

years of outstanding service. As a Senior Advisor for Senate Affairs, Marc Wheat worked closely with my staff on the Foreign Operation Subcommittee on a range of important and controversial issues—from Plan Colombia to reconstruction in Afghanistan to Iraq.

To be sure, my staff tells me that Marc was a tireless and forceful advocate for the State Department's position on these, as well as other issues. But, they also emphasize that he was always honest and forthright, responding promptly and fully to the committee's requests for information. Perhaps what comes through the most is what a decent and genuine person Marc is. That was obvious to me when I met him after a committee hearing with Secretary Powell.

The State Department's loss is a gain for the House of Representatives. Marc is leaving his job at the State Department to be the Staff Director of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources. I know Marc will be a great asset to Chairman SOUDER in his new position. This is the latest move in a distinguished career for Marc, which includes service as a Counsel on the House Commerce Committee and Legislative Assistant to Congressman HASTERT.

I know my staff will miss working with Marc, and I wish him the best of luck in his new job.●

#### CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

● Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, today I recognize the centennial of Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, KS. The institution that is today Pittsburg State University opened its doors on September 8, 1903, in a borrowed building in downtown Pittsburg with 54 students and five faculty. From these humble beginnings, Pittsburg State University has grown into a comprehensive state university of regional, national and international stature.

In 1903, the fledgling school offered only elementary courses in manual training, domestic science, domestic art, and a few basic academic subjects. Yet by 1912 the school's enrollment had increased to 1,183 students and it was described as a "College for Teachers." In the coming years, dedicated administrators and faculty worked to raise the standards of the institution to the point that it merited and received recognition as a liberal arts college.

Following World War II, the campus grew rapidly. Soldiers returning from the war came in droves, thanks to the G.I. Bill, and new buildings emerged all over campus. The college's mission and enrollment continued to expand as well. In 1977, the college achieved university status and assumed its current name, Pittsburg State University.

The decade of the 1990s was a time of unprecedented growth of PSU. Enrollment passed the 6,000 mark for the first time in 1991. Major additions ranged

from a renovation and expansion of the football stadium to the addition of a 100,000-watt public radio station and the installation of a world-class mechanical organ in McCray Hall. In 1997, the university completed its largest single capital project with the construction of the Kansas Technology Center, a \$28-million facility to house the university's nationally recognized technology programs. The Kansas Technology Center continues to play a vital role in the university's growth and development and is a significant economic development tool for the four-state region.

As it celebrates its centennial, Pittsburg State University now has an enrollment of more than 6,700 students. The university offers a wide variety of highly regarded programs in its Colleges of Business, Arts and Sciences, Education and Technology. Known as a comprehensive regional university serving Kansas and the four-state region that includes Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas, Pittsburg State attracts students from more than 25 states and 40 countries. Among its 55,000 alumni, PSU counts Pulitzer Prize winners, scientists, CEOs of some of the world's largest corporations, and even a former Miss America. Moreover, PSU is also to be admired for the model relationship of kindness and mutual assistance it has maintained with the Kansans in its local community.

I welcome this opportunity to commemorate all that Pittsburg State University has done to enrich the lives of its students and its surrounding community. I sincerely commend and thank PSU for its 100 years of faithful service.●

#### CONFIRMATION OF H. BRENT MCKNIGHT TO THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

● Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, I am very pleased that last night the Senate voted to confirm Brent McKnight, an outstanding North Carolina lawyer and jurist, to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina.

Judge McKnight, currently serving as US. Magistrate, has a stellar record of achievement and excellence. A native of Mooresville, North Carolina, he received his BA from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and his law degree at the University of North Carolina School of Law. He was a Rhodes Scholar, earning an MA and Diploma in Theology at Oxford University.

Judge McKnight served as Assistant District Attorney for the State of North Carolina from 1982 through 1988, when he was elected District Court Judge for the 26th North Carolina Judicial District. During this time, we in North Carolina first saw the superior qualities that Judge McKnight brought to the bench—temperance, fairness, attention to detail and an abiding commitment to and concern for equal justice under the law. In fact, after just

four years on the bench, Judge McKnight received a 97% approval rating from attorneys polled by Court Watch of North Carolina.

