

killer of those between the ages of 4 and 34. Despite these already tragic and staggering statistics, some experts predict that motor vehicle fatalities will double by the year 2020, thus becoming the third greatest global health challenge, jumping from its current ranking of ninth.

The goal of World Health Day 2004 is to raise public awareness of traffic safety in hopes of reducing these motor vehicle fatalities and injuries worldwide. Wearing a seat belt continues to be the most effective means of reducing the risk of death in a crash and the implementation of a national primary seat belt law could save thousands of lives each year. Other important traffic and vehicle safety actions, such as greater consumer awareness of vehicle safety, stronger emphasis of safety with regard to vehicle design, stronger driver education programs, and the identification and disclosure of dangerous roads and intersections would greatly improve road safety and save lives. We have made some progress on these important issues here in the Senate, but we have a long way to go.

I would like to thank the World Health Organization, AAA, the Pan-American Health Organization, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and other important organizations all over the world that have worked tirelessly to confront this global epidemic of motor vehicle fatalities. Their work is saving lives.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, since 1948, countries all over the world have recognized April 7 as World Health Day as a way to raise awareness of a specific health issue that has global significance. In previous years, World Health Day focused on issues such as the importance of creating healthy environments for children, addressing emerging infectious diseases, and reducing the stigma associated with mental health treatment. The theme for this year is road safety which is perhaps not something that is often thought of as a public health risk. However, each year motor vehicle crashes have a devastating and tragic impact on millions of families all over the world.

In 2002, motor vehicle crashes killed nearly 1.2 million people worldwide and injured as many as 50 million more. If the current trend continues, the World Health Organization estimates that by the year 2020, road traffic deaths and disabilities will become the third leading contributor to the global burden of disease and injury ahead of strokes, tuberculosis and HIV.

The toll of these crashes is no less significant here in the United States. Over 42,800 people were killed and nearly 3 million people were injured on our own country's roads and highways in 2002. That's one person—a parent, child, friend, or colleague—killed in a car crash every 12 minutes of every single day. Beyond the overwhelming emotional impact that these deaths and injuries wreak on our commu-

nities, they also cost our economy over \$230 billion a year.

Today as countries around the globe put a spotlight on the issue of road safety, it is equally important to examine what we are doing here in our own country to prevent these crashes.

As the former chairman and now as the ranking member of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, I have worked to improve transportation safety over the years and I would like to talk about some of the ways we can save lives and prevent injuries.

To look at this in a very basic way, there are three categories of events that can go wrong on the road and have deadly consequences. First, there can be hazardous road conditions such as poor weather, narrow lanes or dangerous curves. Second, there can be a catastrophic failure in the vehicle such as a blown tire or worn out brakes. And finally, the driver's own behavior can mean the difference between life and death on the road, whether it is neglecting to wear a seat belt; driving while intoxicated; speeding; or, falling asleep at the wheel.

The investments that we make in our roads, the standards that we set for vehicles and the laws that we enact to change driver behavior all can help reduce the number of fatalities on our Nation's roads and highways.

Often when we talk about transportation funding, we focus on the highway construction jobs that will be created and the congestion that will be relieved. We also must mention how our transportation investments improve safety on our roads and highways. I would like to take the occasion of World Health Day to highlight two areas, in particular, where we hope our transportation investments will help change driver behavior.

The Omnibus appropriations bill that passed the Senate a few months ago increased funding for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's drunk driving program by more than 40 percent. These funds will help States develop and implement a tracking system for those repeat offenders who drive drunk time and time again. They will also help better educate the judges and prosecutors that handle drunk driving cases so that sanctions will be applied in a consistent manner.

It is well known in the highway safety community that the best way to deliver the message about the perils of drinking and driving is through high visibility enforcement programs. On the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, I have worked with Senator SHELBY to include funding for a national paid media campaign for NHTSA's "You Drink and Drive. You Lose" program. This media campaign, which coincides with impaired driving safety mobilization efforts, delivers the message to drivers that law enforcement is out in force conducting sobriety checkpoints and that if you are caught driving under the influence, there will be serious legal consequences.

