

of Baton Rouge, LA; Miss Megan Haverstock and Miss Lauren Haverstock; Miss Kathleen Warner of Lynn Haven, FL; Miss Ashley Bageant of Spotsylvania, VA; Miss Annie Ballard of Baton Rouge, LA; Miss Erin Douget of Opelousas, LA.

In closing, I would like to thank the Ms. Foundation—the founder and organizer of this outstanding program that has impacted in a very positive way the lives of millions of girls and has become a tradition for thousands of workplaces across the country.●

IN RECOGNITION OF 1976 BROWN UNIVERSITY IVY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAM

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Brown University's 1976 Ivy League Championship Football Team, which recently was inducted into the Brown University Athletic Hall of Fame. In particular, I want to salute Joe Wirth, an assistant coach of that team, who was inducted into the Brown Hall of Fame in his own right in 1995, and who was an important influence on my own collegiate athletic career.

Joe coached at Brown from 1973 to 1979, and during his tenure, the Brown University Bears compiled an impressive 42-18-1 record. Joe Wirth was a defensive genius, and it certainly showed out on the field—the Brown defense was nationally ranked in five of those seven seasons. In the 1976 championship year, when the Bears led the way with an 8-1 record, they allowed the second-fewest points in the Ivy League. And that stingy defense translated into victories over the traditional league powers: Princeton, Harvard, and Yale. It was the first time in the school's history that they beat all three in the same season.

As if his responsibilities to the football team were not enough, Joe also was the coach of the wrestling team during that time and he helped keep the program alive. He produced a New England Champion in 1976. As one of Joe's co-captains on the 1975-76 wrestling team, I can attest that he had the respect and admiration of all of his wrestlers. We were all so grateful for his leadership and for his encouragement.

Despite the time commitments associated with his football and wrestling teams, Joe remained a family man. With his wife, Carol, he raised a wonderful family of six children.

To this day, Joe Wirth is a popular figure in Brown athletic circles. His players still recall his admonition to never give up "until the last white line is crossed." In honor of his accomplishments as a Brown coach, I will conclude with a toast first offered to the 1976 Ivy League Champions by my classics professor, John Rowe Workman:

To your continued good health
To your continued prosperity
And to the maintenance of the great tradition●

NATIONAL PECAN MONTH

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize National Pecan Month. Each April the nation celebrates the pecan. Used in recipes ranging from pies and candy to soups and salads, the pecan is an important part of New Mexico's diet and economy.

New Mexico is the third largest pecan producing State following Georgia and Texas. The Pecan tree is uniquely native to North America. Pecans were first introduced to New Mexico in the early 1900's at the New Mexico State University and then in the Mesilla Valley. In 1932, the late Dean Stahmann Sr. planted the first commercial Pecan orchard, and pecans quickly became an important product of our State. In 2001, the State of New Mexico produced over 50 million pounds of pecans and had approximately 30,000 acres of pecan trees.

I am proud of the 15 New Mexico counties which produce pecans. Seven of the leading counties in pecan production include Chavez, Dona Ana, Eddy, Lea, Luna, Otero, and Sierra. Dona Ana county has more than 20,000 acres of pecan trees. Eight others including Bernalillo, Curry, De Baca, Grant, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Quay, and Roosevelt are all growing as valuable pecan producing counties.

Pecans not only taste great, but also may provide a way to help American's live healthier lives. A recently released study printed in the Journal of Nutrition reported regular consumption of pecans lowers cholesterol in conjunction with a step I diet of the American Heart Association. I encourage all American's to celebrate National Pecan Month with the people of New Mexico.●

TRIBUTE TO 2002 TEACHER OF THE YEAR: CALIFORNIAN CHAUNCEY VEATCH

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Californian, Chauncey Veatch, whom I am very proud to know. Chauncey Veatch has been bestowed the highest honor available to teachers; he has been named the 2002 "Teacher of the Year."

I have had the honor of meeting Chauncey Veatch on two occasions. First when he became California's Teacher of the Year, and then again today. I could tell from my first meeting with Mr. Veatch that California was lucky to have a teacher like him in the State. His love for teaching and genuine concern for his students was apparent from the way he spoke about his classroom, students, and community.

Mr. Veatch did not always know he wanted to be a teacher. He came to teaching later in his career. He first spent 22 years in the Army infantry and medical services corps, working as a medical administrator.

After retiring in 1995, Mr. Veatch decided to follow in his siblings footsteps

and become a teacher. He currently teaches social studies at Coachella Valley High in Thermal, California. The overwhelming number of his students come from migrant families, and nearly all of his students are Spanish-speaking. Mr. Veatch speaks Spanish to communicate with many of his students and to show respect for their culture.

