

These diseases, which include lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, scleroderma, multiple sclerosis, Guillain-Barré syndrome, fibromyalgia, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, Graves' disease, Epstein-Barr virus and chronic active hepatitis, are heartbreaking and debilitating. In virtually all of these diseases the female-to-male ratios are dramatically skewed toward women, in some cases by ratios as high as 50 to 1.

Autoimmune diseases remain among the most poorly understood and poorly recognized of any category of illnesses, and although science suggests they may have a genetic component, they can cluster in families as different illnesses. For example, a mother may have lupus; her daughter, diabetes; and her grandmother, rheumatoid arthritis.

To help women live longer, healthier lives, more research is needed to shed light on genetic as well as hormonal and environmental risk factors that contribute to the causes of autoimmune diseases, as well as providing early diagnosis and treatment.

The legislation I have introduced addresses all of these issues. It directs the Office on Women's Health to conduct or support research to expand the understanding of the causes of, and develop methods for preventing, autoimmune diseases in women, including African American women and other women who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups. It calls for more epidemiological studies to address the frequency and natural history of these diseases and the differences among women and men.

The bill also promotes the development of safe, efficient and cost-effective diagnostic approaches to evaluating women with suspected autoimmune diseases, as well as clinical research on new treatments and rehabilitation for women. Finally, it provides for expanded information and education programs for patients and health care providers on genetic, hormonal, and environmental risk factors associated with autoimmune diseases in women, as well as the prevention and control of such risk factors.

Autoimmune diseases run the gamut from mild to disabling to life threatening. Nearly all affect women at far greater rates than men. The question before the scientific community is "why?" We have come a long way in the diagnosis and treatment of autoimmune disease. But more work is desperately needed, more information must be made available, and more resources must be devoted to this effort.

The Women's Autoimmune Diseases Research and Prevention Act can contribute to the growing body of knowledge about these awful illnesses. But it is not enough to simply understand these diseases well. We must ensure that the millions of American women stricken with autoimmune disease also live long, and well.●

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO ROXANNE GRIDER

● Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I rise to honor Roxanne Grider of Bullitt Central High School in Shepherdsville, KY.

I am extremely proud to announce that Ms. Grider is one of only 10 special education teachers in the Nation to receive the 2002 Shaklee Award for outstanding teachers of students with disabilities. She also is the first Kentuckian to receive this distinction since the award's inception 5 years ago. This award is given by the Glenda B. and Forrest C. Shaklee Institute for Improving Special Education and includes a \$1000 prize and a trip to Wichita, KS for a conference featuring previous award winners and representatives of the Shaklee Institute.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in history and secondary education from Centre College in Danville, KY, Roxanne looked for a job as a high school history teacher. Fortunately for the special education community, she had no luck finding a teaching job in the field of history. Due to the rising demand for special education teachers, Roxanne was immediately offered a position in the Hopkins County School system. After going through an emergency certification process, Roxanne headed back to the classroom to focus her studies on helping those less fortunate individuals. She eventually received her master's degree, special education certificate, and Rank 1, which means she took 30 hours beyond her master's degree, from the University of Louisville. Ten years has now passed since she took that first job, and I believe Roxanne has taken full advantage of what appeared to be a professional mishap.

In her teaching career, Roxanne has set herself apart due to her innovative mind and enduring spirit. In the classroom, she empowers her students with real-life responsibilities such as planning and cooking meals, cleaning, and shopping. In the fall, her class has its own business, the B.C. Cookie and Candle Co., which sells glass jars filled with layers of cookie ingredients and topped with fabric covered lid. She wants all of her students to believe in themselves and what they can accomplish in life. It would be very easy and probably convenient for her to treat these children as if they were helpless, but she refuses to look at them in such a manner. For Roxanne, these children have the opportunity to live a proactive life full of adventure and action. Ultimately, she wants all of her students to have a job when they finish. Although it may not have been the field she wanted to enter, special education turned out to be the field Roxanne was destined to enter. She has touched many lives and truly made a difference.

