

TRIBUTE TO KAHUKU HIGH AND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

• Mr. INOUE. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to Kahuku High and Intermediate School for its successful participation in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution national competition. Kahuku recently won the top award in the contest's Unit 3 category called "How the Values and Principles Embodied in the Constitution Shaped American Institutions and Practices."

The three-day competition, sponsored by the Center for Civic Education in Washington, DC, provided an opportunity for students throughout the country to apply constitutional principles and historical facts to contemporary situations. The Kahuku students joined hundreds of other students nationwide in illustrating their knowledge of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights before simulated congressional committees made up of constitutional scholars, lawyers, journalists, and government leaders. Students who participate in this program honor the rights afforded them by the Constitution, and they accept and practice their civic responsibilities.

The 2001-2002 Kahuku High and Intermediate School team included the following students: Ashton Alvarez, Marisa Becker, Jenna Bjorn, Elizabeth Burroughs, Amanda Chew, Jonathan Ditto, Marissa Hontanosas, Heather Huff, Ji Hye Jean, Sondra Kahawaii, Alisi Langi, Solomon Lee, Emily Lowe, Sienna Palmer, Michelle Sauque, Jessica Savini, Starlyn Taylor, Wilson Unga, Keilani Yang.

Hawaii is proud of these students' award-winning performance. I commend them for their hard work in pursuit of worthy goals. I hope that their knowledge and understanding of America's ideals and values will guide them as they become our future leaders.

My colleagues may be interested to know that a team from Kahuku High and Intermediate School represented Hawaii in eight of the past 10 national competitions. Their success is a testament to the inspirational efforts of Kahuku High and Intermediate School teacher Sandra Cashman. I also wish to acknowledge the contributions of District Coordinator Sharon Kaohi and State Coordinator Lyla Berg.●

THOMAS A. ATHENS

• Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, it is with sadness that I speak today about the death of a distinguished citizen of Illinois, Thomas A. Athens, who is survived by his wife, Irene, and their three children. Mr. Athens had a lifetime of outstanding achievement and service to God, this great nation, his home state of Illinois, and his fellow countrymen.

A native of Chicago, Mr. Athens attended Northwestern University and then served in the United States Army during the Second World War. Outside

of his military service, Mr. Athens strove constantly to be engaged in philanthropic activity. Whether it was the Greek Orthodox Church, the United Hellenic American Congress, UHAC, or the National Steel Distributors, Mr. Athens used his time and magnetic personality to build and support these organizations.

As a member of the Board of Directors and finance chairman of UHAC since 1975, Mr. Athens' dynamism helped the group to stay true to the ideals and traditions of Hellenism, while reaching sound levels of financial stability. He also served as the National Treasurer of the Association of Steel Distributors, receiving its Steel Man of the year Award in 1969. In addition, Mr. Athens has served as the National Chairman of the Lake Forest College Parent's Fund and is an Honorary Trustee of Deree-Pierce College.

Mr. Athens had a deep-seated passion for his Church. He was a founding member of the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Fund, an endowment fund for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in America and was instrumental in building its initial member base. He was also a founder of Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Glenview, Illinois, and served on the parish council for many years. Mr. Athens has been the recipient of numerous awards, demonstrative of his passion for service to his Church and community. Among the many have been The Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award in 1999 and the Knighthood of Mikros Stravroforos of the Knights of the Orthodox Crossbearers of the All-Holy Sepulchre recognition from the Patriarchate of Jerusalem in 1982. He has also received the Medal of St. Andrews in 1980 and the Medal of St. Paul in 1979 from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and the office of "Archon Deputatos" from the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in 1977.

Mr. Athens, along with his brother Andrew, co-founded Metron Steel Corporation, one of the largest independent steel service centers, in 1950. He served as the Executive Vice President until he retired in 1985.

The Greek-American community and the people of Illinois have lost someone who spent his life making a contribution to the values and organizations he loved. And many of us have lost a friend.●

NATIONAL FACILITY OF THE YEAR AWARD

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Madam President, I wish to congratulate the hard working employees of the Columbia Air Traffic Control Tower, which was selected as the National Facility of the Year for ATC level 7. The award will be presented to them on Wednesday, June 26, 2002.

These controllers have shown a distinct dedication to their work and should be very proud of this high honor. The award is given annually to

the Air Traffic Control Tower which demonstrates superiority in operational efficiency, customer service, communications, employee development, external relations, resource management and human relations. The professionalism and positive employee morale of the Columbia ATC Tower were also cited as factors in honoring them with this award.

In this time of threat to our nation, I am very proud of the Columbia Air Traffic Controllers in South Carolina for receiving such an award and setting a new standard for the rest of the nation.

I greatly appreciate their hard work over the past year. I am confident that they will continue to operate in a superior manner and know they understand that the citizens of this country appreciate what they do. I know I do every time I fly in and out of Columbia, our State Capital.●

TRIBUTE TO TOBY MILBERG NEEDLER

• Mrs. CLINTON. Madam President, I rise today to honor Toby Milberg Needler, an outstanding New Yorker, who has served the students of New York City's public schools for more than 30 years. On June 27, 2002, Ms. Needler will retire from her position as Vice Principal of the esteemed Washington Irving High School where she also served as Director of the school's distinguished Arts program.

The success of the Arts Program is largely the result of Ms. Needler's dedication and resolve. Skillfully combining the support of private business with her education plan, established an inspiring level of credibility with her supervisors and peers. This greatly benefited the program she both developed and administered.

She was most revered, however, for the special relationships she developed with her students. Ms. Needler has been a listener, a protector, an advocate and a constant source of energy for young people who confront the challenges that adolescence may bring.

Ms. Needler's career is marked by her creative effort to integrate the world of arts into the lives of her students. Many of those who are familiar with the Washington Irving High School's Arts Program, attribute its success to Ms. Needler's vision, hard work and commitment. Since her arrival the program has expanded beyond bounds. Nearly 100 percent of its graduates are admitted to four-year colleges. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Ms. Needler's dedication.

Ms. Needler's legacy will endure in the hearts and minds of those whose lives she touched. I commend Ms. Needler for her tremendous achievements. She exemplifies the high-quality of teaching and public service that we aspire to instill in all those dedicated individuals entrusted with the education of our nation's young people.●