

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

their work in shaping society. The Girl Scouts serves to teach our future leaders and creates a refuge where young women can find themselves.

Their mission is to help all girls to grow strong. They stress the development of a woman's whole being, while fostering physical, mental, and spiritual growth. Girl Scouts enables women to reach their full potential. Not only do the Girl Scouts empower women to strive for their goals, but it teaches them responsibility, values, and decision making skills that are the basic foundations for success.

Since its founding, Girl Scouts across the Nation have been serving our communities. During World War I Girl Scouts learned about food preservation, sold war bonds, and collected peach pits to use in gas mask filters. In the 1950s Girl Scouts were working to break racial discrimination. And today Girl Scouts are on the cusp of technological insight, working hard to end hunger, save the planet, and help support those less fortunate than themselves.

The simplest things that Girl Scouts do impacts everyday people. In the wake of September 11, Girl Scouts across the Nation sent thank-you cards to the rescuers, and contributed \$1 a piece to send to the orphans of Afghanistan. Throughout its long history, Girl Scouts has led efforts to tackle important societal issues and has remained proactive in its commitment to inclusiveness. Today we look to the future and our young people for reassurance. We look to the youth and see promise. We know that girls growing up today will need to take on challenges involving health, economics, politics, and social change. Our future leaders will have to be value conscious, globally aware, technologically skilled, and able to act with self-confidence. These are the very skills the Girl Scouts work to encourage in every girl.

Being a Girl Scout is important to the girls. Only a Girl Scout can explain what it truly means to be part of the organization. A Girl Scout from Illinois put it best:

Being a Girl Scout is really fun. You can learn about growing up in a fun, roundabout kinda way. You can go on a six-day canoe trip or go on a two-hour hike. You can help with the Special Olympics or help someone with their homework. You can make a quilt or make a get-well card. Being a Girl Scout is being what you want to be.

Girl Scouts is about being well-rounded and being yourself.●

#### 2002 PENNSYLVANIA BOYS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

● Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, I seek recognition today to acknowledge the Golden Lancers, the boys basketball team at Bishop Hannan High School in Scranton, PA.

On March 23, 2002, the Lancers won the PIAA Class AA State Boys Basketball Championship, when, in a very close game, the team defeated Sto-Rox,

70-68, becoming the first Lackawanna County team to win a State title since 1993 and the first team from Scranton to take home the title since Bishop Klonowski in 1976.

Each and every member of the team and its coaching staff should be proud of their accomplishment. Their hard work and commitment have produced many awards throughout this past season and will no doubt mean even more in the years to come.

I want to express my congratulations not only to the team and coaches, but to the entire Bishop Hannan community for representing Pennsylvania in such an outstanding manner.●

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO BEN LEBER OF VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate Ben Leber of the Kansas State University Wildcats. Ben, a Vermillion, South Dakota native, was chosen in the third round of the National Football League's 2002 Draft by the San Diego Chargers, and was the 71st overall draft pick.

At Vermillion High School, Ben excelled both in the classroom and on the football field. Ben played offense, as a running back, and defense, as a linebacker. He was a two-time All-State and All-Conference selection and played in the North-South Dakota All-Star game. He was also named to the Academic All-State team and was an honor roll student every year in high school. In 1997, his senior year, he was a Parade All-American, the only player from South Dakota to receive the honor that year, and received an honorable mention to the All-USA team by USA Today. At VHS, Ben also participated in Track and Basketball.

At KSU, where Ben is a Business-General Management major, he started 35 of his last 37 games as an outside linebacker, continuing the school's excellent linebacker tradition. His junior year, Ben was an All-Big Twelve Conference second-team pick. His senior year, he was an All-American third-team selection by the Associated Press and a Consensus All-Big Twelve Conference first-team choice. Ben was also named to the Butkus and Lombardi Award watch lists and was invited to participate in the prestigious Senior Bowl. Ben was a team representative and defensive captain both his junior and senior years. Over the course of his career at KSU, Ben had 216 tackles, 13.5 sacks, 11 passes broken, three forced fumbles and one fumble recovery.

I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Leber family, who have played no small role in Ben's success: his parents Al and Han, his brothers Jason and Aaron, and his sister Gina. I also want to congratulate VHS head football coach Gary Culver, who guided Ben and the Tanagers to the South Dakota 11A State Championship in 1995.

Ben reflects the best of South Dakota, and I know I speak for the entire

state when I congratulate him on being drafted. We are all very proud of him.●

#### TRIBUTE TO RABBI SOLOMON GOLDBERG

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Madam President, I would like to recognize the outstanding contribution that has been made by Rabbi Solomon Goldberg to the Rutland, VT, Jewish Community and to his community at large.

Rabbi Goldberg, retiring after 42 years of service, has been a leader, mentor, and teacher at the Rutland Jewish Center, the regional anchor for Jewish life in central Vermont. His wisdom, compassion, and spiritual leadership have guided hundreds of families in Jewish tradition. He has taken his congregation through the arc of life experiences; from birth to bar and bat mitzvah to marriage and through memorial, his kindness and strength have been a constant source of support for all.

Rabbi Goldberg has also been a fine educator. He has dedicated himself to the work of interfaith teaching, learning and communication, which are so important to the overall understanding and peace between people of different faiths. I know that he intends, even in retirement, to continue this fine work and I commend and encourage him in those endeavors. He is a fine American, and I wish he, his wife Marilyn and their family, all the best as they enjoy this transition in their lives.●

#### ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

● Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, on this the 87th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, I would like to take a few moments to pay tribute to the men, women and children who lost their lives in the 20th centuries' first systematic attempt to extinguish an entire people.

The past century was marred by many acts of unthinkable brutality and genocide. Among these events was the Armenian Genocide. April 24 marked the inception of a brutal campaign to eliminate Armenians from the Turkish Ottoman Empire. It was on this day in 1915 that 300 of the leaders in Istanbul's Armenian community were rounded up, deported and murdered along with 5,000 of the poorest Armenians who were executed in the streets and in their homes. During the period from 1915-1923, approximately 1.5 million Armenians perished under the rule of the Turkish Ottoman Empire. Countless other Armenians fell victim to deportation, expropriation, torture, starvation and massacre. It is out of necessity that all freedom loving people must remain vigilant in their efforts to rebut and refute those who would deny the events of the Armenian genocide ever occurred.

The Armenian genocide was the result of a consciously orchestrated government plan. Henry Morgenthau Sr., the American Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, sent a cable to the U.S.