I once again congratulate Roxanne for being honored with such a prestigious award. I am proud to have such an amazing and talented woman looking after Kentucky's special children.●

#### HONORING THOMAS V. DOOLEY OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE AFL-CIO

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Thomas V. Dooley for his years of devotion and commitment to the Middlesex County, NJ AFL-CIO Labor Council. Mr. Dooley is retiring from his position as president after many years of outstanding service.

A devoted father and husband, Mr. Dooley has played an important and prominent role in Middlesex County labor. Labor has a long history in this country for speaking up for the concerns of workers who would otherwise not be heard. But through the leadership and guidance of people such as Thomas Dooley their voices are being heard and action is being taken. As the International Representative for the Paper, Allied Industrial, Chemical and Energy Worker International Union of New Jersey, Thomas has been an effective and powerful voice for his members on a variety of critical issues.

Thomas Dooley has also been very involved in the community. He is currently vice president of the David B. Crabel Scholarship Foundation, the Assistant Treasurer for the Middlesex County Board of Social Services and is a member of the Board of Directors for New Brunswick Tomorrow. He has excelled in his career, in his community and has dedicated his entire life towards helping others.

So I join with Thomas Dooley's brothers and sisters in the labor movement in recognizing his service to the community, his countless acts of compassion, and his commitment to working men and women. May his spirit of service and community be a model for all of us to admire and emulate.●

#### IDAHO TEACHER OF THE YEAR

● Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, today President Bush is recognizing the national Teacher of the Year, and I want to join him in recognizing teachers across America for the vital work they do. I come from a family of educators, so I have seen firsthand the impact teachers have on children. They do this because they care about each and every child they teach. These public servants deserve our gratitude and thanks.

While I believe this can be said of all teachers, I would like to recognize one particular teacher today who embodies this sentiment. She is Jennifer Williams, of Nampa, ID, and she was chosen by my State as Teacher of the Year.

One look at her career shows why she was chosen as the Teacher of the Year. She has dedicated 29 years of her life to teaching, and those 29 years have been full of innovation and a real love for education. Not only has she been busy in the classroom, she has also found time for activities which enrich the community and help kids outside of school. For example, she has co-chaired Boise's Art for Kids project and created

a youth art program through which she and her students go to rural communities to help children with art lessons.

While these activities are important, her classroom work is what truly sets her apart. She has received many awards for this work in the past, including being named Mountain Home School District's teacher of the year in 1991, as well as receiving the 1992 USWest Outstanding Teacher Award, the 2000 Governor's Award in the Arts, the 2001 Idaho Art Teacher of the Year, and the 2001 Unsung Heroes Award.

Her students adore her and her peers respect her. This what every teacher strives for, and Nancy has earned this regard. As Marilyn Howard, the Idaho State Superintendent of Education, said, "Mrs. Williams stands out as one of those individuals who is a teacher in everything she does, not just in the classroom working with students, but also in her workplace and in her community. Her passion and dedication show in her accomplishments."

As you can see, Jennifer Williams is truly a treasure for her school, for Idaho, and indeed for the Nation in general. Teachers like Jennifer make education a rewarding experience for students and parents alike. I am proud that the State of Idaho chose her as its Teacher of the Year. She is a great example for the rest of the State and the Nation, and I hope this award gives her a platform so she can help other teachers to excel as she has.●

#### UNITED WAY OF CHITTENDEN COUNTY CELEBRATES ITS SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I rise today to recognize a group of Vermonters who have long served our state. It is with much pride and admiration that I congratulate the United Way of Chittenden County for 60 years of service in the greater Burlington area.

For the past 60 years, the United Way of Chittenden County has been providing relief and assistance to its community. In October of 1942, founders Henry Way, C.P. Hasbrook, and I. Munn Boardman started the Burlington Community Chest. The chest's first campaign raised over \$100,000 to help organizations like the Burlington Boys Club, the YMCA and the Salvation Army. Over the years, the chest evolved into the United Way of Chittenden County, one of Chittenden County's foremost benefactors, a community-based, problem-solving organization. This past year, the United Way of Chittenden County raised a record \$3.75 million to help its neighbors, both local and afar. This is a remarkable sum, and one that reflects the strong commitment of the United Way to support the welfare and growth of Vermont and her people.

