

that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

**NATIONAL FARMERS UNION
PRESIDENT LEE SWENSON**

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, I rise today to honor an individual for his extraordinary leadership for family farmers and ranchers in South Dakota and across the entire country. Mr. Leland Swenson has been the president of the National Farmers Union (NFU) for the past fourteen years, and the president of the South Dakota Farmers Union (SDFU) for 7 years prior to that. For the past 20 years, Lee has been the leading voice for family farm agriculture in the country. During his tenure in these positions, Lee has provided immeasurable service, support, and leadership for family farmers and ranchers in efforts to maintain prosperity of rural communities.

A native of Minnesota, Lee was recruited to begin his career with South Dakota Farmers Union in 1971 as the Secretary/Treasurer. Lee was a very successful organizer, resulting in an increase in membership for 6 out of his 8 years at this post. Because of his talent, initiative, and ingenuity, Lee joined the National Farmers Union headquarters in Denver, CO as Field Services Coordinator. Lee's dedication to building a membership base and maintaining that base is something to be admired. Returning to South Dakota, Lee was elected the president of SDFU in 1981. During his swearing in ceremony, Mr. Swenson pledged to "preserve, protect and defend the family farm system of agriculture." Lee has fulfilled that promise time and time again.

While farm prices were dropping and interest rates were rising in the 1980's, Lee rose to the challenge of preserving the family farm in his role as president. In response to a veto of an emergency credit bill by President Reagan in 1985, Lee organized over 8,000 farmers and ranchers to gather for a "Farm Alliance Rally" in Pierre, SD. This was the second largest farm rally ever to be held at the state capital. Two other organizations were involved in gathering attendants, resulting in 25 Jackrabbit Line busses bringing the farmers and ranchers to South Dakota's capital city. The overwhelming number of constituents rallying could not be ignored by the state legislators, therefore the state legislature appropriated funds to send the 105 member body plus the governor to Washington, DC to lobby Congress for the restructuring of farm and ranch debt at serviceable interest rates. This first rally served as a stepping stone for Lee to organize another rural rally 15 years later in Washington. In 2000, bus loads of farmers, ranchers, church leaders, labor organizations, and rural community leaders gathered at the nation's capital to rally for the sustainability of rural America. Without the experience, dedication, or conviction of Lee Swenson

this rally would not have been a success.

For the last 100 years, the primary goal of National Farmers Union has been to sustain and strengthen family farm and ranch agriculture. The key to this goal has been Farmers Union's grassroots structure in which policy positions are initiated locally. National Farmers Union believes that good opportunities in production agriculture are the foundation of strong farm and ranch families and that strong farm and ranch families are the basis for thriving rural communities. In order for these goals and values to be carried out consistently, a well-respected, talented, and dedicated leader is vital. That is exactly what Lee Swenson provided to the organization.

Lee Swenson has achieved a number of other accomplishments during his tenure with the National Farmers Union. Bringing the states of Alaska, California, and Missouri into the organization, organizing the single largest farm rally in Washington, DC and expanding the government relations, communications and education departments of the NFU.

As National Farmers Union celebrates their 100th anniversary this year, and Lee steps down from his post as president, the delegation body can look back on prior accomplishments and be nothing but proud. Proud of their organization, proud of their commitment to family farmers and ranchers, and proud of their outgoing leader.

Finally, Lee has always been dedicated to family agriculture, and I know he will continue to contribute to not only the state of South Dakota, but family agriculture across the country. Therefore, I wish him all the best and I will continue to rely upon his valuable insight on the sustainability of rural America. On behalf of the people of South Dakota, I want to thank Lee for being a true public servant who has helped improve the quality of life for thousands of rural Americans.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ON MENTAL RETARDATION AWARD WINNERS

• Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I am pleased today to join the Illinois chapter of the American Association on Mental Retardation in recognizing the recipients of the 2001 Direct Service Professional Award. These individuals are being honored for their outstanding devotion to the effort to enrich the lives of people with developmental disabilities in Illinois.

These recipients have displayed a strong sense of humanity and professionalism in their work with persons with disabilities. Their efforts have inspired the lives of those whom they care for, and they are an inspiration to me as well. They have set a fine example of community service for all Americans to follow.

