Hampshire State House and Senate. She currently serves as one of the governor's executive councilors. Ruth gives one hundred percent of her time and efforts to bettering the lives of those less fortunate. Her kind-hearted care and concern for the well-being of all she encounters proves her deep commitment to making New Hampshire a better place to live. Such dedication to her community and state is heart-warming and truly inspirational in a time where civic responsibility seems to be waning.

It is citizens like Ruth who make our communities stronger and exemplify what is good about America today. It is an honor to serve Ruth in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO BRETT MURPHY ON BEING NAMED PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Brett Murphy of New Ipswich, New Hampshire, for being selected as a 2000 Presidential Scholar by the United States Secretary of Education.

Of the over 2.5 million graduating seniors nationwide, Brett is one of only 141 seniors to receive this distinction for academics. This impressive young man is well-deserving of the title of Presidential Scholar. I wish to commend Brett for his outstanding achievement.

As a student at Saint Bernard's Central Catholic High School in New Hampshire, Brett has served as a role model for his peers through his commitment to excellence. Brett's determination promises to guide him in the future.

It is certain that Brett will continue to excel in his future endeavors. I wish to offer my most sincere congratulations and best wishes to Brett. His achievements are truly remarkable. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO JAY BORDEN—2000 ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Jay Borden, for his recognition as the 2000 Entrepreneur of the Year by the New Hampshire High Technology Council.

Jay is the President and CEO of Granite Systems, Inc., a leading provider in configuration management solutions to the telecommunications industry worldwide. His company is a rapidly growing success because of its innovative approaches to supporting a wide array of network technologies. This allows Granite Systems the chance to do business with a wider

spectrum of clients and to solidify their golden reputation in the fast-paced world of telecommunications technology.

Under Jay's strong leadership, his company has maintained a policy of 100 percent employee stock participation, a program intended to create a real difference for all employees if the company reaches its valuation and liquidity goals. He is truly dedicated to furthering the creative development of his employees through work-conducive programs. Because of the examples Jay has set for others, his employees are also deeply committed to high quality service and products.

Jay's sharp business skills and telecommunications experience prove to be just the right combination for a business that shows its success not only in dollar figures, but in the contributions it makes to leading new technologies. His commitment to the advancement of New Hampshire's technological economy is truly commendable. It is companies like Jay's that prove New Hampshire's true competitiveness in the technological field. Jay, it is an honor to represent you in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO KRISTINE WEST—AMERICAN LEGION LADIES AUXILIARY NATIONAL PRESIDENT

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Kristine West for her recent selection as National President of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Kristine's commitment to public service as a member of the American Legion Auxiliary is evident through her long list of accomplishments. In a time where civic duties seem to be waning, Kristine exemplifies true civic pride and involvement. Not only has she been an active member of the Ladies Auxiliary for over 20 years, she has given freely of her time to the town of Sutton as a member of the North Sutton Improvement Society and the Sutton Historical Society; working to better New Hampshire's scenic and historic heritage for all Granite Staters.

Kristine was a member of the American Legion Department of New Hampshire for five years before moving on to national level work. Her ten years of experience as chairwoman of various national committees proves that she is more than capable of handling the position of President. Her commitment to such organizations as Habitat for Humanity, the Education Committee and the Community Service Committee prove her strong dedication to helping surrounding communities and individuals in need.

Kristine's hard work, determination and energy are truly commendable. Her deep concern for the common good is admirable. She has truly demonstrated the qualities of strong leadership which will take her far in her new position. It is an honor to represent her in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO LAUREN E. SIROIS ON
BEING NAMED PRESIDENTIAL
SCHOLAR

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Lauren E. Sirois, of Salem, NH, for being selected as a 2000 Presidential Scholar by the U.S. Secretary of Education.

Of the over 2.5 million graduating seniors nationwide, Lauren is one of only 141 seniors to receive this distinction for academics. This impressive young woman is well-deserving of the title of Presidential Scholar. I wish to commend Lauren for her outstanding achievement.

As a student at Phillips Academy in New Hampshire, Lauren has served as a role model for her peers through her commitment to excellence. Lauren's determination promises to guide her in the future.

It is certain that Lauren will continue to excel in her future endeavors. I wish to offer my most sincere congratulations and best wishes to Lauren. Her achievements are truly remarkable. It is an honor to represent her in the U.S. Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO MARK F. LEVENSON,
DIRECTOR OF THE MANCHESTER
VA MEDICAL CENTER

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mark Levenson upon being appointed the Director of the VA Medical Center in Manchester, NH.

As director, Dr. Levenson will have the responsibility of leading the VA Medical Center into the 21st century. The level of dedication and commitment required by such a prestigious position would seem overwhelming to many, yet Dr. Levenson has proven himself willing and capable of providing the best leadership for the center.

