

I commend the congregation of Christ Episcopal Church on their continued commitment to maintain high standards of worship, music and fellowship for a church of 220 parishioners. I am pleased to join with the St. Joseph community and the State of Missouri in congratulating the congregation and wishing them continued growth and success for the next 150 years.●

#### HONORING CURTIS GIBSON

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise to recognize a young man who represents the best of Montana, Curtis Gibson. Curtis has distinguished himself as an intelligent, self-motivated Eagle Scout from troop nine in Billings and I am proud to speak about his accomplishment today. I would like to begin by stating that Curtis is the son of Robert and Linda Gibson and the brother of Kelly Gibson, who is also an Eagle Scout.

As you may know, a Boy Scout is called to follow a strict code of conduct. He must be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind and brave. I am proud to say that Curtis Gibson embodies all of these attributes. While upholding the principles of the Scout oath and law, a potential Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges and prove to be a capable and effective leader. Moreover, he must also show that he has planned, developed, and led others in various service projects. I am here to affirm that Curtis has met these criteria and has recently been awarded the rank of Eagle Scout.

Along the way to becoming an Eagle Scout, Curtis organized 20 scouts from Troop Nine to improve Montana's park system. They designed and constructed covered information kiosks at the entrances to Two Moon Park and Norm Schoenthal Island to benefit the Yellowstone River Parks Association and the Yellowstone County Parks Department. These scouts volunteered more than 100 hours during the school year to complete the project and I am grateful for his dedication to the greater Billings community. Curtis's project certainly benefits our park systems, but it also serves Troop Nine and those who gave their time for service and leadership.

I am proud to say that Curtis has been involved in scouting for more than ten years and that he has spent six of those years with Troop Nine. Even though Saint Bernard's Parish in the Billings Heights is their home, Curtis has allowed his scouting activities to take him to Minnesota, Wyoming, South Dakota, the Florida Keys and Canada. In addition, Curtis recently joined Venture Crew Seven. This group joins together experienced Boy Scouts in the Billings area for extensive outdoor activities and service projects. However, Curtis has not limited himself solely to scouting. He is an active member of the student body at Skyview High School where he com-

petes on the varsity swim team. Last year Curtis was named to the Montana all-state swim team.

Once again, I would like to express my appreciation to Curtis for his dedication to the state of Montana and his service to the city of Billings. Curtis has prepared himself well for a lifetime of leadership. The youth of our communities will certainly one day, direct the future greatness of our Nation. It gives me great joy to see that Curtis has taken an active role to ensure the continued success and triumph of Montana and the United States.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT "BUD" CLAY

● Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a World War II veteran who brought hope to an occupied people.

On May 24th for more than half a century, the residents of the former German-occupied Als Island off the coast of Denmark celebrated Robert "Bud" Clay as a hero. However, until recently, Bud was unaware of this honor.

Robert B. Clay was a Lieutenant Colonel in the 351st Bomb Group stationed in Polebrook, England during World War II. He was leading a B-17 bombing raid when things went terribly wrong. The plane's engines started failing one by one. Bud steered the plane toward neutral Sweden, but with the failure of an additional engine, it was clear that they would be unable to escape enemy territory. After ensuring that eight of the ten crewmen had safely bailed out of the plane, Clay and his copilot attempted a crash-landing in a nearby grassy clearing on Als Island.

Als Island was first occupied by German troops in 1939. The crashing of the B-17 on May 24, 1944 was seen by the people of the island as a symbol of approaching liberation. In fact, the plane was such a beacon of hope to them that the people of Als Island kept pieces of the wrecked B-17 not only as souvenirs but also as near-sacred tokens. One woman even made her wedding dress using fabric taken from one of the pilot's parachutes.

All the crewmen in Lieutenant Colonel Clay's plane survived the flight, but were taken as prisoners-of-war. Clay was held captive as a POW for one year in camps near Sagon, Nuremburg, and finally Mooseburg, Germany.

Then on the 28th of April, 1945, Bud saw the stars and stripes being flown from a tall building in an adjacent town. He suddenly realized that liberation was on its way. An experience uncannily like the Danes who viewed his plane's crash as a harbinger of freedom.

For 40 years Clay did not speak of his experience. He was the pilot of the mission and harbored feelings of guilt and responsibility, for the crash, for his crew being taken as POWs, and for not being able to finish out other missions.

