

engine that runs our rural communities, and it is an essential component of a stable and productive America.

Despite these challenges, I am hopeful for our Nation's producers and believe that several factors, including our farmers' own persistence and dedication, will contribute to their future successes in the industry. While we continue to struggle with budgetary constraints, I do believe that we will be successful in ensuring that money is allocated for small and medium-sized producers. We must make certain that our Nation's family farms, which comprise the majority of producers, have sufficient access to agriculture funds. The adoption of an amendment to this year's Budget Resolution, which I supported, would alter payment limitations and cap excessive compensation to large farms. This money would instead be channeled toward worthwhile and essential conservation and development programs, which are beneficial to producers in South Dakota and across the Nation.

I also believe that fair trade is necessary to ensure our farmers get a fair deal and a fair price for their product. Too often, the market price a farmer receives for his or her product doesn't reflect the financial and personal investment that a producer makes during the growing season and throughout the year. I am confident that new opportunities, like the recently announced trade with China involving quality South Dakota wheat, will open new doors and foster additional opportunities. I also believe that increasing awareness of the negative impacts of some trade agreements, including the Free Trade Agreement with Australia, will aid us in developing a firm base to oppose such measures and encourage more productive trading possibilities.

Lastly, I am confident that Country of Origin Labeling, COOL, will greatly benefit our agriculture economy, in addition to increasing consumer confidence and choice. While opponents of the COOL labeling provision were successful in delaying implementation of the law for 2 years, American consumers and producers remain incredibly supportive of mandatory labeling. Every consumer public opinion survey confirms that consumers would pay a modestly higher price for beef if they were certain it was American beef. I contacted the United States Department of Agriculture, USDA, in December, requesting clarification of the department's interpretation of the language delaying implementation of COOL. While I strongly oppose this delay, I also believe the department needs to clarify the rulemaking process. The USDA's response to my inquiries was vague and unclear, which I find unsatisfactory. I intend to seek clarification of the rule pertaining to the delay while also actively working on opportunities to speed up implementation of this law. Along with my colleague Senator TOM DASCHLE, I am pleased to have worked so extensively

on this initiative, and I am confident in the future of this quality provision.

America's farmers produce quality products, which are recognized the world-over. It is essential that we function as a united team to promote these products in today's ever-changing agricultural environment, and ensure that family farmers in South Dakota and across the nation are recognized and adequately compensated for their substantial contributions.●

RECOGNIZING EMILY NEUMEIER AND CHRISTINE BANKS

● Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate two exceptional high school students from my home State of Florida. Just this March, Emily Neumeier of Tampa and Christine Banks of St. Petersburg were selected from a competitive pool of 800 participants as winners in a nationwide "If I Were President Competition . . ." These two young scholars were among 50 award-winners who each received a \$1,000 scholarship from the contest sponsor Freedom's Answer—a student-run, nonpartisan and nonprofit organization that increases civic participation among youth. I would like to commend the contest organizers, entry evaluators, participants and winners for involving youth in politics and contributing to the well-being of American democracy. Again, I would like to recognize Emily and Christine for a job well done and wish them all the best in the future. Maybe one of them will even be President one day.●

HONORING DONNA PETERSON AND SALLY STOLL

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise here today to publicly honor and recognize Donna Peterson and Sally Stoll for receiving the 2003 Presidential Award for excellence in Mathematics and Science teaching, the Nation's highest commendation for work in the classroom. Donna Peterson won the math award for sharing her innovative teaching approaches with the students at Belle Fourche High School. Sally Stoll won the science award for her knowledge and passion on the subject and the ability to inspire her student's at Vermillion High School.

The National Science Foundation, NSF, administers the awards program for the White House. NSF is an independent Federal agency that supports research and education across all fields of science. Since 1983, the White House and NSF have sought nominations of exemplary math and science teachers from every State. In addition to honoring their achievement, the goal of the awards is to expand the definition of excellent science and mathematics teaching exemplified by Donna Peterson and Sally Stoll.

These two teachers have provided us with excellent examples of quality teaching. They have a passion for their

subjects and dedication to their students. They know how to bring out the very best in every student, in every kind of school. The national award-winning teachers overwhelmingly agree that students frequently respond best to lessons that relate to recognizable phenomena from their own lives, or that allow for hands-on learning. They have observed that an engaging teaching style prompts students to pose their own questions, test their own theories, and arrive at their own solutions, with the teacher serving as a facilitator and guide.

Research indicates that nothing is so important in raising student achievement as a good teacher; not top notch equipment, not Internet access, not family income level. Those things are helpful, we know, but it's the teachers themselves that are the "make or break" link between students and educational success.

United States student performance in mathematics and science has been lagging, and many schools are experiencing shortages of math and science teachers. Donna and Sally are constantly searching for meaningful ways to spark the learning process. In doing so, they will have continued to inspire their students in such a way that it will have enriched them for the rest of their lives. If you are lucky, you'll have a chance to experience at least one such teacher in your lifetime.

I congratulate Donna Peterson and Sally Stoll on this tremendous honor. Their dedication to the teaching field in South Dakota serves as a model for all educators to emulate. It is with great honor that I share their impressive accomplishments with my colleagues.●

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CENTER FOR FIRESAFETY STUDIES

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to the Center for Firesafety Studies at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute was founded in 1865 to support the new industrial economy that was developing in Central Massachusetts in the 19th century. Its founders believed in merging theory and practice as part of the ongoing effort to deal with changing needs of our society. Over the years, the university has earned international respect for its innovations in engineering education and its responsiveness to a changing world.