His students and colleagues know Mr. Veatch as a courteous, tireless worker. He goes the extra mile for his students and his community. It is not uncommon for Mr. Veatch to spend hours after school helping students get caught up on their course work or to get ahead. One of his migrant students had to work with his family until November. A place was saved for him in the classroom, and Mr. Veatch worked with him everyday after school to make sure he caught up with the rest of the class. This is just one example of the many students he has helped.

Mr. Veatch's former principal, Rick Alvarez, said of his colleague: "Believing our students can succeed is not a desire or a facade, but is actually something Chauncey lives. This caring can be seen in his eyes and heard in his voice and felt in his presence, and mostly seen in his actions."

Chauncey Veatch said in the Rose Garden yesterday as President Bush presented him with his award, "If you'd like to be a part of America's tomorrows become a teacher today." Mr. Veatch is a living example of the difference each person can make in the life of a child. Along side him at the ceremony were two of his students whose lives he has touched and undoubtedly changed. His students are his legacy, as he commonly refers to them as his "kids." Through his actions, it is apparent to me that the terms "kids" is not only used a word to describe his classroom, but really how he thinks of his students. They are like family.

From Army Colonel to "Teacher of the Year," I am proud to know you Chauncey Veatch and to call you a Californian. In Mr. Veatch's words, "There is nothing more rewarding, nothing more patriotic than teaching. It is truly a joy and honor to be a teacher. This award belongs to my students."●

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the Senate's attention an exceptional person—Chauncey Veatch, a teacher from Coachella Valley High School in Thermal, California.

He teaches world history, government and ninth-grade career preparation at Coachella Valley High School. He also does much more. He has taught English as a Second Language and citizenship classes in evening adult school. He revived the high school's cadet program, which has grown to 170 students. And he is often found with his students and their families outside of school in the community. Although he has only been teaching since 1995, after 22 years of service in the U.S. Army, Mr. Veatch

has become a mentor and an inspiration not only to his students, but to other teachers as well.

While he has never sought recognition, Chauncey Veatch was selected last year as California Teacher of the Year. More significantly he was recently honored at the White House as the 2002 National Teacher of the year.

Chauncey Veatch believes in his students and demonstrates that belief to them every day. The result is they believe in themselves. Their success in school, and in life, is remarkable.

California is extremely proud of Chauncey Veatch. I am honored to pay tribute to him. As National Teacher of the Year he will travel for a year as an education ambassador. I encourage my colleagues to join me in wishing Chauncey Veatch continued success as he spreads his positive message across our nation and beyond and as he continues his exceptional teaching.●

NUCLEAR SECURITY OFFICERS

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the brave and patriotic security officers who protect the Seabrook Nuclear Power Station in my State of New Hampshire. Recently, allegations have been made that have caused great concern to these highly trained professions. The Local 501 Security, Police and Fire Professionals of America have written a letter to me and provided a position paper representing their views of security at Seabrook Station and responding to the issues raised by others. One particular part of the position paper caught my attention as it exemplifies the character of the brave men and women who serve and protect our nuclear power plants. It reads,

The last thing that you should know about us is that we are your family, your friends and your neighbors. Most of us live within 20 miles of the plant. We have families and children of our own. Everything that we have worked so hard for and love is in close proximity to this plant. We are not cowards and will not run. God forbid the day ever comes, but if it does, we will stay and fight for you and for our friends and families.

I want to thank the President of Local 501, Clifford Bullock, and all of the professionals who are members of Local 501 for providing their well-informed perspective on security at Seabrook Station. Most importantly, Mr. President, I want to thank them for their bravery and commitment to protecting all of us—they are true patriots. I ask that the letter and position paper of Local 501 be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

APRIL 24, 2002.

The Hon. ROBERT SMITH,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SMITH: We understand from news media reports that two former security officers from Seabrook Station are planning to meet with various Congressional staff members to discuss concerns they have about their service at Seabrook.

As the Senator from New Hampshire and the ranking member of the Environment and

Public Works Committee, we believe you would be interested in our position on the issues raised by the former officers. The attached paper represents the position of Local 501 of the Security, Police and Fire Professionals of America. We feel that it is especially important for you and your colleagues to have a full perspective on these issues.

We would be pleased to provide any additional information or respond to any other questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CLIFFORD BULLOCK.

President, Local 501, Security, Police
and Fire Professionals of America.

