

NAACP while at the same time hosting a popular music show on radio station WQBH. During his spare time, Jerry served as a mentor for Blacks in Advertising, Radio, and Television. Blocker was also employed as the media spokesperson for the U.S. Census Bureau in Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia.

In the 1980s, Jerry Blocker founded a political campaign management firm, Jerry Blocker Enterprises, the oldest minority-owned political-consulting and advertising agency in the Detroit metropolitan area. Later, that agency folded into Blocker and Associates, Inc., so that Jerry could work with and mentor his young daughters, Nicole and Shannon. Until the time of Jerry Blocker's death on October 31, 2001, he and his beloved daughters worked for public officeholders and candidates in their quests for victory at the polls.

The Detroit Metropolitan Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, SPJ, is honoring Jerry Blocker by presenting him a posthumous Lifetime Achievement award to his family and friends. Said SPJ Chapter President Jack Kresnak, "I wish we had honored Jerry before he died. He did a great job at our banquet a couple of years ago speaking on behalf of Bob Bennett who was getting a lifetime achievement award."

I know my Senate colleagues will join me in congratulating Jerry Blocker for his tremendous accomplishments and encouraging others to follow his distinguished example.●

OREGON HERO OF THE WEEK

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam President, I am pleased to rise today to honor an outstanding organization located in my home State of Oregon. I would like to congratulate Guide Dogs for the Blind on its 60th anniversary of providing exemplary service to the blind and visually impaired community in Oregon and across the country.

Guide Dogs for the Blind is a non-profit, charitable organization that provides guide dogs and training to the visually impaired community throughout the United States and Canada. With approximately 10 million Americans categorized as blind or visually impaired, Guide Dogs for the Blind performs an essential service that deserves to be recognized in this body on its 60th anniversary.

The services provided by Guide Dogs for the Blind, and organizations like it, will only become more important in the coming decades. Statistics show that people 65 years and older are at high risk of suffering from poor vision. On average, 144 Oregonians benefit from guide dogs trained by Guide Dogs for the Blind every year, and as our population continues to grey, the need for guide dogs and organizations that train them will almost certainly grow.

The use of guide dogs has been increasingly accepted over the course of the last century. Although guide dogs

existed prior to World War II, most visually impaired people could not take full advantage of such services due to existing federal and state laws restricting animals from entering buildings. But only three days after the most devastating attack in American history, December 10, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a law finally requiring government buildings to admit seeing-eye dogs. Today, during these trying times, it is important for all of us to note that despite the turbulent political situation he faced after Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt still prioritized the needs of the visually impaired community by signing that law.

Sixty years later, the program instituted by Guide Dogs for the Blind served the nation on its darkest day since Pearl Harbor. During the horrific attacks against the United States on September 11, a blind man working on the 78th floor of the World Trade Center was led to safety by a guide dog that had graduated from the Guide Dogs for the Blind program. Guide dogs, now an essential part of so many lives, can be remembered along with the selfless firefighters, police officers, and rescue workers who sacrificed so much to help others that day.

Each and every staff member and volunteer at Guide Dogs for the Blind is a hero to their communities and to the people who benefit from their services. I rise to salute those associated with the Guide Dogs for the Blind for their dedication and continued service to visually impaired people throughout the country. Even in this era of innovation, the blind and visually impaired would not have the same opportunities afforded to the rest of us without the commitment of citizens like those associated with Guide Dogs for the Blind.●

HONORING JACK JURDEN'S TALENT AND WIT

● Mr. BIDEN. Madam President, I rise today to salute a man who has lampooned me more than anyone else in Delaware throughout my 30 years as a U.S. Senator. He has stuck me in the mud, dirtied by political campaigns. He has sketched me swimming in an inner tube fighting for NATO's involvement in Bosnia. He has put me in my place in, an over-sized Chair to characterize my position on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He has donned me in a wizard's robe next to a giant cooking pot simmering over a fire.

Yes, today I rise to salute a man whose signature is a talking frog.

Today I rise to salute a man who has made me laugh nearly every morning that I have opened my local newspaper for nearly the past 40 years and flipped to the editorial page.

Today I rise to salute long-time News Journal editorial cartoonist Jack Jurden.

After nearly four decades of his whimsical, witty, thought-provoking,

light-hearted, good-natured sketches, Jack Jurden is retiring. He is not quite putting his pencils and paper in a drawer permanently. Fortunately for us in Delaware, he has promised to produce a few editorial cartoons a year. But I and so many daily readers of Delaware's largest newspaper will miss his black and white sketches that have added so much color and laughter to our lives.

Jack joined the News Journal in 1952 as a photo engraver. His real love was drawing, so the News Journal decided to take a chance on him as the editorial Cartoonist. In my opinion, that is the best decision that newspaper ever made.

Jack's start in the newspaper business started long before his career with the News Journal. Like many of us, as a kid growing up, Jack was a newspaper delivery boy. Fresh out of high school in Allentown, PA, he put his artistic talents on hold to serve his country in World War II. As an army soldier, he was stationed in the Philippines and in occupied Japan.

Over the years, I am very fortunate to have gotten to know Jack well. His love for his craft, his country and his community are surpassed only by his love and loyalty to his family: his wife of 50 years, Faye; his daughter Jenifer and his daughter Jan, who is a Superior Court Judge in Delaware. These days Jack's true love is his grandchildren.

I realize this is not your typical Senate tribute. But I so admire this man and his talent that I have many of his cartoons lampooning me framed in my office and in my home. So I will miss him. And I think I speak for thousands of others in Delaware who have laughed heartily every morning with their coffee, their coworkers and their family as they scan his take on events in our State and our world, always looking for that little talking frog in the corner to offer some words of wisdom.

My very best wishes to him and his family.●

RECOGNIZING IOWA STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE NA- TIONAL HISTORY DAY CONTEST

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, today I would like to recognize several remarkable young Iowans who put in an impressive showing at the recent National History Day contest. I am very pleased to announce that a total of eight entries from the great State of Iowa qualified for the national finals. Each of these talented young people represented their State with distinction and all Iowans can be very proud of these students.

Gabriella Green, who attends Alan Shepard Elementary in Long Grove, took first place with a junior individual documentary entitled "Solution to Hunger: Dr. Norman E. Borlaug and the Green Revolution." Amy Paul and Katie Pauley of Indian Hills Jr. High in West Des Moines took first prize in junior group documentaries for "Grace

Hopper: Expanding Computer Horizons." Stephen Frese of Marshalltown took the second place medal for his junior historical paper, "Wrestling with Reform: Iowa Coal Communities and the Transformation of Childhood."

In addition, Alex Cahill and Emily Green from North Scott High School took fifth place in the senior group performance category with "The Works Progress Administration: Our Business of Relief" and Elyse Lyons took seventh place in junior individual performances with "Alice Hamilton: Friend of the Factory Worker."

Johnston Middle School Student Abigail Bowman, who took eighth place in junior historical papers with "Mustafa Kemal Ataturk: Reformer of Turkey," was invited to present her paper at the Turkish Embassy while she was in the Washington, DC area for the national competition. Laura Westercamp, a student at Kennedy High School in Cedar Rapids, took eighth place in senior individual exhibits with "Battle of the Bottle: The Woman, the Reaction, the Reform" and was able to present her project at the Smithsonian Museum of American History.

Lauren Appley, who attends Akron-Westfield School, took the ninth place award in junior individual papers with "Martha Graham: Revolutionary Genius of Modern Dance."

I would like to congratulate each of these Iowa students. The number of quality entries by Iowans in this national contest demonstrates the importance Iowans place on education. I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the State Historical Society of Iowa, which sponsors the National History Day program in Iowa, as well as the American Legion of Iowa Foundation, which provides funding for the program.

Again, congratulations to Gabriella, Amy, Katie, Stephen, Alex, Emily, Elyse, Abigail, Laura, and Lauren. You have done Iowa proud!●

ROSWELL WINS ALL-AMERICA CONTEST

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, today I recognize the impressive civic achievements of Roswell, NM. These civic achievements have not only bettered this New Mexico community, but have earned Roswell the national honor of receiving an All-American City Award. The All-America City Award is the oldest and most respected community recognition program in the Nation. This award recognizes communities, such as Roswell, whose citizens work together to identify and address community-wide challenges and achieve extraordinary goals. This year Roswell not only met, but exceeded the selection criteria of the contest through its enthusiastic public participation, its involvement of diverse perspectives in decisions, and its city accomplishments which have significantly improved community life. Roswell met the challenge of the All-

America contest by identifying its largest community challenges and displaying how the community has worked together to make these challenges areas of success. The people of Roswell identified their biggest challenges as lack of access to health care and unemployment and then demonstrated how, as a community, they had worked to improve these areas over the past 3 years.

The city of Roswell highlighted three admirable projects that impacted their areas of challenge including "Incidentally Roswell," the Youth Dental Initiative and Dress for Success. Through the "Incidentally Roswell" project the community has successfully used the historical extraterrestrial phenomenon of Roswell to better its economy. The people of Roswell have worked to use its historical exposure to increase tourism thus creating more jobs and bringing more money into the community. In their presentation the Roswell representatives made light of the situation by cleverly centering their presentation around questions asked by E.T. Holmes, a space alien detective. Along with the economy the people of Roswell also rightly focus on bettering the lives of the children in their community. Through the Youth Dental Initiative Roswell is using Medicaid money to provide children with dental care. The program includes a dental clinic at which patients can be treated as well as a dental van that goes to schools to provide dental services to children. Since 1999 the Youth Dental Initiative the program has serviced a remarkable 4,000 children in Chavez County. Roswell's dedication to the well being of their children is both impressive and commendable. And finally, Roswell presented their Dress for Success program, which aids children and adults to dress in an appropriate manner to achieve success in their schools and work places. This program has shown especially good results in the Roswell school system through providing uniforms to the 86 percent of children who are in poverty in the area. Through eliminating the visual clothing differences among the students, Roswell is experiencing improved behavior, and increases in grade point averages, attendance and self-esteem. Equally impressive is the fact that this program is fueled by the generosity and concern of the community for their children. The Dress for Success program shows Roswell's great support of their children and their determination to help them succeed.

These three projects that strive for civic betterment are only a glimpse of the efforts Roswell is making in order to make their city a noteworthy part of the Nation. It is a great honor for Roswell, as well as for the entire state of New Mexico, for this community to receive the All-America Award. Through their dedication, patriotism, and hard work the people of Roswell have shown that American citizens can indeed make a difference in their com-

munities. Roswell is a community that has taken great strides to overcome its challenges. I commend the citizens of Roswell for striving to achieve a high quality of life and thus helping the State of New Mexico continue to be the land of enchantment. I would like to congratulate the city of Roswell on their great achievements and the well deserved recognition of their efforts.●

JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

● Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, this week people all across the nation are engaging in the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery. It was in June of 1865, that the Union soldiers landed in Galveston, TX with the news that the war had ended and that slavery finally had come to an end in the United States. This was two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation, which had become official January 1, 1863. This week and specifically on June 19, we celebrate what is known as "Juneteenth Independence Day." It was on this date, June 19, that slaves in the Southwest finally learned of the end of slavery. Although passage of the Thirteenth Amendment in January 1863, legally abolished slavery, many African Americans remained in servitude due to the slow dissemination of this news across the country.

Since that time, over 130 years ago, the descendants of slaves have observed this anniversary of emancipation as a remembrance of one of the most tragic periods of our nation's history. The suffering, degradation and brutality of slavery cannot be repaired, but the memory can serve to ensure that no such inhumanity is ever perpetrated again on American soil.

All across America we also celebrate the many important achievements of former slaves and their descendants. We do so because in 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, son of former slaves, proposed such a recognition as a way of preserving the history of African Americans and recognizing the enormous contributions of a people of great strength, dignity, faith and conviction—a people who rendered their achievements for the betterment and advancement of a nation once lacking in humanity towards them. Every February, nationwide, we celebrate African American History Month. And, every year on June 19, we celebrate "Juneteenth Independence Day."

Lerone Bennett, editor, writer and lecturer has reflected on the life and times of Dr. Woodson. Bennett tells us that one of the most inspiring and instructive stories in African American history is the story of Woodson's struggle and rise from the coal mines of West Virginia to the summit of academic achievement:

At 17, the young man who was called by history to reveal Black history was an untutored coal miner. At 19, after teaching himself the fundamentals of English and arithmetic, he entered high school and mastered the four-year curriculum in less than two