The Omnibus appropriations bill included \$14 million for paid advertising; \$2.75 million to support State-impaired driving mobilization efforts; and \$3 million to pilot new and innovative strategies to combat impaired driving. This funding, in combination with strong State laws, provides us with an opportunity to reverse the unfortunate upward trend in the number of alcohol-related fatalities.

Another contribution that the Omnibus appropriations bill made toward transportation safety is in the area of seat belts. The most important thing you can do to protect yourself in the event of a car crash is to wear your seat belt. In fact, in 2002, the year for which we have the most recent data, seat belts saved over 14,000 lives. The FY 2004 bill included \$14 million for the "Click It or Ticket" program, which is a national paid media campaign similar to the impaired driving effort I just mentioned, however, its focus is on getting families to buckle up.

This is the third year in a row that Congress has provided funding for "Click It or Ticket," and we are seeing some positive results. Last year, NHTSA estimated that seat belt use had risen to 79 percent nationally, its highest use rate ever. My State of Washington led the country with nearly 95 percent of our citizens wearing their seat belts.

Our efforts to reduce drunk driving and increase seat belt use are just two examples of the steps we are taking to address the safety challenges we face on our Nation's highways. As a member of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, I will continue to work to provide funding for programs that tackle these issues and take the opportunity on occasions such as this to highlight the importance of safety on our Nation's roads.

CAPT RONALD H. HENDERSON

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to pay tribute to an impressive leader who has dedicated his life to the service of our Nation. CAPT Ronald H. Henderson, Jr. has served with great distinction as a fighter pilot in the United States Navy for over 27 years, and was recently nominated for promotion to the rank of Rear Admiral.

During his career, Captain Henderson has served as a Strike Operations Officer and a Tactical Action Officer aboard the USS *Enterprise*; an F/A-18 Strike Fighter Pilot, a Department Head with Strike Fighter Squadron 25; and Commanding Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 146, the "Blue Diamonds," where his squadron was honored with the Estocin Award, as the best F/A-18 squadron in the entire U.S. Navy. The award is named for CAPT Michael J. Estocin, a fighter pilot in the Vietnam conflict who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for remaining in the target area on a bombing mission even though his aircraft was badly damaged.

Captain Henderson has had over 3,800 flying hours and over 600 carrier landings, and has earned the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, three Meritorious Service Medals, the Air Medal, three Navy Commendation Medals, and numerous unit and campaign awards.

Captain Henderson has participated in Operation Desert Shield, Operation Southern Watch, Operation Allied Force, and most recently in Operation Enduring Freedom where he commanded the aircraft carrier named after my brother, the USS *John F. Kennedy*, CV-67.

Captain Henderson brought the ship and crew back home safely in August 2002 and was greeted by 10,000 supporters for a well-deserved homecoming in Mayport, FL.

Captain Henderson will soon turn over his command of the carrier to assume his new responsibilities. I am sure my brother would be proud of his leadership, and I wish him well in the years ahead as he continues his brilliant career in the Navy.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO MS. KELSEY TAMAYO

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to congratulate Ms. Kelsey Tamayo of Radcliff, KY, for her selection to the From the Top radio showcase.

Ms. Tamayo was chosen to represent the Hardin County Schools and the Commonwealth of Kentucky in this national recognition program. Though she is only 15 years old, Ms. Tamayo is an accomplished percussionist. For this showcase, she traveled to Emory University in Atlanta to tape her performance and interview along with other accomplished musicians from around the country.

In November, Ms. Tamayo was named one of six winners of the Young Classical Artists Competition sponsored by the School of Music at the University of Louisville.

While Ms. Tamayo plays more than 20 instruments, she choose to play the Vibraphone in both the University of Louisville competition and on the From the Top broadcast.