These honorees spend more than 50 percent of their time in direct, personal involvement with their clients. They are not primarily managers or supervisors. They are direct service workers at the forefront of America's effort to care for people with special needs. They go to work every day with little recognition, providing much needed and greatly valued care and assistance.

It is my pleasure to acknowledge the contributions of the following Illinois direct service professionals: James Adams, Louise Adams, Sue Bailey, Chequel Banks, Sharon Brand, Gwen Condon, Dawn DeLeon, John Ferro, Jenny Hoffman, Orrin Holman, Chau Le, Veronica Mayweather, Paul McPherson, Herminia Ortiz, Isabelle Ptak, Kay Quinn, Sarah Redner, Dorothy Rendleman, Robin Roux, Edward Schultz, Jenny Schwartz, Barbara Stroud, and Sandy Verschoore.

I know my fellow Senators will join me in congratulating the winners of the 2001 Direct Service Professional Award. I applaud their dedication and thank them for their service.●

RETIREMENT OF ELEANOR S. TOWNS

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today I recognize the retirement of a dedicated public servant and to thank her for her contributions to our Nation. Since 1998, Eleanor S. Towns has been the Regional Forester for the U.S. Forest Service's Southwest Region located in Albuquerque, NM, and in that capacity, has been responsible for the management of 22 million acres of National Forests in the Southwest.

Eleanor Towns brought to her work a rich and diversified educational background and varied work experiences. Born in Rockford, IL, she received her undergraduate education at the University of Illinois, graduating in 1965 with an A.B. in communications. She received her master's in guidance & counseling from the University of New Mexico in 1968, and her juris doctor from the University of Denver College of Law in 1982. She worked with the Bureau of Land Management before transferring to the Forest Service in 1978 as Director of Civil Rights in the Rocky Mountain Regional Office in Denver. She held progressively more responsible positions before becoming the Rocky Mountain Region's Director of Lands, Water, Soils and Minerals in 1994. In 1995, she was admitted to the Federal Senior Executive Service and assumed the position of Forest Service Director of Lands in Washington. In April 1998, she was promoted to Regional Forester for the Southwest Region.

My office has had the pleasure of working with Eleanor Towns since her arrival at regional headquarters in Albuquerque. Despite deteriorating facilities when she first arrived, a situation that has since been rectified, she remained attentive to the multiple issues

of concern to New Mexico and the Forest Service. Whatever the complex and contentious area of public land stewardship, I have found her to be professional, responsive and decisive. For example, she gave our office tremendous help during the creation of the Valles Caldera National Preserve and the development of what we called the "Happy Forests" legislation.

Throughout her Federal career, Eleanor Towns was an effective manager of critically important program areas, and was often called upon to tackle some of the more difficult problems of the Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service, including western water rights and employee discrimination cases. Her greatest assets have been her interpersonal skills. Known as "Ellie" to her friends and colleagues, she was a bridge builder—between management and employees, between the government and the public, and among divergent interest groups. Her qualities of good humor, common sense, adroit communication skills, coupled with technical expertise, have made her one of the most effective managers in the Federal Civil Service. Our Nation and its resources are the better because of Eleanor Towns, and the Forest Service is a more effective organization. On behalf of the Senate, I want to thank her for her service to the Nation and wish her and her family all the best in retirement.●

HONORING ELIZABETH BROWN CALLETON

● Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the tremendous accomplishments of Elizabeth Brown Calleton during her tenure at Planned Parenthood of Pasadena.

During the past 40 years, Ms. Calleton has made a major contribution to Planned Parenthood of Pasadena's 69-year history, ultimately serving as its President and CEO. A women's health care advocate, she established Planned Parenthood Community Orientation Luncheons and a community-wide research network to provide women with access to health care. Ms. Calleton served on the committee that created the North West Community Healthcare Alliance Program, a program geared to the needs of low-income, uninsured individuals. The Peer Educator Program more than doubled in size during Ms. Calleton's tenure.

In addition to her extraordinary work at Planned Parenthood, Ms. Calleton has served with a variety of community organizations including the League of Women Voters, the Pasadena Commission on the Status of Women and Women at Work. Awards she has received from the Magna Carta Business and Professional Women and the Young Women's Christian Association are a testament to her great dedication.

"Celebrating the Past, Looking Towards the Future" pays a fine tribute

to Ms. Calleton's legacy. Ms. Calleton has much to celebrate and, I know, looks forward to new challenges in her future endeavors. Her work will serve the community for generations to come.●

RECOGNITION OF SUCCESS BY 6 PARTNERSHIP

● Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, it is with great pleasure and honor that I rise today to duly recognize the Success By 6 Partnership initiative for its tireless work in the area of early childhood development for the community of Gainesway in Lexington, KY.

Less than a year ago, a unique partnership was formed between the United Way of the Bluegrass and LexLinc, which aimed to address the many educational and social needs of Kentucky children from birth to age 6. The Success By 6 initiative attempts to ready parents and children for school by the time the schools are ready for them by focusing on communication as the primary tool for problem solving. This initiative, adopted in more than 300 communities nationwide, does a phenomenal job of bringing together area leaders and families in order to properly identify the needs of parent, child, and teacher. Success By 6 has already helped organize a citywide safety seat giveaway program in Gainesway and has sparked awareness in the community of the importance of early childhood learning.

On January 8, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act, and I think initiatives such as this will work hand-in-hand with this Act to insure families that no child will be left without access to an education.

I would like to personally thank all of the participants and organizers of the Success By 6 initiative for their strong and diligent commitment to the future generations of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Education can never be taken serious enough by either members of Congress or area leaders, and I sincerely applaud the progressive steps taken by this initiative program.

I believe that soon communities throughout Kentucky will see not only the educational advantages but also the social benefits of this program and begin measures to work this initiative into their educational agendas.●

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS STEPHEN COOK

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Madam President, today I rise to recognize and honor the life of Thomas Stephen Cook of West Enosburg, VT, who died Wednesday, November 21, after a 4-year fight with leukemia.

Thomas, who was only 12, inspired those who witnessed his strength and courage as he battled against his sickness. I have known Thomas since his birth, and as his cousin, I can honestly

say he was one of the most extraordinary young people I've had the pleasure to meet. In April, as the 2001 Children's Miracle Network Champion from Vermont, Thomas visited my Washington office. He was on his way to meet President Bush, before heading to Walt Disney World to participate in the national Children's Miracle Network telethon. When you met Thomas, you could see that, even though he was young, he had been through a lot. More than that, Thomas was tough. Only his positive and optimistic attitude towards life was greater than his determination to fight his disease.

Thomas took his responsibilities with the Children's Miracle Network very seriously. He was also a fan of University of Vermont basketball. For four seasons, Thomas served the Catamounts as the ball boy for the men's basketball team. A column from the Burlington Free Press by Patrick Garrity about Thomas' role and influence on the team says:

Thomas Cook would have been pleased with the effort.

He would have loved T.J. Sorrentine's slashing drives. He would have loved Grant Anderson's blue-collar play underneath. He would have loved David Hehn's baseline-to-baseline energy and Trevor Gaines' work on the offensive boards.

Thomas wasn't at Patrick Gymnasium to see the University of Vermont men's basketball team's near-upset of Cleveland State on Saturday. He lost a long fight with leukemia last week. He died at age 12.

His customary position for Catamounts home games was down the team's bench near the baseline, where he served the past four seasons as a ball boy. As he battled his disease and endured the cruel roller coaster of hope and despair the disease became, Thomas fought alongside the Cats, too.

He came to the sidelines four years ago soon after UVM coach Tom Brennan learned of the little boy from Enosburg Falls who had been diagnosed with a disease that kills 22,000 Americans each year. What began with a hospital visit from then-freshman guard Tony Orciari blossomed into a brotherhood between the two that seeped into the hearts of every player on the team.

"He was a lot stronger than all of us," said senior captain Corry McLaughlin. "Our lives are cake compared to what his was. To see him battling every day, to come out here and be with us, let alone to make it through every day, he was just a really strong kid."

"From his attitude, you would have never known he was sick. He was happy every day, jovial and upbeat."

Here's hoping the next one goes in. For Thomas.

Thomas will be fondly remembered by everyone who was fortunate to have known him.●

TESTIMONY OF RICHARD J. SANTOS

● Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I ask that testimony inserted into the Budget Committee record from Richard J. Santos, the National Commander of the American Legion, be printed in the RECORD.

The testimony follows.