

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.

Unitil serves as a positive example for all Granite Staters, and I applaud their dedication to improving their community, both in the personal and the business arena. I commend their leadership as well as their employees and wish them continued success in the coming years. It is an honor to represent you in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the Court Appointed Special Advocates, CASA, of New Hampshire. Named this year's Education/Non-Profit Business of the Year by the New Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Business NH Magazine.

The CASA program is crucial to New Hampshire's abused and neglected children, offering support, guidance, and a sound outlook on the children for New Hampshire's Family and District Court judges. Started in New Hampshire in 1988 by Marcia Sink, CASA has advocated for 3,045 young victims in 2,276 cases within district and family court during the past 14 years. A national program, CASA trains volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in the court system. Typically taking just one case at a time, CASA volunteers gain an intimate knowledge of the children, family situation and current arrangements which proves invaluable to judges upon their rulings.

Aside from the Business of the year award, CASA has been the recipient of the Citadel Broadcasting Company's 2001 Year of Service Award, Brown and Company's Pro Bono Award, the Walter J. Dunley Award for Excellence in Non-Profit Management and WMUR Channel Nine's Community Champion award. Along with these distinguished awards for their service and contributions, CASA has made an impact in the lives of numerous children which is the greatest award of all. New Hampshire thanks you for your continued service to the children of the Granite State.

I applaud the dedication to New Hampshire's youth that CASA has shown over the years. Currently representing more than 75 percent of New Hampshire's abused and neglected children, these volunteers have spent countless hours defending the best interest of these children. They offer a unique and innovative approach to placing children in the best possible situation and their efforts are crucial during these trying times. I commend the CASA program of New Hampshire and wish them continued success in the coming years. It is an honor to represent you in the United States Senate.●

HONORING THE TOWN OF WILTON, CT, ON ITS BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the Town of Wilton, CT, on celebrating its bicentennial anniversary as a separate municipality.

Incorporated by the Connecticut General Assembly from the parent Town of Norwalk, CT, on Monday, May 20, 1802, Wilton is a vibrant community steeped in both history and culture, and a paradigm of the quintessential New England town. Settled as early as 1640, Wilton grew from 40 recorded families in 1726 to its present population of over 17,000. While the town has been successful in maintaining a small tight-knit community atmosphere, it has greatly benefitted from its location in Fairfield County and proximity to New York City. Modern Wilton is blessed with a diverse population, a strong economy, and a plethora of different industries.

From the day 263 residents volunteered to fight to uphold American liberty in the Revolutionary War, the people of Wilton have continually demonstrated admirable patriotism during many different eras. Over the years, the town has also become keenly aware of its own heritage. Through a variety of innovative preservation efforts undertaken by the Wilton Historical Society, dozens of historical houses and buildings dating from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries have been protected for the benefit of future generations. One of these estates happens to be the only National Park in Connecticut, the Weir Farm National Historic Site. Home to impressionist painter Julian Alden Weir for over 40 years, the residence is considered a birthplace of the American Impressionist movement in the 1890s.

To celebrate the town bicentennial, the people of Wilton will be holding several different traditional festivities during the month of May. In addition, 20 Wilton residents will be cycling from Washington, DC, to Wilton in a special "BikeCentennial." The entourage will travel across Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and part of Connecticut before arriving at Wilton on July 4.

Once again, I would like to commemorate the town of Wilton on its bicentennial anniversary. I wish the town and its residents continued vibrancy and success for many generations to come.●

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND DAVID ARIAS

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Rev. David Arias, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark and Regional Bishop of Hudson County on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his Ordination.

Rev. Arias' background is as wide and as varied as the United States. Born and ordained to the priesthood in

Spain, he has worked in Spain, Mexico City, Texas, Kansas City, California, and now Hudson County, NJ.

In 1996, as a member of the Archdiocese of New York, Rev. Arias was named head of the Spanish Cursillo Movement and later named director of Hispanic Affairs for the Archdiocese of New York by Cardinal Terrence Cooke. He was named the Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, NJ in 1983 and has served as Pastor of St. Joseph of the Palisades in West New York, NJ since 1994.

The Archdiocese of Newark has been fortunate to have the services of Rev. Arias and I wish him the best in his continued ministry.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

2002 COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON U.S. TRADE AND INVESTMENT POLICY TOWARD SUB-SUBHARAN AFRICA AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT—PM 87

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 106 of title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-200), I am providing a report prepared by my Administration entitled, the 2002 Comprehensive Report on U.S. Trade and Investment Policy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa and Implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 20, 2002.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-7092. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Indian Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tribal Self-Governance Amendments of 2000" (RIN0917-AA05) received on May 16, 2002; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.