

Hispanic contributions to Michigan's businesses abound. The Kellogg Company, founded and headquartered in Battle Creek, is the world's leading cereal producer. It has millions of customers in over 160 countries. At present, the chief executive officer is Carlos Gutierrez, who started at Kellogg's as a sales representative in Mexico City over 25 years ago.

Other prominent Hispanics with ties to Michigan include Antonia Novello, who started her medical career at the University of Michigan. In 1990, she became the first woman U.S. Surgeon General, and the first Hispanic American to hold the post.

Grammy-winning musician Jose Feliciano, a native of Puerto Rico, made his professional debut at the Retort Coffee House in Detroit in 1963. He is, perhaps, most famous for his Latin-soul version of the Doors' hit, "Light My Fire," a blues-rock rendition of the "Star-Spangled Banner" performed at a 1968 World Series game between Detroit and St. Louis, and the Christmas classic, "Feliz Navidad."

Rebecca Arenas received the "Caesar Chavez Civil Rights Achievement Award" in 2000 for her work to improve the lives of Hispanics generally, and migrant workers in particular. Rebecca's parents brought her to Michigan from Crystal City, TX, when she was 5. They were migrant workers who chose Michigan because they believed Rebecca would get a better education. Rebecca has passed this commitment to education on to her children, all seven of whom have received a postsecondary education. Rebecca has worked tirelessly to increase Hispanics' access to education and health care and to boost their voter registration.

Hispanic Americans constitute the fastest growing segment of our population. Right now, one in eight Americans is Hispanic—about 32 million Americans. By 2050, one in four Americans will be Hispanic. Hispanic Americans are the fastest growing small business owners nationwide. Hispanic Americans will purchase \$580 billion in goods and services this year. By 2007, that purchasing power will increase by 315 percent to \$926 billion.

Cities such as Los Angeles, San Antonio, New York, and Miami traditionally have been centers of Hispanic influence. Increasingly, however, Hispanics and Hispanic Americans are moving to other parts of the country, such as Arkansas, Georgia, and North Carolina. This shift in migration will spread Hispanic culture and influence throughout the country.

As we celebrate and commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month, we must also acknowledge the challenges facing the community—and the country—that lie ahead. Too many Hispanic American youth are incarcerated. Hispanic Americans have a lower rate of educational achievement than the national average. A higher than average number of Hispanic Americans live in poverty.

Congress can and must help Hispanic Americans by pursuing fair and mean-

ingful immigration reforms; supporting Hispanic education programs, increasing access to higher education, helping the economy to create good jobs at decent wages, and restoring benefits to legal immigrants under the Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program—SCHIP.

So, Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to celebrate what has been accomplished and recognize what still needs to be done. I congratulate Hispanic Americans in Michigan and across America for their wonderful contributions to our country. And I pledge my efforts to ensuring that more Hispanic Americans have access to the great opportunities our country has to offer.

FEMA FIRE ACT GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I wish to offer a few remarks in support of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, commonly known as FIRE Act grants. The FIRE Act grant program was established in fiscal year 2001, due in large part to the efforts of my distinguished colleague from Connecticut, Senator DODD.

Since its inception, the program has assisted firefighters across the Nation. I am especially pleased that this program has been a shining example of an effective partnership between local and Federal Governments. It provides Federal assistance to meet local objectives without imposing mandates or interfering with local prerogatives, and it provides Federal dollars directly to the fire departments. It also addresses critical needs, awarding grants for training, wellness and fitness programs, vehicles, firefighting equipment, personal protective equipment, and fire prevention.

FIRE Act grants have had a positive and very tangible impact on communities throughout the country, including in my home State of Wisconsin. In fiscal year 2002, as of October 1, 2002 my State received \$2.445 million in grants awarded to 41 departments.

These grants help firefighters to do their job better, make our neighborhoods safer, and, very importantly, give residents peace of mind. Increasing the training and equipment available to firefighters fosters an environment of enhanced safety between firefighters and the communities they serve. Keeping our communities safe has been and should continue to be a top priority for all of us. As the tragic events of September 11 have shown our Nation, local firefighters play a vital role to protect and secure our communities. We should give them the support they need.