STATEMENT ON SECURITY AT SEABROOK STATION FROM SECURITY, POLICE AND FIRE PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA—LOCAL 501—APRIL 23, 2002

Since the tragic events of September 11, the nation has been focused on its security like never before. The public and media have been quick to both praise and criticize the men and women tasked with keeping us safe from harm. Recently, light has been shed on a relatively unknown part of America's critical infrastructure; the protection of our nation's commercial nuclear power reactors. It seems that since September 11, hardly a week goes by that there is not a story in the news regarding the possibility of attacks against a nuclear power plant. This increased media attention has produced two results. It has shown us that prior to September 11, most people in this country were unaware of the importance of homeland security. It has also shown us that in this time of national uncertainty, anyone appearing on television, regardless of his or her background, education or experience, may be considered a "security expert".

In recent weeks, former newly hired security officers have expressed their perception that the security at the Seabrook Nuclear Power Station is inadequate. We would like the public to know that the concerns expressed by these individuals had been brought to the attention of management, and that they were being evaluated and any discrepancies addressed. The former officers' main area of concern centered on the initial training they received when they were hired in November 2001. They expressed discontent with the quality and quantity of tactical and weapons training they received during the six weeks of initial classroom and practical instruction. In an open letter to the public, one of the former officers stated that he fired only 96 rounds at the range before being declared "proficient" with his weapon. What he failed to disclose was that after firing 96 practice rounds, he then fired 120 rounds in order to qualify with his weapon using a state of New Hampshire and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission-certified course of fire. After qualification came familiarization training on a stress-fire course and low-light firing. Only after successful completion of this training (300-350 rounds) is any officer declared "proficient" with his or her weapon. Admittedly, we would all like more time to practice with our weapons, not only because we want to hone our skills, but also because we enjoy it and are very good at it.

The strategic doctrine of nuclear power facilities is not designed to be as extensive as that of a SWAT team or a Special Forces branch of the military. We are by our very nature, defensive, not offensive. During our initial training we spend approximately four days learning general and site-specific tactics. This training, coupled with an intimate knowledge of the plant, ongoing training and drills and a fair measure of common sense prepares an individual to protect this plant in the event of an attack.

Although for obvious reasons we cannot disclose the specifics of our tactical strategy, we want the public to know that it has been validated numerous times by both industry and military experts and that, as the people who will employ it into actual use, we are confident that it is sound.

On September 11, due to our heightened state of alert, we stopped conducting tactical training drills on shift. Drills, though, are an essential part of the training process, and in January of this year, we began to once again practice our defensive strategy. The resumption of drills coincided with the few weeks that the former officers actually worked on shift. In their statements, they criticized our ability to perform our jobs of protecting this plant and the public from a terrorist attack based upon what they saw. Drills are performed as "force on force" exercises, meaning that a mock adversary team actually "attacks" the on-shift security officers. Explosions, gunfire and "kills" are simulated, and after the drills are complete, a critique is completed and feedback given not only to those involved, but also to the officers who did not participate in the drills. A mistake or failure during a drill may serve to save that person's life during an actual attack on the plant. It should be noted that sometimes the defending officers do not win the the drills. This is not a reflection of our abilities or aptitude, but rather of the difficulty of the exercises that are conducted. Adversary teams consist of well-trained officers and supervisors who are not only familiar with every square inch of the facility, but are also experts on our tactical and defensive strategy and can predict every movement of the defenders. Drills are meant to be difficult in order to reinforce the skills of the officers involved. With the odds stacked so far in favor of the adversaries, the public should take solace in the fact that we actually win many more drills than we lose. Initial training is only one step in the ongoing development of the skills and experience required to protect the public from the danger of a terrorist attack on our facility.

There was one last concern brought forth by these individuals that we wish to address as being not only erroneous, but also as nothing short of a personal attack on the hard-working men and women of the security staff at Seabrook Station. Our former co-workers have stated that in the event of an actual attack, the majority of officers would use their weapons to flee the plant. We want to state for the record that the dedication and integrity of the security force at Seabrook is unimpeachable.

Since September 11, despite long hours and few days off, no officer who was here prior to the terrorist attacks, has resigned or been terminated. Those of us who were here before have stayed, not because we cannot find other jobs, but because we are dedicated to what we do.

For those of you who do not know us, please allow us to introduce ourselves. We are educated, experienced and hard-working individuals. Thirty percent of us have college degrees. Eighty percent have prior military, law enforcement or security experience. On average we are 38 years old, and have worked as security officers at Seabrook Station for over eight years. Since September 11, we have worked roughly 60 hours per week. We know the dangers inherent in our work; we know the possibility of a terrorist attack on a U.S. nuclear power plant. Every day that we drive through the gate, we know that we are putting our lives at risk to protect the public, yet we continue to come.

The last thing that you should know about us is that we are your family, your friends and your neighbors. Most of us live within 20 miles of the plant. We have families and children of our own. Everything that we have