

TRIBUTE TO WENDELL L.  
JOHNSON

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today I commend an outstanding Virginian, Mr. Wendell L. Johnson, whose work has adorned the walls of many members of the House of Representatives. The "Member of Congress" seal designed by Mr. Johnson has been used numerous times by our federal legislators over the years, and he deserves the acknowledgment of this chamber for his service to the United States.

As a young man of 18 years, Mr. Johnson enlisted in the Army to help his country during World War II. Rising to the rank of Sergeant, he earned a Good Conduct Medal before being honorably discharged in December 1945. Continuing a career of public service, Mr. Johnson joined the staff of United States Representative Alvin E. O'Konski of Wisconsin. While assisting the congressman in preparation for a televised speech in 1958, Mr. Johnson astutely realized that the viewing audience, who soon would be tuning in with this new medium, might not be able to identify Representative O'Konski at first sight. Understanding correctly the value of the congressman's image on television, Mr. Johnson hurried to the hardware store for the tools and supplies necessary to create a logo dignified enough to appear with a member of the United States Congress. By the time that the good people of Wisconsin had turned on their RCAs and Zeniths, Representative O'Konski spoke proudly from behind a podium bearing Johnson's exceptional "Member of Congress" seal.

While not the official seal of either the House of Representatives or the Senate, Mr. Johnson's noble design represented the first insignia and plaque used for an individual member of the United States Congress. In the decade following its first use, his handiwork became very popular among Representative O'Konski's colleagues in the House. Mr. Johnson was thrilled to see orders for his product from the House Stationery Clerk, and he made a hobby of providing plaques to a host of members, including Harold Ostertag, Louis Wyman, Bill Brock, Dan Rostenkowski, and Donald Rumsfeld.

Mr. Johnson's artistry expertly reflects the dignity and honor of the legislative branch. Featuring a proud eagle under a field of fourteen stars, the circular plaque bears the words "Member of Congress" above the name of our nation. A banner of "E Pluribus Unum" is clutched in the beak of the eagle, which holds in its talons a branch of olives and three arrows. Mr. Johnson's design has earned the esteem of many, as it has appeared on Congressional stationery, the official oil portrait of two committee chairmen, and even a number of gravestones.

I thank you for the opportunity today to give Mr. Wendell L. Johnson the recognition that he so rightly deserves for his service to Congress. •

PREMATURITY AWARENESS DAY

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to draw attention to a growing number of premature births in the United States. The March of Dimes has declared November 16th Prematurity Awareness Day. This event is part of a five-year plan, launched in 2003, to use the combined power of awareness, education, and research to significantly decrease the number of premature births in the United States.

The rise in premature births throughout the country and in my own State—despite all of our achievements in medicine—is astounding. Nationally, more than 480,000 babies were born preterm in 2002. Nearly 13 percent of Indiana's infants are born preterm and in half of the cases, doctors cannot identify the cause. Prematurity is the leading cause of infant death in the first month of life. Many of these infants will suffer lifelong health problems—such as cerebral palsy, mental retardation, chronic lung disease, and vision and hearing loss—and some will die. Reducing the number of premature births will improve the health of hundreds of thousands of infants born each year.

Aside from these human costs, the financial cost of caring for preterm infants is enormous. The March of Dimes estimates that the national hospital bill for infants with a diagnosis of prematurity/low birthweight was \$13.6 billion in 2001.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of S. 1726, the PREEMIE Act, legislation that seeks to expand and coordinate research on the prevention of preterm birth and the most effective care for babies when they are born preterm.

Senator LINCOLN and I have also introduced S. 1734, the Prevent Prematurity and Improve Child Health Act, which seeks to improve Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program to better reflect our current state of knowledge on preterm birth. For example, medical research tells us that smoking is a considerable risk factor for preterm and low birthweight infants. Our bill takes this knowledge and translates it into practice by ensuring that smoking cessation services and pharmaceuticals are available for pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid.

My wife Char and I have been longtime volunteers for the March of Dimes and I am pleased that they are committing such an enormous amount of time, energy and resources into conquering the stubborn problem of preterm birth with their five-year Prematurity Campaign. Both of these bills have the potential to make a real difference in many lives and I hope that our colleagues will consider joining us in this effort.