In the 1960s, fire safety in America was a priority in Congress. The Fire Research and Safety Act in 1968 called for a national study of the issue, which resulted in the landmark report known as America Burning. Among its findings, America Burning emphasized that, "Appallingly, the richest and most technologically advanced nation in the world leads all the major industrialized countries in per capita deaths and property loss from fire."

In response to this wake-up call, Congress passed the Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, which created the United States Fire Administration and its National Fire Academy. David A. Lucht of Ohio was appointed by President Ford to lead the new agency in 1975.

True to its tradition, Worcester Polytechnic Institute took the issue on, with Professor Robert W. Fitzgerald as the guiding intellect and catalyst. In 1979, WPI created the Center for Firesafety Studies as the first graduate degree program in fire protection engineering in the Nation. In the past quarter century with Professor Lucht as Director, the WPI fire safety program has become an international leader in fire protection engineering education, with graduates from 30 countries. Through its outstanding faculty, students and alumni, WPI has had an important role in making the world safer from fire.

I commend WPI on this impressive 25th Anniversary of the Center for Firesafety Studies and its graduate degree program in fire protection engineering. We are proud of them in Massachusetts, and the Nation is grateful for the difference they have made in fire safety for us all.●

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF C-SPAN

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate a signal anniversary that passed on Friday, March 19, 2004, the 25th anniversary of the Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network, C-SPAN.

Founded in 1979, C-SPAN has rapidly grown from its humble beginnings televising the proceedings on the floor of the House of Representatives to a series of networks reaching millions of viewers daily. This service, which functions without any financial support of the Federal Government, provides our constituents with invaluable access to the day-to-day proceedings of both bodies of Congress, as well as other important mechanisms of our government. As a direct result, it is now easier than ever for our constituents to keep abreast of our deliberations and contribute well to the debates at hand.

I am also pleased to point out that these tremendous networks were founded by a fellow Hoosier, Brian Lamb. Through his work experiences on Capitol Hill, Brian realized the importance of bringing the business of the Federal Government into the homes of Americans nationwide and his indefatigable enthusiasm made this possible. In addition, he has shown great commitment to our home State of Indiana. Brian has also maintained strong ties with his alma mater, Purdue University, in West Lafayette, IN, where he established the C-SPAN archives. Over 80,000 hours of C-SPAN programming are immediately accessible through this database.

I am pleased to bring this important anniversary to the attention of my colleagues. I am thankful to C-SPAN for

their efforts to spread the availability of our government, and I look forward to the continuing relationship, now in its 25th year, between C-SPAN and the U.S. Congress.●

CONGRATULATING PATRICIA SIMMONS

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to honor Mrs. Patricia Simmons for her 34 years of dedicated service as head librarian at the National Naval Medical Center, and to congratulate her for earning the Meritorious Civilian Service Award. Mrs. Simmons is a lifelong civil servant. She has touched the lives of many in the military service with her love of literature and her commitment to service.

I ask that an article from the Journal, a publication of the Medical Center, be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows.

[From the Journal, Oct. 30, 2003]

END OF A CHAPTER

(By Ellen Maurer)

Patricia Simmons, head librarian at the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC), stamped her last book this month.

Retiring after 34 years of service at the hospital's general library, Simmons was honored in a ceremony Oct. 15 for not only her long-term commitment to the command, its staff and patients, but also for her love of literature.

"She loves that library and every book that makes it up," says Cat DeBinder, an NNMC staff member who has known Simmons for more than 25 years.

RAADM Donald Arthur, MC, Commander, NNMC, presented Simmons with the Meritorious Civilian Service Award during her retirement ceremony. The award citation detailed Simmons' significant contributions, which included an improved web cataloging data-base system and an internet cafe. Ironically, though, those who knew Simmons best said she wasn't really dependent on new technology.

"Pat never needed a computer . . . her unflappable data base was between her ears and it never crashed," says DeBinder. "She carried out her responsibilities with great love and true passion. She could tell you exactly where any book was; lead you correctly, without hesitation, to any subject and was a wizard with those little three-by-five index cards."

DeBinder admits, however, that Simmons' familiarity with the books she "guarded" for more than three decades did have its disadvantages—if only to those library patrons, like DeBinder herself, who occasionally missed their "due back" date.

"Once, I had to fess up to the unspeakable. I lost a book. It was an old paperback, printed in the late sixties or early seventies. I think the original price was 40 cents. The pages were yellowish-orange with age. The title was "No Bad Dogs." Pat had a very difficult time accepting the fact that I lost one of her books. I begged for mercy, forgiveness and I offered money. She said, 'Just keep trying to find the book.'"

Whimsically, DeBinder adds, "Pat . . . I'm still looking."●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 2003, the Secretary of the Senate, on March 17, 2004, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1881. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to make technical corrections relating to the amendments by the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3724. An act to amend section 220 of the National Housing Act to make a technical correction to restore allowable increases in the maximum mortgage limits for FHA-insured mortgages for multifamily housing projects to cover increased costs of installing a solar energy system or residential energy conservation measures.

Under the authority of the order of January 7, 2003, the enrolled bills were signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS) on today, March 22, 2004.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:15 pm., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1375. An act to provide regulatory relief and improve productivity for insured depository institutions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3733. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 410 Huston Street in Altamont, Kansas, as the "Myron V. George Post Office".

H.R. 3782. An act to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to increase the maximum amount of an award available under the Department of State rewards program, to expand the eligibility criteria to receive an award, to authorize non-monetary awards, to publicize the existence of the rewards program, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 87. Joint resolution honoring the life and legacy of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and recognizing his contributions on the anniversary of the date of his birth.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 93. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies.