

from the country. Add this to the large number of uninsured families who live in these communities, and the crisis facing rural health care delivery is clear.

Despite numerous efforts to increase reimbursement rates for rural health services and our ongoing quest to cover the millions of uninsured across America, rural people are still hurting. It takes people like the Steffeyes, who are willing to make a sacrifice to meet the needs of rural communities today, while we continue to work towards solutions for tomorrow.

On March 1, 2003, Dr. and Mr. Steffey took ownership of the La Pine Community Clinic. I hope that their vision is rewarded with great success. I join the many grateful residents of La Pine in naming them as Oregon Health Care Heroes and thank them for bringing hope and healing to La Pine.●

GEORGETOWN FIRE COMPANY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to give congratulations to one of the great local fire departments in Delaware, the Georgetown Fire Company, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this month. This anniversary is a tribute to those who had the vision to found the fire department and to those volunteers who have carried on this tradition all the way through today.

We are very lucky in Delaware to have such a rich history of volunteer community fire departments. With the addition of the Georgetown Company, we have had 15 fire companies in our state celebrate 100 years of service. In fact, we have even had 3 companies—Lewes, Carlisle of Milford, and Good Will of New Castle—celebrate 200 years of service.

With such successes though, it is easy to forget the humble beginnings of many of these departments. On April 11, 1903, the town commissioners of Georgetown announced in a town meeting that it would be forming a fire company to bring down the cost of fire insurance. Before the establishment of a fire company, the community had relied on so-called bucket brigades and a hand-drawn ladder wagon.

When it was founded, there were fourteen charter members of the Georgetown Fire Company and only one piece of fire equipment. Today, there are almost one hundred members of the company and an entire fleet of state of the art fire equipment.

And as a testament to the unceasing dedication of the volunteers who serve in this company and to the respect and veneration it has in the community, almost half of the members of the Georgetown Fire Company are life members or honorary members. Many members of the company who have served their town as volunteer firefighters for decades never stop serving.

The Georgetown Fire Company has become an integral part of the commu-

nity it has served. It has saved the lives and the property of many. In the town of Georgetown, everyone knows who the real heroes are.

It is my privilege to share the company's great history with my colleagues and with our fellow citizens today. We honor the company's 100th anniversary and the extraordinary commitment that it has never stopped showing to its community. Congratulations to all of the officers, members, and friends of the Georgetown Fire Company. It is very well deserved.●

COMMENDING JOHN KOERNER ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise to recognize Mr. John Koerner's long, distinguished career with the United States Fish & Wildlife Service. John began his career in 1972 in Valentine, NE at Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge. Before he arrived at his "dream location" of Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, he was stationed in the South Dakota communities of Madison, Pierre and Waubay. John has now managed the Sand Lake NWR for 15 years. This refuge has a wonderful reputation within the refuge system, and that reputation reaches far beyond its borders. In 1988, because of its importance to migratory birds, Sand Lake was designated as the 16th Wetland of International Importance in the United States. This designation was proposed under John's guidance, and supported by myself and U.S. Senator TOM DASCHLE.

During his time in South Dakota, John has been instrumental in reaching out to the public he serves through effective outreach and environmental programs. The annual Eagle Day event held at Sand Lake Refuge has grown from one carload of visitors attending the first Eagle Day event to well over 1,200 visitors attending in 2002. John has also enhanced the youth, education and outreach programs during his time at the refuge.

John has been an articulate and outspoken voice on water and conservation issues concerning the James River. His coordination efforts with local, State and Federal agencies, during major flooding events and day-to-day operations have been an asset to Sand Lake Refuge and to the communities and landowners up and down the James River. His knowledge of the James River has been very helpful to South Dakota's congressional delegation.

John's coordination efforts with all of South Dakota's congressional offices have been beneficial to both the FWS and the citizens of South Dakota. His knowledge of FWS history, compatibility issues, and his vast experience has provided him with a "common sense" approach to resolving issues before they become major problems. I know that John Koerner has provided extremely valuable assistance to my

offices in working through many of the difficult issues that have been brought forward during his tenure.

I commend John Koerner for his work with the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service. His contributions will benefit many generations to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ORLANDO "TUBBY" SMITH

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I honor and pay tribute to University of Kentucky Basketball coach and friend Orlando "Tubby" Smith. Coach Smith was selected today as the 2003 Naismith College Basketball Coach of the Year.