I am proud to tell you that the Indiana March of Dimes Chapter has many events planned for Prematurity Awareness Day. I commend the March of Dimes for its dedication in working toward a day when babies and their fami-

lies no longer have to face the devastating consequences of premature birth. I call on my colleagues to join the fight against premature birth. •

• Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to draw attention to a serious issue—the growing number of premature births in the United States. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, 480,000 babies were born prematurely—that is, born at less than 37 completed weeks of gestation—in 2002. The number of premature births in the United States increased 27 percent between 1982 and 2002.

In my own State of Idaho ten percent of babies born in 2002 were preterm, and the rate of preterm births in Idaho has risen 21 percent since 1992. The preterm rate for our Native American population was 12.8 percent and 11 percent in our Hispanic community. In addition, 6.1 percent of all babies born in Idaho had a low birth weight. It is even higher for Hispanic babies—6.9 percent of them are born with low birth weight, higher than the national average.

The March of Dimes has begun to address the issue of prematurity and health disparities by funding prenatal education and outreach projects in different parts of Idaho. Two projects are in our largest cities, Boise and Nampa, and target low-income and low-income Hispanic women and one outreach project is on a rural reservation. Finally, the March of Dimes is funding a smoking cessation project for pregnant women in one of our northern cities, Lewiston.

The March of Dimes has declared November 16th Prematurity Awareness Day. This event is part of a 5-year plan, launched in 2003, to use the combined power of awareness, education, and research to significantly decrease the number of premature births in the United States. In Idaho this week there will be media coverage spotlighting prematurity awareness, and pink and blue street lights in downtown Boise for 2 weeks drawing public attention to the issue. In addition, many retailers will be providing free information to shoppers about the early warning signs of prematurity.

Let me share the story of this year's Idaho ambassador family. During a routine medical exam, the mother of twins Morgan and Max was placed on immediate bed rest due to signs of preterm labor. Fortunately, when Morgan and Max were born 10 weeks early, they received specialized medical care at the neonatal intensive care unit and were able to come home after just five weeks. Today they are healthy, vibrant toddlers.

Thanks to research being supported by the March of Dimes, doctors are better able to identify signs of preterm labor—a life-saving factor in the case of Morgan and Max. Advances made by the March of Dimes in the treatment of premature babies—like surfactant therapy—gave these twins a good start toward a healthy life.

The March of Dimes has long been a national leader in the fight for infant

and child health. I commend the March of Dimes for its dedication in working toward a day when babies and their families no longer have to face the devastating consequences of premature birth.●

#### JOHN SPINA'S NAVY SERVICE

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, today I say thank you to a patriot and a technical expert, Mr. John Spina, who is retiring from civilian service to the Navy in December 2004.

John was born and was raised in the Philadelphia, PA area. He began his government career in 1954 at the Navy's David Taylor Model Basin in West Bethesda, Maryland, as a cooperative student while attending Drexel University. He received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Drexel in 1958. John continued his Federal career at the Model Basin—now NAVSEA, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division—culminating in 50 years of diligent service to the Navy. John and his wife Rosemary live in Virginia and have been married 46 years.

John's early assignments included travel to the David Taylor Model Basin's Field Station at Lake Pend Oreille in Bayview, ID where he led the initial testing at the large capacity haul down site, Wigwam, using 10-foot long rising bodies.

As part of the Acoustics and Vibration Laboratory, he conducted tests on body shapes for signal devices followed by tests with a special buoyantly-propelled device. He performed extensive torpedo tests with Pennsylvania State University, using buoyant, powered rise and "gravity drop" methods. He also participated in towed array tests with Bell Labs and was instrumental in testing the initial core samples of the bottom of the lake in the late 1960's in preparation for the first big haul down system to be used for large model, Kamloops.

John completed his master's degree at Catholic University in 1971. His work with large models and testing at the Bayview facility continued and led to the design, development, construction, and deployment of several large-scale submarine models: Steelhead, Mackinaw, S6W, Kamloops, and Dolly Varden, named after fish in Lake Pend Oreille. Unparalleled in the history of quieting, these models and the associated test programs were an immense success, contributing to the understanding and reduction of all aspects of submarine noise.