As I travel through Wisconsin and talk to local firefighters and emergency response personnel, I hear the same refrain, time after time: the FIRE Act grant program is vital to their work and has enabled them to get needed equipment and training that they would otherwise be unable to afford.

We have taken up funding for the FIRE Act grant program in this body numerous times since its inception. In the wake of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. on September 11, 2001, the Congress amended the fiscal year 2002 Department of Defense Authorization Act to provide increased authorization levels to allow up to \$900 million per year to be allocated for the FIRE Act grant program. The program was also expanded to allow grant applicants to apply for equipment and training funds to help firefighters respond to terrorist attacks or attacks using weapons of mass destruction. Additionally, Congress, through both the fiscal year 2002 VA-HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations bill and the Homeland Security package in the fiscal year 2002 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, appropriated \$360 million to the FIRE Act grant program.

As we finalize our appropriations bills this year we should continue to allocate resources to this important program. Keeping our communities safe has been and should continue to be a top priority for all of us. As the tragic events of September 11 have shown our Nation, local firefighters play a vital role to protect and secure our communities. We should give them the support they need.

THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED BALLISTICS INFORMATION NETWORK

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I wish to bring the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network or NIBIN to the attention of my colleagues. NIBIN is an interconnected, computer-assisted ballistics imaging system that allows forensic firearms examiners to obtain computerized images of the unique marking made on bullets and casings when a gun is fired. Through NIBIN, investigators can rapidly compare these markings with images in the database of Federal, State, and local law enforcement laboratories. Law enforcement officials can then link evidence from multiple crime scenes, identify patterns of criminal activity, and possibly lead investigators to the arrest of suspects.

As an investigative instrument, ballistics imaging complements crime gun tracing. Crime gun tracing consists of tracking the history of a gun used to commit a crime. By tracing crime guns, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms helps State and local law enforcement agencies solve firearms-related crime by identifying suppliers of multiple-crime guns, and gun trafficking patterns. According to an ATF report, since March 2000, the NIBIN in coordination with crime gun tracing efforts has produced more than 8,800 ballistics matches, linking over 17,600 crime scenes. Some of these matches would not have been made without the use of a computer-assisted ballistics imaging system.

I believe that the NIBIN should be expanded, and that is why I have co-sponsored the Ballistics, Law Assistance, and Safety Technology Act or BLAST which would require licensed firearms manufacturers to test fire firearms, prepare ballistics images of fired bullets and casings of new firearms. Expanding NIBIN to include these ballistics images would increase ATF's crime gun tracing capabilities. ATF agents could quickly identify firearms even when criminals had obliterated the serial number by using the ballistics images of cartridge cases and bullets recovered at crime scenes. In fact, they could identify the firearm used in the crime without actually recovering that firearm. This bill contains strict provisions stating that ballistics information of individual guns may not be used for prosecutorial purposes unless law enforcement officials have a reasonable belief that a crime has been committed and that ballistics information would assist in the investigation of that crime.

I believe this is sensible legislation that will strengthen law enforcement's ability to effectively track down criminals and I urge my colleagues to support it.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENT

TRIBUTE TO STEVE JORDAN

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant and marine scientist, Steve Jordan. Steve is retiring after a distinguished 28-year career with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, in higher educational institutions in Maryland and with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I want to extend my personal congratulations and thanks for his many years of service and contributions to improving our research and management capabilities in the Chesapeake Bay and one of the Bay's premier research laboratories, the Oxford Cooperative Lab.

Steve has dedicated nearly three decades of his life to solving some of the key living marine resource problems of the Chesapeake Bay, the diseases that have devastated the Bay's oyster populations, the loss of critical habitat, and the impacts of pollutants and low dissolved oxygen on the Bay's finfish and shellfish populations. A graduate of The American University, Steve worked his way through a master's degree in Biology at Morehead State College in Kentucky and a Ph.D. in marine, estuarine and environmental science from the University of Maryland. He was selected as a Sea Grant Fellow with the University of Maryland and Horn Point Environmental Laboratory and served as a faculty research associate with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore before being named to head up the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Habitat Impacts Program which managed

several aspects of Maryland's participation in the Chesapeake Bay Program.