Earlier this year, Tubby was also named the Nation's top coach by the Sporting News, ESPN, and the Basketball Times. Coach Smith led the University of Kentucky Wildcats to an outstanding 32-4 record this season, including a NCAA season-high 26 game winning streak. The Wildcats' winning streak this season was the Nation's longest in seven years.

Coach Smith is more than just a basketball coach to his players at the University of Kentucky. He is a skilled teacher of the game of basketball, but he also teaches his players important lessons about life and instills a sense of character in them that allows them to excel both on and off the court.

Tubby and his wife Donna are also very active in many communities across Kentucky. Over the past 5 years, they have raised over \$1.5 million for the Tubby Smith Foundation. Through annual auctions, golf tournaments and other events, Tubby and Donna have devoted much of their time and energy to assisting underprivileged children in Kentucky through their foundation.

I am proud to have Coach Smith represent the great Commonwealth of Kentucky. He is a fantastic basketball coach and a prominent community leader. I ask my colleagues in the Senate to join me in congratulating him on receiving the 2003 Naismith College Basketball Coach of the Year Award.●

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY LADY JACKRABBITS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the South Dakota State University Lady Jackrabbits. The Jackrabbits, under head coach Aaron Johnston and assistant coach Laurie Melum, won the National Division II Basketball Tournament against Northern Kentucky March 29 in St. Joseph, MO.

Coach Johnston's squad went through the 2002-2003 season with a school-record 32 wins against just three losses. The Jackrabbits entered the tournament with an impressive 32-3 mark and defeated Cal State-Bakersfield and Bentley before rallying to overtake Northern Kentucky, 65-50, for the first ever women's basketball national title.

The team was guided this season by the leadership provided by seniors Melissa Pater and Karly Hegge. Joining

them were Jackrabbit juniors Stacie Cizek and Brenda Davis. All-tournament team member and NCAA Division II Elite Eight Most Outstanding Player Pater was joined on the all-tournament team by freshman Heather Sieler.

As Hegge told the Sioux Falls Argus Leader following the title victory, "After A.J. [Coach Aaron Johnston] first started coaching, he used the phrase, 'Don't stop believing.' That's what we tried to do, not stop believing and just keep on going." This title reflects that devotion and conviction South Dakota residents pride themselves on.

I want to acknowledge Dean Dr. Laurie Nichols, Athletic Director Dr. Fred Oien, Head Coach Aaron Johnston, Assistant Coach Laurie Melum, and Graduate Assistant Sheila Roux for their guidance and support to help make this year's team so successful. I also want to congratulate all of this year's team members: seniors Melissa Pater and Karly Hegge; juniors Stacie Cizek and Brenda Davis; sophomores Stephanie Bolden, Megan Otte, Brooke Dickmeyer, Dianna Pavek, Shannon Schlager, and Christine Gilbert; and freshmen Heather Sieler and Christine Gilbert, for their hard work, dedication and commitment this season. Finally, I want to acknowledge the great work of team manager Laci Greenfield, and the hard-working efforts of cheerleaders Christina Bennett, Emmie Johnson, Eve Becker, Jill McClung, Julie Raeder, and Katie Jacobson.

Again, congratulations to the South Dakota State University Lady Jackrabbits on winning their first women's basketball national title.●

GEORGIAN SOLDIER SAVES CIVILIAN

● Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, today I share with my colleagues the story of a 3rd Infantry soldier, and a fellow Georgian, who risked his own life to save a civilian caught in the crossfire in Iraq. The following article was printed in the April 1 edition of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Michael Carter wanted to talk about his son, CPT Chris Carter, 31, whose heroic rescue of an Iraqi woman flashed across the newswires Monday, but the batteries on his cordless phone were running down.

"I didn't know about it until the phone rang this morning," he said Monday afternoon, adding that it hadn't stopped ringing since.

Constant phone calls kept him from logging on to the Internet and reading about Chris, commander of A Company, part of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized).

"I've been so busy with phone calls, I have not had time to download it," said Carter, 63.

He and his wife Shirley, 60, live in Watkinsville, where Chris grew up and attended Oconee County High School.

On Monday pretty much everyone in Watkinsville wanted to call and congratulate the family.