After four years of exemplary service on the North Carolina state court, Judge McKnight was appointed a United States Magistrate in May 1993. Judge McKnight has continued to build his reputation as an outstanding judge, earning the respect of lawyers and litigants throughout the state.

I can't tell you how many calls and letters I have received from people from across North Carolina telling me what an exceptional jurist and person Brent McKnight is. These folks attest to Judge McKnight's impeccable legal professionalism, both as a prosecutor and a Judge. I have no doubt that Judge McKnight will continue this record of excellence as a United States District Judge.

I was delighted to wholeheartedly support the nomination of Brent McKnight and am pleased that the full Senate has confirmed him to the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina. I wish him and his family—his wife Beth and their three boys, Brent, Matthew and Steven—well as he embarks on this next phase of his admirable career. I am confident that Judge McKnight, a consensus nominee who represents the mainstream of our state, will continue to serve the people of North Carolina and the United States with distinction.●

#### MYRA HYDE

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, as Co-Chairman of the Senate Beef Caucus, I recognize and commend Ms. Myra Hyde for a decade of service on behalf of America's cattlemen. Mr. President, for 10 years, Ms. Myra Hyde has served as the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's director of environmental issues where she diligently worked on land use, conservation policy, and property rights issues. This month, she leaves the cowboys for the administrative pastures at the Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service.

Ms. Hyde's contribution to progressive and responsible conservation policies and practices are known by those who work with her as well as those who have had the unenviable task of locking horns against her in the notoriously rough and tumble debate on resource management. She is a proud Texan, which is a compliment even outside of Texas.

Let me conclude by saying that those she leaves behind will sorely miss her expertise, honesty and sense of humor. Ms. Hyde has been a true friend of America's cattlemen as well as many of us serving here in Congress. She will be of great value as a servant of the public at Interior. On behalf of the caucus, we wish Myra good luck and ask her keep in mind the challenges faced by the hard working people who endeavor to feed the people of our nation and much of the world.●

## RECOGNIZING DR. JAY GOGUE

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise to honor Dr. Jay Gogue, who has served as president of New Mexico State University since July 2000 and who will depart this August. A native Georgian, President Gogue received his doctorate in horticulture from Michigan State University. He then held many significant positions including: chief scientist for the National Park Service, vice president for research at Clemson University and provost at Utah State University.

From the outset, President Gogue's highest priority has been increasing academic opportunities for New Mexico State University students and faculty. Under his outstanding leadership, the university expanded distance education programs, increasing enrollment by about 70 percent last year. Additionally, President Gogue encouraged private donations, considerably increasing funds for the university. Recognizing the long-term benefits of solid relationships within the local and state arenas, he built strong associations between the university, alumni and the New Mexico legislature.

Throughout his tenure at New Mexico State University, President Gogue has continually been an exceptional, consummate leader and tireless advocate for New Mexico State University; his accomplishments will be long remembered. I wholeheartedly thank him for his dedication and wish him well in all his future endeavors.●

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO LINDA  
MAXWELL ROBERTSON

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to extend warm birthday greetings to a constituent of mine, Linda Maxwell Robertson. Linda will be turning 50 on September 1st.

Linda is an unusual woman who pursued a career in commercial film production in New York City right out of high school. She started as a production assistant and rapidly rose through the ranks so that, at the "ripe old age" of 26, she co-founded her own production company with a partner, Mark Ross. Within a few years, her company had annual billings in excess of \$8 million. Later, Linda established a commercial production company in New York for noted Hollywood directors Ridley and Tony Scott and Patrick Morgan. Linda is a Past President of the East Coast Chapter of the Association of Independent Commercial Producers, AICP, and a current member of the Directors Guild of America.