The introduction of Dolly Varden provided a valuable capability for investigating noise sources and mechanisms with the economy of cost and time not possible in full scale. As test requirements and submarine quieting demands changed, these models were modified and adapted to hundreds of unique configurations, demonstrating the performance of materials and shapes for submarine applications.

In the late 1980s, the Navy required powered model testing to further the science of quieting. A cooperative effort by the David Taylor Research Center and the Naval Sea Systems Command culminated in the design, construction, delivery, and successful operation and employment of the large-scale vehicle, Kokanee, in 1988. Again, John was actively involved, forming the crew, directing the logistics, and developing the operating plans and procedures. The results of the Kokanee testing offset over \$1 billion in comparable full scale test and demonstrated superb prediction of full scale performance.

The success and accomplishments of the Kokanee program showed that large models provide a valuable contribution to submarine development and John again led the specification, design, and development process for a second powered vehicle, the 200-ton Cutthroat model of the Virginia Class.

In a parallel effort, static submarine tests also required additional test facilities and capabilities. Shortly after the deployment of Kokanee, plans were implemented for the construction of the Intermediate Scale Measurement System, ISMS. This multi-million dollar program provided a dramatic improvement in the ability to understand structural acoustics and to demonstrate advanced silencing theories and methods.

While others pioneered new designs, data acquisition, and processing methods, John supported testing through the development of model handling and alteration capabilities, and an infrastructure of dedicated, trained personnel, unique equipment, and documentation of test methods that has continually improved performance and reduced costs. It is, therefore, fitting that we recognize and honor him for his years of service, months of travel, and unwavering support for the facility at Lake Pend Oreille and the Navy.

John Spina has been a significant contributor to our nation's research and development in the area of quieting vessels and submarines, present and future capabilities, as well as numerous performance improvements for quieting operational and future vessels and submarines. I extend to John and Rosemary best wishes, fair winds, and following seas in their future endeavors.●

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. BILLIE TRAVIS

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I would like to honor Mrs. Billie Travis, a mathematics teacher at Scott County's Georgetown Middle School, who has been named the 2005 Kentucky Teacher of the Year.

For the past 19 years, Mrs. Travis has been teaching mathematics at the Georgetown Middle School. As a career educator she earned a bachelor's degree in education from Morehead State University and a Master's degree in edu-

cation from Georgetown College. Mrs. Travis has taken her own Kentucky education and reinvested in the community. Whether it is serving on the regional board of the Kentucky Middle School Association or the Kentucky Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Mrs. Travis is a leader both inside and out of the classroom.

This is the fourth year that Ashland Inc. and the Kentucky Department of Education have sponsored the Kentucky Teacher Awards. I would like to congratulate Mrs. Travis again on her achievement and thank her for this significant contribution to middle school education in Kentucky.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT SNYDER

● Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a singularly worthy public servant, Mr. Robert Snyder, Senior Executive Service, who has served our country and the American people with great distinction for over 35 years. I make this statement to recognize his retirement from his current position as Executive Director and senior civilian of the Missile Defense Agency.

Rob Snyder has been uniquely qualified to discharge his responsibilities at MDA. A graduate of Temple University in business administration, he went on to earn two masters degrees, one in business and another in public administration. He is a graduate of executive programs at American University, the Federal Executive Institute, and Harvard. And he served with honor in Vietnam with the U.S. Army.

After working for almost two decades elsewhere in the Defense Department—most of that time involved in trench warfare over budgets—in 1988, he came to the missile defense business. That year, he was promoted to the Senior Executive Service as the Deputy Comptroller of SDIO, the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization. His maturity of judgment, breadth of experience, and absolute integrity quickly made him a driving force for getting things done, and done the right way. Five years ago, after earning several promotions, he was made the first Executive Director of what was then BMDO, the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, and is now MDA.

His responsibilities increased, but he never lost his focus on programmatic issues. When we, here on the Hill, needed accurate and timely responses to our detailed questions on what has always been a politically contentious program, more often than not, it was Rob Snyder who came over to brief us. We always came away from those meetings better informed of the specifics and purposes behind the issues at hand, and with a clearer understanding of the rationale for Agency decisions and recommendations.

We came to rely on him the same way that multiple Directors have, first, of SDIO, then, of BMDO, and now, of MDA. He has been, almost single-handedly, the missile defense program's institutional memory.