However, as he was looking through a war-reunion newsletter two years

ago, Clay recognized a photograph of the plane wreckage and the hills and farmhouses surrounding it. An islander had taken the picture as a boy and published the photo and story in hopes of finding the Americans whose crash-landing has been celebrated for decades.

This year will be the first year that Clay will be part of that celebration. He and five others from his bomber crew have been invited to personally attend the ceremonies that have been held in their honor for 56 years.

Clay will forever live as a hero in the memories of Als Island people. He has received e-mails and letters from them expressing their thanks. They have told him that seeing his plane helped them realize for the first time that help was on the way. I am very proud that this great man, who continues to serve in his local community, will finally receive the personal recognition he earned so long ago.●

#### MIAMI EDISON MIDDLE SCHOOL

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to share with you a remarkable story.

As sweeping a statement as this is, the story of Miami Edison Middle School is truly the story of America in the 20th Century.

It is the story of immigration, with all its challenges, and all its rewards.

It is the story of hard work, of culture differences, and cross-cultural understanding.

It is the story of a city, and a neighborhood and how each generation that passes through leaves behind a layer to build on.

With its Art Deco auditorium and full-sized gymnasium, Miami Edison High School, originally called Dade County Agricultural High, was as magnificent a structure as you could imagine when it was built in 1928.

Through the school, one can trace the growth and transformation of the face of Miami, and indeed, the country.

When it opened in what was then Lemon City, a swath of land surrounded by lemon and orange groves, the entire student body was white.

My wife, Adele, was a student there, as were many of the men and women who are today some of Florida's most respected citizens, including Congressman CLAY SHAW and his wife, Emilie, historian Arva Moore Parks and Miami Dolphins football star Nat Moore.

By the 1960s, most of the students were Hispanic.

A new high school for the area was built in 1978 and Edison became a middle school.

Today, the majority of students are of Haitian descent or are recent Haitian immigrants. Edison High School has the highest percentage in the state of students still learning English. It has the lowest math and reading tests scores. It has far too many students living in poverty.

The original high-school building, however, looks much the same as it did when it was built, only better.

For years Edison, like many urban schools, was left to crumble. Finally, school and county officials decided it was time to put this piece of Florida history in the path of the wrecking ball. To many Edison alumni, organized as the "Over the Hill Gang, this was unconscionable.

In an age when too many children are being taught in makeshift classrooms, trailers and former utility closets, we were sacrificing what could truly have been called a temple of learning. We were carelessly trampling our history and taking down with it the too-long-lost tradition of teaching our children in school buildings that reflect that grandeur of what goes on inside their walls.

A group of Edison alumni including Arva Moore Parks, one of Florida's great voices for preserving our history, fought to save the school.

In 1992, Dade County agreed to keep the original school standing and refurbish it to meet the needs of today's students.

While the alumni group had the best intentions, the parents of today's Edison students were wary, and not without cause.

The neighborhood had been promised a new middle school in 1988. It was supposed to be completed by 1992. Instead, children were still trying to learn in a decaying, leaking building.

The move to preserve the old school looked, to many neighborhood parents, like another broken promise.

In the end, the families of that area got the best of both worlds. The building, restored by architect Richard Heisenbottle of Coral Gables, is a magnificent melding of old and new. The architectural elements of the past are bolstered by a new wing, new lighting, plumbing and air-conditioning. Old classrooms were gutted and refurbished. The original wood floor of the gymnasium remains in place along with a 1,700-seat auditorium with Deco light fixtures and a carved, wraparound balcony. In 1997 the architect, the alumni group, the Dade County School Board and the Dade Heritage Trust received one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's prestigious honor awards for the project.

The building itself is a tribute to all involved, but strangely enough, it may not be the most important structure that grew out of this effort. The men and women who fought to save the school also built a sturdy bridge connecting Miami's immigrants to its old guard, its present to its past.

One United Band: The Edison Linkage Foundation was formed to reassure the community's parents that today's students mattered as much to the alumni as the school building.

The foundation raises money for an aggressive mentoring program that offers a stipend to successful students at Edison High School to tutor younger, at-risk children and to serve as role models for navigating the challenging and often frightening world of adolescence.

For some immigrant children, that world is even more frightening than for most young people.