In addition to her work-related responsibilities, Linda served as a media consultant to the Partnership for a Drug-Free America and was the Executive in Charge of Production for the United Nations' worldwide campaign to celebrate its 50th anniversary. In that capacity, she produced commercials in North America, South America, England, Thailand, South Africa, Mozam-

bique, Australia, and the Czech Republic.

These accomplishments would be enough to satisfy most people, but not Linda! In her mid-40s, she went to college to New School University, where our friend and former colleague, Bob Kerrey, now serves as President. Linda earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology in 2000, graduating with a 3.9 grade point average, GPA. While she was earning her BA, Linda started Black/Max Productions with her friend, Ann Black. The two of them are busy developing innovative and educational children's programming.

In July 2000, Linda and her husband Mike, daughter Charlotte, and dog Sally moved to Newport Beach and now live in Laguna Beach. At present, Linda is a few semesters shy of earning a Master's degree in clinical psychology from Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Education and Psychology. This September, she'll begin work as a trainee in marriage and family therapy at Pepperdine's Community Counseling Center. She is currently working as head of marketing and special events coordinator at the Cannery Restaurant in Newport Beach.

Linda finds the time, somehow, to get her poetry published and to be active in charitable affairs in her community and at St. Margaret's Episcopal School in San Juan Capistrano, where her daughter Charlotte will be entering the 10th Grade this fall. Meanwhile, her husband Mike is Creative Director at Heil-Brice Retail Advertising, HBRA, in Newport Beach and the two of them are on the brink of opening one or more "It's a Grind" coffee shops in Orange County.

I know that Linda is an inspiration to all who know her, especially her family—her younger brother, Gray, served as my legislative director for two years. It's a pleasure to send her birthday greetings. I could tell her to keep up the great work, but I don't think it's necessary!●

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT  
OF 2003

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in Manchester, NH. On October 15 and 16, 2001, a 43-year-old woman bumped and elbowed her Muslim neighbor while the two women passed in the stairwell of their apartment building. The victim fell, bruising her elbow and hip. On the previous day, the woman approached her Muslim neighbor, pushed and harassed her with insults and epithets, calling her "Middle East Trash" and "terrorist."

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.●

IN RECOGNITION OF RACHEL M.  
CLEMMENTS AND LEAH M.  
CROWDER

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today I recognize the hard work and inquisitive spirit of two young New Mexicans: Rachel Clements and Leah Crowder. These two home-schooled eighth graders from Albuquerque, NM, captured top honors at the Northwestern New Mexico Regional Science Fair for their project: "The Effect of Bosque Fires on Saltcedar Growth."

As we all know, science fairs are held every year, in nearly every part of the Nation. Likewise, there are many remarkable projects exhibited at these events. The Clements-Crowder project focused on a scientific issue that is of great concern to New Mexico: the tamarisk plant, also known as saltcedar. They conducted their study over the span of 2 years, and their results are noteworthy.

On the west side of the Rio Grande, Rachel and Leah enthusiastically sought to understand how cottonwood canopies affect saltcedar growth and explore the usefulness of prescribed burning as a means of eradication. Their findings showed that more saltcedars grew in burned than in unburned areas. The results of their project reinforce the necessity of moving quickly to restore the hundreds of acres of the Bosque that were recently burned.

While visiting our Nation's Capital this past month, they were kind enough to share their findings with me. While further study is necessary to verify them, their conclusions add to the knowledge necessary to deal with this threat to our water. This is the sort of information that I hope my bill, the Saltcedar Control Demonstration Act, will uncover and put to use. We must discover the best ways to eradicate this invasive species, as it will help New Mexico to conserve its most precious resource, water.

As those of us who reside in the Southwest are well aware, water is scarce. On the other hand, saltcedar is an exotic, invading water thief. The majority of the large rivers and tributaries within the State have become overrun with saltcedar which drives out desirable vegetation and reduces the ability of riparian areas and waterways to provide habitat diversity for wildlife. These invaders must be dealt with decisively and quickly.

Through their curiosity and keen sense of purpose, Rachel and Leah have provided insight into a devastating problem for New Mexico. In a sense,