

Philippines last year to become the second-largest foreign supplier of tuna to the United States, after Thailand. Starkist in particular is now pushing for the elimination of import tariffs on canned tuna from Ecuador.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CUBA'S INDEPENDENCE FROM SPAIN

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today I joined President Bush and the Cuban-American community in Miami to observe the 100th anniversary of Cuba's independence from Spain. This is a bittersweet celebration because Cubans today are not free.

Centuries ago, when Spaniards first arrived on Cuban shores, they marveled at the breathtaking beauty of the island and recognized the importance of its geographical location. It is no wonder why this island became known as the "Pearl of the Antilles."

After years of Spanish control, Cuban patriots such as Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, Maximo Gomez, Antonio Maceo, and Jose Marti, gave unselfishly of themselves to ensure that Cuba would become free and independent. But it was not until May 20, 1902, that Cuba's first sovereign government was established and Tomas Estrada Palma became Cuba's first President.

As the years passed, Cuba prospered and was recognized around the world for its many educational, cultural and financial accomplishments. Regrettably, many of these advances came to a halt with the arrival of Fidel Castro's revolution. Sadly, this regime is notorious for its repression and tyranny, and its human rights record has been so deplorable that the United Nations Human Rights Commission continues to condemn the Cuban government year after year.

On this day, when all Cubans should be celebrating the many accomplishments of the past 100 years, you cannot help but wonder how many more achievements could have been attained in a free, democratic and prosperous Cuba.

Today, I want to take the opportunity to recognize the many contributions of our Cuban-American friends whose hard work and sacrifices have added so much to our nation. At the same time, we cannot forget those brave individuals in Cuba who are at risk for promoting democracy and human rights in their homeland.

Here in America, we look forward to the day when Cubans are able to speak freely without fear of retribution and when democratic reforms will replace the only remaining dictatorship in our hemisphere. Viva Cuba Libre!

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 7TH ANNUAL ASIAN SPRING FESTIVAL

• Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 7th Annual

Asian Spring Festival. This special event was initiated by the Asian American Civic Association in 1996.

The Asian Spring Festival is annually held in conjunction with Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in May. This event provides a unique opportunity for members of this diverse community to come together and celebrate the unique aspects of their culture. It is also an opportunity to honor outstanding Asian-Americans within their communities.

Throughout its history, our Nation has grown and evolved in a positive way as peoples of many backgrounds, beliefs, and ideas have come together to make America the greatest Nation on Earth. With this in mind, it is important to honor the special aspects of our society that create this unique whole.

I wish the Asian-American community the best on this special occasion.●

TRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL PAPER'S MADISON LUMBER MILL

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to International Paper's Madison Lumber Mill of Madison, NH, which was named this year's Manufacturing Business of the Year by the New Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Business NH Magazine.

As the ranking Republican member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I applaud Madison Lumber Mill on its outstanding environmental efforts. As the neighbor to 1,800 acres of conservation land owned by the Nature Conservancy, the mill makes extraordinary efforts to create a minimum impact on the environment. Through courtesy and a shared commitment to land conservation, the two neighbors have developed a solid relationship. Along with a dedication to conservation, the mill is constantly looking to reduce any environmental impact, and their environmental compliance goes above and beyond the requirements of the law. One of the mill's main goals is to operate under the principles of the Sustainable Forestry initiative program, which ensures the perpetual growth and harvesting of trees while protecting wildlife, plants, soil, air and water quality.

I commend the dedication Madison Mill exemplifies within the community and surrounding areas. Not only does the mill purchase 90 percent of its log supply from predominantly private land owners within a 60 mile radius of the plant, but they also require their loggers to complete safety training courses. Continuing a tradition of community service, Madison Mill annually grants \$10,000 to local libraries, schools and civic organizations. Along with donations, the mill has developed a Community Advisory Council partnership to keep the lines of communication between the mill and local community open. One of the council's main goals is to facilitate community economic de-

velopment and awareness. The 13 member council meets quarterly to discuss regional issues, raise concerns with the mill and discuss plans for the future.