The United Way of Chittenden County has become much more than a fund-raising organization. They now train volunteers and coordinate a vast num-

ber of mentoring opportunities in Chittenden County, working with both national programs, like America Reads and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, and local groups, including Vermont's many museums, schools, and conservation societies. The United Way works to make Chittenden County a stronger community, tending to those in need. The many people who work and volunteer for the United Way become community supporters and community leaders. After graduating from law school, I was recruited to do my part and volunteer for the United Way of Chittenden County. It was a meaningful experience and one that has remained in the front of my memory during my 27 years in the U.S. Senate. Just as impressive as the volunteers of the United Way are those who benefit from the United Way's programs. They too become active and contributing members and leaders of their communities.

The organization's actions following the unspeakable events of September 11, 2001, demonstrated the strength and commitment of the United Way of Chittenden County. The United Ways of Vermont contributed \$400,000 to the September 11th Fund, including over \$200,000 from the United Way of Chittenden County. At the same time, the United Way of Chittenden County still managed to raise more funds for Vermont's programs than any previous year. This accomplishment is due in no small part to Campaign Chair Lisa Ventriss, whose devotion ensured that the United Way will continue helping Vermonters, even while it contributes to a national cause of such gravity and importance. This feat is a testament to the generosity and dedication of the United Way of Chittenden County, and of all Vermonters.

I would like to thank Gretchen Morse, the executive director of the United Way of Chittenden County, for her commitment to this organization's success and Vermont's well-being. Her leadership has helped keep the United Way of Chittenden County one of the most cost-effective charities of its kind. Indeed, 85 cents of every dollar collected by the United Way of Chittenden County goes directly back to the community, a number well above the national average. Given this organization's unyielding support, it is no surprise that the United Way State of Caring Index now ranks Vermont as the fifth most caring State in the Union.

Sixty years after its founding, the United Way of Chittenden County remains a model for charitable organizations across the State and across the country. I join the people of Chittenden County, VT, and the entire Nation in thanking the United Way for six decades of community service.●

IN HONOR OF SUSAN S. BENJAMIN UPON BEING SELECTED AS THE 2002 NEW MEXICO TEACHER OF THE YEAR

● Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I rise today to honor Susan S. Benjamin of Los Alamos, NM, who is in the Nation's Capitol today to be recognized as the 2002 New Mexico Teacher of the Year. She was one of 57 teachers from across the country who were honored by President Bush in a White House ceremony today for excellence in their profession. I am honored to have the opportunity to make a few remarks.

For the past 32 years, Susan has been making a difference in children's lives. As an elementary school teacher, she has touched the hearts and minds of her students, while generating interest and enthusiasm in learning. Parents, colleagues, and students all reap praises upon her for the excitement she brings to the classroom.

Previously, Susan has been selected as the Los Alamos Public Schools Teacher of the Year. She also received the New Mexico State Award for Excellence in Math Teaching on two separate occasions.

Through her dedicated service, Susan has earned a national reputation as an outstanding teacher. She has participated in nationwide Activities Integrating Math and Science, AIMS, workshops, working with other teachers to demonstrate techniques for math and science education.

Her efforts to increase student awareness of the importance of science and math education complements many of the ideas expressed in the newly authorized No Child Left Behind Act. Our children need the tools necessary to compete in a marketplace dominated by computers and information technologies that demands a high level of proficiency in math and science. Dedicated teachers like Susan will now have more freedom to develop programs related to technology which will ultimately benefit her students.

Susan has helped set the bar for excellence in teacher quality. I am encouraged to know that a teacher of her caliber will now have greater flexibility in providing her students the skills necessary to succeed in tomorrow's marketplace.

I am proud to honor Susan Benjamin, our 2002 New Mexico Teacher of the Year. On behalf of the Senate and New Mexico, I thank this fellow New Mexican for making a difference in our children's lives.●

#### 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS

● Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, for nearly a century, the Girl Scouts have provided girls with enriching, educational, and above-all fun activities that have helped to mold more than 50 million women. This tradition continues today.

This year the Girl Scouts are celebrating their 90th birthday. I commend