Language barriers are just a small part of the problem many of these children face. Some came from Haiti directly to middle school without having had any formal education before. They are illiterate in their own language as well as a new one.

Many live in poverty, with families who cannot spend as much time with them as they'd like to and cannot help them with their homework.

Tutors can help fill in the blanks, bridge the gaps that keep them from reading, understanding, learning and staying in school. They can offer a living, breathing vision of something to strive for.

The program has been a resounding success. In the 1999-2000 school year, 26 middle-school students showed measurable academic gains after being tutored.

Of the student's tutored, 15 percent were non-readers. Those students are now reading at a level three and above.

Meanwhile, the graduating seniors who served as tutors are all headed for college this fall.

The money to pay for the tutors' time is raised from Edison alumni scattered around the country and through fund-raisers including shows and sales of Haitian art.

The art shows are both a fund-raising tool for the mentoring program and college scholarships, and a source of pride for children from Haitian families.

The third of these will take place May 21, 2001, in the Florida House in Washington, D.C.

All of this has been thanks to the hard work of a number of dedicated volunteers and professionals. These include: Martha Anne Collins, Linkage Foundation administrator; Ron Major, Edison Middle School principal; John Walker, coordinator of the tutoring program and an assistant principal at Miami Edison High School; Alma King-Jones, Middle School coordinator and administrative assistant to the principal; Betsy Kaplan of the Dade County School Board; historian Arva Moore Parks and my wife, Adele Khoury Graham, who co-chaired the Linkage Foundation; Charles Key, Linkage Foundation treasurer; Fred and Mary Exum and the "Over the Hill Gang", who have helped coordinate the brick donation program for the Dade County Public School system.

All these people, and many more, are responsible for the vision, and then the reality, that became the Edison Middle School and the Linkage Foundation.

These men and women reached across generations and through racial and cultural divides to unite Miami today with the Miami of yesterday.

In doing so, they have helped create a source of hope and opportunity for the Miami of tomorrow.●

#### 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAN DO, INC

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize a driving economic force in Hazleton, PA. CAN DO, Inc., Community Area New Development Organization, has served the Greater Hazleton area with economic development initiatives since its founding in 1956.

With the decline of the coal mining industry in the 1950s, Hazleton suffered terrible unemployment and low community morale, and several members of the community took it upon themselves to reverse the high-unemployment trend in the region. With that, Dr. Edgar L. Dessen and a group of community leaders formed CAN DO. CAN DO's initial purpose was to raise money to turn around the difficult time that the community was experiencing.

With its tremendous fundraising efforts, CAN DO raised almost \$750,000, which was enough to purchase land for the development of an industrial park. In less than a year, Valmont Industrial Park was completed, providing an outstanding facility for businesses to call home. General Foam Company was the first firm to occupy the space and created 100 new jobs. This was just the beginning of the great work that CAN DO would do.

Many years and several facilities later, CAN DO has revitalized Greater Hazleton in many ways. The dedication of the leadership in CAN DO is phenomenal, and it is without a doubt that they have changed the lives of many Northeastern Pennsylvania residents. When economic times were tough in the 1950s, CAN DO displayed the courage and initiative to revitalize their community.

As they celebrate their 45th anniversary I would like to congratulate them with the following resolution:

Whereas CAN DO is an economic development agency serving Greater Hazleton in Northeastern Pennsylvania, and,

Whereas CAN DO was founded in 1956 as a grass-roots movement to attract new industries to Greater Hazleton as the anthracite coal industry failed, and,

Whereas CAN DO has created four industrial parts—Valmont Industrial Park, Humboldt Industrial Park, McAdoo Industrial and the CAN DO Corporate Center, and,

Whereas CAN DO has been responsible for more than 280 development projects, and,

Whereas CAN DO has been responsible for the creation of more than 11,000 current jobs in Greater Hazleton, and

Whereas CAN DO has been responsible for the creation of a tax base worth millions of dollars, and,

Whereas CAN DO has been recognized nationally for the quality of their work in the field of economic development, and

Whereas CAN DO has worked cooperatively with other governing and volunteer bodies to improve the general quality of life for every man, woman, and child in and around Greater Hazleton, and,

Whereas CAN DO is this year celebrating its 45th anniversary,

Therefore, be it declared that CAN DO is to be congratulated for reaching such an important milestone in its long, distinguished history, and