I came to know Steve 10 years ago when he was appointed director of the Oxford Cooperative Laboratory in Oxford, MD. For those who are not familiar with the Oxford Lab, it is a unique partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Located on a tidal tributary of the Chesapeake Bay, the lab has long been considered one of the preeminent centers in the Nation for its work in diagnosing all aspects of diseases, infectious and non-infectious, which affect living marine resources. At the time that Steve joined the facility, the laboratory was 33 years old and in great need of capital improvements. The poor physical condition of the facility was contributing significantly to low employee morale and a high staff attrition rate. Thanks to Steve's creative leadership, a major renovation and expansion of the laboratory was completed, leveraging a \$750,000 Federal appropriation into a \$2 million project through the use of DNR construction crews. The project not only served as a model for interagency cooperation, but provided substantial savings to the taxpayers as well. Steve also added new research programs, modern equipment, and helped bring about a renewed workplace atmosphere.

In addition to his management responsibilities and achievements, Steve has continued to conduct research that is vital to improving our understanding of the Bay's living marine resources. He has published or contributed to numerous studies and symposia on oyster diseases, lesions in fish, and other critical problems. He has chaired or participated in many work groups examining key living resource research needs and management strategies and is a member or leader of half a dozen professional associations including the American Fisheries Society, National Shellfisheries Association, Atlantic Estuarine Research Society, and National Association of Marine Laboratories. In recognition of his outstanding service, Steve has received numerous awards and commendations, including certificates of appreciation from both the Chesapeake Bay Program and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and an excellence award from Maryland Governor Schaefer for the Chesapeake Executive Council.

The efforts of Steve Jordan throughout the past 28 years have earned him the respect and admiration of everyone with whom he has worked. The Chesapeake Bay restoration effort has been enhanced due to his labors and the Cooperative Oxford Laboratory has been renewed. I want to extend my personal congratulations and thanks for his many years of hard work and dedication and wish him the best in his future endeavors.●

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT

• Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and all its workers, past and present, on the occasion of the facility's upcoming 50th anniversary, which will be celebrated by the Paducah community on October 24th.

The Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant is currently the only operating uranium enrichment facility in the United States. Production of enriched uranium began in Paducah in 1952, and the plant has operated continuously since that time. Until 1964, the plant's output was almost entirely for the purposes of national defense as it produced fissionable material for our country's nuclear arsenal. The Paducah workers during that period played a vital role in securing our freedom and helped America prevail in the cold war. Unfortunately, the Federal Government didn't always do right by the workers, who were often exposed to hazardous conditions and materials which would later sicken and even kill some. Even today, we are still working to correct this shameful injustice.

After 1964, Paducah production began shifting to enriched uranium for commercial nuclear reactors; helping to provide the benefits of cleanly generated electric power to millions of people. After 1973, Paducah no longer enriched uranium for military purposes. However, the plant continues to help create a more secure world as the U.S. recipient for nuclear materials from the former Soviet arsenal. Under the Megatons to Megawatts program, nuclear weapons are dismantled in Russia and the nuclear material is shipped to Paducah where it is repackaged and shipped worldwide for civilian electric power production.

Over the last half century, a number of companies have operated the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Company, (later Union Carbide) was the original operator of the plant. Successor operators included Martin Marietta Energy Systems, Lockheed Martin Energy Systems, and finally United States Enrichment Corporation, which took over direct operation of the plant in 1999, and continues as the operator today. Today 1,500 workers are employed at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. What is remarkable is that despite the past sins of the Federal Government, these employees remain dedicated to their jobs and the important work they perform every day. It is a testament to those individuals in particular and this region in general.

In addition to the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant itself, an entire complex of supporting plants were built to support enrichment activities at Paducah. Two electric generating plants were constructed to supply the large power demands of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. These were the TVA