Prior to his appointment as the director for the VA Medical Center, Dr. Levenson served as the acting director of the center. During that 22 month period, Mark dedicated his time to improving medical care access for veterans. His efforts to expand clinics in Manchester and Portsmouth are just some examples of his loyalty and commitment to America's veterans.

Dr. Levenson has used each and every day of his career with the VA Medical Center to remind his peers and the surrounding community of their commitment to those men and women who served our great nation.

As a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces and a friend of the VA Medical Center, I salute the selfless efforts of Dr. Levenson. His leadership will prove invaluable as he assumes the position of director, and I wish him all the best in his endeavors. It is truly an honor to represent Dr. Levenson in the U.S. Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO MARY NOUCAS—
OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Nocas, for her recognition as an Outstanding Volunteer by the New Hampshire Partners in Education.

In a world full of waning civic responsibility, it is always heartwarming to hear of selfless citizens devoting time to their communities. Mary's tireless dedication to Portsmouth schools has garnered her state-wide recognition for her efforts. She initially started working at the Dondero Elementary School when her children started kindergarten seven years ago in order to become more fully involved in their education. She offered to sign up for everything to get to know the teachers and the parents better, and hasn't stopped since. Her work now stretches to other schools in the area as well.

Mary has established a number of successful programs at the school, such as the Class Popcorn Giveaway and the Magical Mailbox program, heads numerous committees, and has overseen countless art shows, bake sales and book fairs. She puts together the middle school newsletter and continues to do publicity for the elementary school. She truly enjoys volunteering and cites her love of children as the driving force behind her efforts.

Mary's work is truly inspirational and typifies what is good about American citizens today. Without the help of dedicated volunteers, our schools would not be able to run smoothly, and it is the children who ultimately would suffer. It is truly an honor to represent her in the U.S. Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO McLANE, GRAF,
RAULERSON AND MIDDLETON—
NH BUSINESS IN THE ARTS
AWARD WINNER

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to McLane, Graf, Raulerson and Middleton upon their recognition as a 2000 New Hampshire "Business in the Arts" award winner in the medium-sized company category.

The firm has been a long time contributor to the development of the arts in New Hampshire. They not only donate time and money to various arts events, but they have established themselves on numerous boards and sponsorships and are well-known for distributing complimentary tickets to clients and friends. This extensive sponsorship of different arts programs is carried out on a more personal level by the firm's employees, whose individual contributions of time and money make a significant impact on the organizations they support.

The firm has placed a considerable interest in promoting musical events throughout the State, and avidly supports the Opera League of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Symphony

Orchestra, the Portsmouth Music Hall, the Concord Community Music School and the Nashua Symphony, to name a few. Their list of achievements stretches even further to other venues of the arts as well, such as the Palace Theater in Manchester, the Currier Gallery of Art and Strawberry Banke, a historical site in Portsmouth.

This strong commitment by the firm to providing the opportunity for arts programs to come to the State is truly commendable. The firm understands the true importance of the arts in communities, and without their generous support, these programs would not be possible. The firm has taken on new projects, most notably a year 2000 celebration with cultural activities such as a Black Heritage Trail and a YMCA art auction. These sort of events enrich the lives of the entire community and prove that private businesses can indeed make a huge impact on bringing the arts to all citizens. It is an honor to serve the firm and its employees in the U.S. Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO J. MICHAEL HICKEY,
2000 YANKEE AWARD RECIPIENT

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Michael Hickey, for his recognition by the Yankee Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America as the 2000 Yankee Award Recipient.

Mike is the president and CEO of Bell Atlantic New Hampshire, a company that faithfully upholds the ideals of corporate responsibility, good citizenship and core values. Mike has taken the role of CEO to a whole new level of relationship building by embracing those around him, not only within his company, but within the surrounding community as well. He consistently works hard to ensure that all employee and business concerns are met and addressed. It is his dedication to relationship building that exemplifies what public relations is all about.

Mike is an extraordinary leader who leads by example, most notably by his involvement with numerous non-profit organizations. As chairman of Kids Voting New Hampshire and the former campaign chairman of the Greater Manchester United Way, Mike demonstrates the importance of civic responsibility and giving back to the community. He listens carefully to others and diligently tries to bring the disenfranchised into the inner circle. He makes people feel included and valued. His board membership in the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the NH Business & Industry Association, and the NH High Tech Council prove his true commitment to the advancement of New Hampshire's businesses and economy. He is the type of leader who encourages those around him to give above and beyond one hundred percent of themselves. As a result, Bell Atlantic sponsors a number of community events aimed at educating and guiding youths and adults throughout the state, such as the Smithsonian