Chris was an ROTC student at the University of Georgia and a member of the Georgia Army National Guard. He was commissioned as an officer, trained with the 82nd Airborne Division and took the mountain section of his wilderness training with the 5th Ranger Training Battalion's Camp Merrill, near Dahlonega.

Of medium height and a stocky build, Carter loves to hunt, fish, and sing Hank Williams, Jr. songs, said his girlfriend, Amanda Cofer, 24, an assistant to State Senators Mitch Seabaugh and Dan Moody.

Carter distinguished himself Monday when he left his Bradley fighting vehicle and dashed out on a bridge during a firefight outside of Hindiyah, to try to bring an Iraqi woman to safety.

An Associated Press account of the rescue began with Carter saying, "We've got to get her off that bridge" and then determining to save her.

The woman had apparently tried to race across the bridge when the Americans arrived, but was caught in the crossfire.

Soldiers who had spotted her through the smoke at first thought she was dead, as was a man sprawled in the dust nearby. But the woman sat up and waved for help during breaks in the gunfire.

According to AP reporter Chris Tomlinson's account, Carter "ordered his Bradley armored vehicle to pull forward while he and two men ran behind it. They took cover behind the bridge's iron beams.

"Carter tossed a smoke grenade for more cover and approached the woman, who was crying and pointing toward a wound on her hip. She wore the black chador, common among older women in the countryside. The blood soaked through the fabric, streaking the pavement around her.

"Medics placed the woman on a stretcher and into an ambulance; Carter stood by, providing cover with his M16A4 rifle. Then she was gone, and Monday's battle for this town of 80,000, 50 miles south of Baghdad, raged on."

When Carter's girlfriend, Cofer, heard about the rescue, her first thought was, "Get back in the vehicle!" she said.

Cofer and Carter met last October during a victory celebration in Buckhead after the Georgia Bulldogs beat the University of Kentucky in football. "I knew immediately he was a special person," she said. Carter was deployed to Kuwait the next month.

"He is the kind of man every parent in America would be glad to have as a son," said Carter's father, who is retired from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Though the Carters haven't heard from their son for 3 weeks, they keep up with him through the news.

"We have more current information on him than any other parent in the United States," said the father, adding

that Carter's vehicle has been host to an embedded reporter during much of the campaign. "Every day since he's been over there he's been in some newspaper. The next best thing to being able to talk to him personally has been to read the papers."

Carter then excused himself to answer the door. Television cameramen were ringing the bell.●

THE KIWANIS CLUB OF DEARBORN ON THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today it is my pleasure to congratulate the Kiwanis Club of Dearborn, MI for 75 years of distinguished service addressing the needs of children, seniors, and the disadvantaged throughout the Dearborn community and my home State of Michigan.

As a member of Kiwanis International, the Kiwanis Club of Dearborn is part of a larger organization that holds community service at its core. Since its founding in 1915, Kiwanis International has united individuals to respond to the changing needs of their communities. Kiwanis groups promote awareness of vital issues such as child health and development, literacy, substance abuse, and senior care. Kiwanis Clubs nationwide take practical steps to respond to these concerns through volunteer service projects and fundraising. Today, the Kiwanis family includes 500,000 members in over 80 countries.

Since 1928, the Kiwanis Club of Dearborn has taken an active role in performing community service. Through their annual "Peanut Sale" fundraiser, the Kiwanis Club of Dearborn has generated thousands of dollars each year for charity organizations. Recipients of the money raised at this benefit include Children's Hospital, the Salvation Army, the DeSales School for the Deaf, the Hemophilia Foundation, and the Special Olympics. This year, the club raised a record \$54,000, a sum which has earned them recognition as a leader in fundraising initiatives. Furthermore, the club can be commended for donating all moneys raised to charity, due to the absence of administrative costs. The Kiwanis Club of Dearborn also produces "Kiwani Talk," a television show that informs viewers of services available to the public. In the past 10 years, this program has aired 500 episodes relaying pertinent information to the community. The emergence of two additional clubs, the Outer Drive Kiwanis Club and the East Dearborn Kiwanis Club, is testament to the commitment of the Kiwanis Club of Dearborn to continued community service and the appeal of their message.

I am confident that my Senate colleagues will join me in thanking the Kiwanis Club of Dearborn for their 75 years of service dedicated to improving the lives of many in the Dearborn community. The dedication to community