Public Radio International's From the Top is a weekly radio series that showcases the nation's most exceptional pre-college age classical musicians. This show has been broadcast since January of 2000 and currently reaches 130 public radio stations and over 240 stations nationwide. The show's slogan is celebrating ordinary kids who do extraordinary things. I would like to congratulate the show and public radio for highlighting the musical successes of our youth.

Congratulations again, Ms. Tamayo, on being selected to perform on From the Top. You are truly an inspiration for all of us throughout the Common-

wealth of Kentucky. We all look forward to your continued success and achievement.●

WE THE PEOPLE PROGRAM

• Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize an important civic education program that is available to many youngsters within this country: We the People. This program, administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress, is an extensive educational program that was developed specifically with the purpose to educate youngsters about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. And, this year, from May 1 through 3 more than 1,200 students from across the United States will visit Washington, DC, to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution.

I recognize the six schools that participated in the We the People Colorado State competition and the more than 15 lawyers, judges, professors, and community leaders who judged these competitions. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to such an important topic. And, I am proud to announce that the class from East High School from Denver will represent the great State of Colorado in this prestigious national event. By displaying their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, these outstanding youngsters won the statewide competition and earned a chance to come to our Nation's capital and compete at the national level.

I truly believe that a thorough understanding and knowledge of our Nation's founding documents will help folks understand and appreciate the sacrifices that our forefathers made, and this will inspire them to stand up for what is right and just.

I wish the students from East High School the best of luck at this year's We the People national finals and I applaud their achievement.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO ELSIE ATHERTON

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute and congratulate Elsie Atherton on her reception of the 2004 Champion for the Aging award given to her by ElderServe of Louisville, KY.

Ms. Atherton has dedicated herself to helping improve the lives of senior citizens in Kentucky. Her devotion to this cause was put to great work during her time at Metro United Way and United Way of Kentucky. She has done a wonderful public service through her efforts to combat elder abuse and financial exploitation of seniors. She has also been active in delivering meals to homeland senior citizens.

The citizens of Kentucky are fortunate to have the leadership of Elsie Atherton. Her example of dedication, hard work and compassion should be an inspiration to all throughout the Commonwealth.

She has my most sincere appreciation for this work and I look forward to her continued service to Kentucky.●

WILEY DOBBS RECOGNIZED FOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE IDAHO CONGRESSIONAL AWARD PROGRAM

• Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, education is the fundamental base that enables our youth to transition to adulthood. The basic principles students learn provide them with the necessary skills to become productive and responsible citizens. In Idaho we view education as an investment not to be taken lightly. It is essential our students are well prepared so that the journey through the halls of our schools will end at the doorway to success.

The preparation for this passage is intense. Not only must our students understand the basics of science, civics, and communication, but they are expected to defend themselves in the face of peer pressure and poor choices. In order to achieve this, we look to those who serve on the front lines of our education system. It is our teachers who will help students aspire to greatness. In Idaho, our teachers do more than expected by expressing to our students the importance of giving back to our communities. They show our students an avenue through which to improve themselves and the cities and towns from which they come. Teachers who encourage community service ought to be thanked.

I thank all the administrators, staff, and teachers in Idaho schools for helping our students visualize their self-worth, thus enabling them to achieve greatness. In addition, today I would like to single out one educator in particular for his dedication and commitment to our local community.

Wiley Dobbs has served in nearly every level of the education system over his tenure in southern Idaho. From time spent as a student at Morningside Elementary school, to his current position as superintendent of the Twin Falls School District, Wiley Dobbs has had a positive impact on the lives of others every step of the way. The standard of excellence set by Wiley is one for which all Idaho educators should strive.

Wiley began his higher educational endeavor at the College of Southern Idaho where he received an associates degree. He later went on to receive two bachelors degrees in social science and health and physical education from Boise State University. Wiley began his career as a teacher in Montpelier, ID who he taught five subjects and coached three sports. He then moved to Twin Falls and taught at both O'Leary Jr. High School and Twin Falls High School. During his time in the high school he taught courses in Government and English, coached wrestling, and worked toward receiving his master's degree in education from Albertson College of Idaho.