I applaud Madison Lumber Mill and their dedication to surrounding communities and the environment. Their environmental efforts and positive additions to the community exemplify why Madison Mill was this year's award recipient. It is an honor to represent you in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO RIVERWOODS AT EXETER

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the Riverwoods at Exeter healthcare facility. Riverwoods was named this year's Health Care Business of the Year by the New Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Business NH Magazine.

I applaud the Riverwoods community on their positive impact in their surrounding community. By consistently giving back to their community, the 350 residents set a superb example for all Granite Staters to follow. Before the facility had even been built, Riverwoods set the tone of their philanthropic efforts by donating land to the Town of Exeter for baseball and soccer fields for the town youth programs. The tradition of giving has continued over the years as Riverwoods has been named by the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce as one of the Top 10 Corporate Citizens for 1999, 2000 and 2001.

Alongside the acclaim Riverwoods has received, one of their biggest rewards is being actively involved in their community. More than 50 percent of the residents and staff contribute to the United Way of the Greater Seacoast. Their contributions have grown from \$2,381 to an astounding \$28,544 in the past six years. The children of Exeter are enjoying their new "Planet Playground" thanks in part to the Road Race which the Riverwoods organized and sponsored to benefit the playground. The road race profits exceeded \$35,000 and helped build Exeter's newest playground. The children of Exeter were not the only residents to benefit from Riverwood's generosity, the local teen center was bought and refurbished with the gala dinner which Riverwoods organized and co-chaired. The benefit dinner raised \$63,000 for the teens, and gave the center its first real "home."

I commend the residents, staff and philosophy of the Riverwoods community, and thank them on behalf of Exeter and the Seacoast communities. It is with continued dedication to the community that Riverwoods has been named this year's award recipient. It is an honor to represent you in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO VILLAGE BANK & TRUST COMPANY

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Village Bank & Trust Company of Gilford. Named this year's Financial Services Business of the Year by the New Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Business NH Magazine, Village Trust has established a unique niche in New Hampshire.

Disguised as a typical bank, Village Trust couldn't be further from traditional financial institutions. Their unique relationship with the community has made them an extremely deserving candidate for this award. From the Bank's beginning in 1982, Founder and President Gregory Dickinson has focused on giving to the community. As Gregory said, "We are committed to the community and the community is loyal to us." Village Bank's track record with their community includes sponsoring the first affordable housing project for the Laconia Area Community Land Trust, being among the first contributors to the Belknap County Economic Development Council, financing the bond for the Main Street Project in Laconia as well as numerous other housing authority projects. Along with these projects, Village Bank is known for its commitment to economic initiatives and its consistent support for local businesses.

I applaud the dedicated efforts in improving the community which Village Bank continually demonstrates. They are a positive example to the Granite State not only in their business practice, but also their philanthropic efforts. I wish them continued success in the coming years, and thank them for their contributions to New Hampshire. It is an honor to represent you in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO JACK B. MIDDLETON

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Jack B. Middleton, recently named Business Leader of the Year 2002, by the NH Chamber of Commerce and Business NH Magazine. Jack's efforts both in his profession and in his community are unsurpassed, and set an impressive standard for his peers to follow.

Jack currently serves as President of the New Hampshire based law firm McLane, Graf, Raulerson & Middleton. Joining the firm in 1956, he entered a tradition of community service and dedicated practice. He became a partner in 1962 and later became President. His countless accomplishments both in his professional career and philanthropic efforts have led him to a position of mentor, friend and leader.

I applaud Jack's continued service to the legal profession and willingness to accept leadership roles in numerous organizations. His service extends to state and regional bar associations, legal foundations, the Interest on Lawyer's Trust Account, IOLTA, program,

and his own firm. He is the longest serving Chair of the NH Bar Foundation and Secretary of the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association. His position on the American Bar Association is one of great pride to the New Hampshire legal community, as he is only the second person from New Hampshire to hold a position at the national level of the ABA. He is the former President of the New Hampshire Bar Association, the New England Bar Association, the National Conference of Bar Foundations, the National Conference of Bar Presidents and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Along with these positions of service, Jack has also received numerous awards such as Citizen of the Year 1994 by the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, New Hampshire's Distinguished Citizen of the Year 2000 by the Daniel Webster Council and has twice been awarded the President's Award for Special Service to the Profession by the New Hampshire Bar Association.

Jack's community service sets a positive example for all Granite Staters and his dedication to improving his community is beyond compare. His role in developing the IOLTA program, which offers legal assistance for the needy as well as public education about the law, was critical to helping the people of New Hampshire. This program allows lawyers to place money that they are holding for short periods of time into a pooled interest-bearing account. The proceeds of which fund the program. Since the start of the program in 1982, the account has raised more than \$13 million dollars. Jack's efforts to develop this already existing program in New Hampshire as well as his many contributions in other fundraising efforts and community service have led the Bar Foundation to name Jack an "Honorary Fellow."

Jack Middleton is an extraordinary example of someone who serves his community as he would serve his career. By continuing the long-standing tradition of philanthropy that his firm has set forth, Jack has shown once and again why he is such a deserving candidate of this year's award. I congratulate him and wish him continued success in future years. It is an honor to represent Jack Middleton in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO MANCHESTER NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES, INC.

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services, MNHS, of New Hampshire. MNHS is this year's recipient of the Real Estate/Construction Business of the Year Award by the New Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Business NH Magazine.

I commend the efforts of MNHS to improve the City of Manchester and provide affordable housing to low-in-

come residents. Founded in 1992, MNHS began as a revitalization project for Manchester's inner city neighborhoods. One of the largest and most visible projects thus far has been the \$11 Million Elm Street Restoration Project, which created 68 affordable apartments in two of the historic downtown brownstones. This project is one of the largest nonprofit affordable housing projects in New Hampshire's history.

I would also like to recognize the Renaissance, a 24 unit family rental project and the first Low Income Housing Tax Credit project, created for first-time home buyers. Among these many accomplishments, MNHS has also loaned or granted more than \$6.5 million dollars for home purchase and rehabilitation. The outstanding performance by this organization is not only making positive changes to the community but more importantly to peoples lives. There is nothing more important to me than to make sure that people are taken care of. It is an honor and privilege to represent the fine people that make these advancements possible.●

TRIBUTE TO UNITIL CORPORATION

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Unitil Corporation of Hampton, which has been named the Business Services Business of the Year 2002 by the New Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Business NH Magazine.

I applaud Unitil's unique and innovative approach to business and their customers. By taking a fresh approach to the utility industry, Unitil has proven that quantity does not necessarily reflect quality. Unitil was established after a union between Concord Electric Company and Exeter & Hampton Electric Company in 1984. The company now employs 333 people as well as servicing 110,000 customers.

Unitil was among the frontrunners of the industry with the creation of their program, USource, which matches buyers on the Internet with pre-qualified energy suppliers. Unitil's approach to business has resulted in the lowest electric rates available in New England as well as excellent performance ratings from the majority of their clients.

Aside from Unitil's low rates and high quality of service, the real treasure of the company lies within its employees and their dedication to community service. By operating with an emphasis on giving and volunteering in their local communities, Unitil has encouraged employees to volunteer their time and make a positive impact. Led by example, Unitil's CEO Bob Schoenberger is President of the Board of the United Way of the Greater Seacoast. Employees are each granted eight hours of paid leave for volunteering. Last year, Unitil's employees volunteered 1,000 hours of community service and raised more than \$8,000 in a matched contribution program. Unitil also donated \$90,000 to 200 local nonprofit organizations in 2001.