

that city's Black Ships festival. I am proud to draw the Senate's attention to this historic occasion, and to express on behalf of my colleagues our deep congratulations to Mayor Naoki Ishii, members of the City Council, and the citizens of Shimoda, Japan as they host the celebration of the mutual friendship and shared values between our two nations, common bonds that will last for many years to come.●

TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I honor some of the greatest men and women in the Nation—Montana teachers. In my State we are blessed to have educators making a difference each day in the lives of our young people. This week is Teacher Appreciation Week and Montana educators should hold their heads high. Montana 8th graders have the second highest science scores in the world. Eighty-four percent of Montana public school teachers in core academic fields have full certification and a major in their field, ranking Montana as one of the top States—2nd out of 50—in teacher qualification. Montana is one of the top 11 States in the percentage of high school graduates going on to college.

Yes, our children are truly fortunate. Our highly qualified teachers not only work hard, but they care about each and every student that enters their classroom. I thank you, Montana teachers, for your sense of duty and compassion to our precious future generation.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

ANDREA SILBERT, CEO OF THE CENTER FOR WOMEN AND ENTERPRISE AND LEADER FOR WOMEN IN BUSINESS

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Andrea C. Silbert, founder of the Center for Women and Enterprise, CWE, for her dedicated and tireless work on behalf of women in business. On Friday, after 9 years of outstanding service, Andrea stepped down as chief executive officer for CWE. I am pleased to take this moment to reflect on Andrea's achievements and her contribution to the growing community of women entrepreneurs.

Andrea began her career working for Morgan Stanley in New York, but after only a few years, left the financial capital of the world to pursue her interest in community economic development. This led Andrea to spend several years helping the less fortunate in Costa Rica, Colombia and Brazil. While in Latin America, Andrea conducted research on nontraditional exports, taught seminars in financial planning of microloan programs for Women's World Banking, and in Brazil helped disadvantaged young girls with income-generating projects.

In 1994, with this invaluable experience and fresh perspective on economic development issues in the United States, Andrea returned to her hometown of Boston with the hope of starting a nonprofit for women entrepreneurs. Her idea was to create a launching pad for all women, regardless of background, to start a business. She was particularly concerned with helping disadvantaged women break the cycle of poverty and become financial self-sufficient. Her efforts led to the establishment of a community-based resource where aspiring women entrepreneurs learn from those who have the experience and knowledge to help others succeed. On October 23, 1995, with financial backing from the Small Business Administration, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Bank of Boston, and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Andrea started CWE.

Under Andrea's leadership and with a budget of \$350,000, three employees, and donated space at Northeastern University, CWE developed into a \$2.6 million nonprofit employing 25 full-time staff with centers in Boston, Worcester, MA, and Providence, RI assisting nearly 2,000 clients a year. Although CWE has quickly become the model for successful women's business centers, the importance of CWE to women entrepreneurs cannot be summed up with numbers.

As more women experience this dream of business ownership, there will continue to be a need for community leaders, like Andrea, who help facilitate the path from poverty to prosperity through entrepreneurship—leaders who can help these women start small businesses, lift themselves up, and give back to their communities.

As a past president of the Association of Women's Business Centers and former member of the National Women's Business Council, Andrea has been an advocate for women in business not only in Massachusetts, but across the country. Her testimony before the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship in February of 1997 helped develop the nationwide network of Women's Business Centers and helped build a record of support for continued and increased funding for women who want to start businesses.

When Andrea started CWE in 1995, there were only 28 centers in the Women's Business Center network. Today, with Andrea's support, assistance and outreach through the Association of Women's Business Centers, there are 88 centers in 47 States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands. Last year, these centers helped 106,000 clients, but without the devotion and vision of people like Andrea, many of the women entrepreneurs across the country would not have this invaluable resource.

Andrea Silbert has not only been a leader for women in business, but a resounding voice for social change. On behalf of myself and my colleagues on

the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I want to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for Andrea's commitment to women entrepreneurs and for her many years of creating new opportunities for women and their communities. Her work through the Center for Women and Enterprise will be greatly missed, but I am confident that her successor, Donna Good, is well suited to continue Andrea's legacy of accomplishment. I want to wish Andrea success and good luck in whatever the future holds.●

DR. NORA KIZER BELL

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, today I would like to commemorate the life of Dr. Nora Kizer Bell, who passed away on January 24, 2004, after a heroic fight against cancer. Throughout her distinguished life, Dr. Bell was a great champion of the liberal arts and women's education.

Among Dr. Bell's career highlights was her term as President of Wesleyan College. As the first female president of the college, she implemented numerous projects, including a major renovation and construction plan, and a new campus technology plan. She also helped increase enrollment, improve academic quality, and increase the endowment at Wesleyan.

In July 2002, Dr. Bell took office as president of Hollins University in Roanoke. During her tenure, she worked hard to make the school a Tier One university and twice saw Hollins take the top rank in "Quality of Life," according to the Princeton Review.

Dr. Bell, a magna cum laude graduate of Randolph-Macon Women's College, was an articulate advocate of single-gender education. Over the years, she wrote on the issue in several prestigious publications, including: USA Today, the Washington Post and the Christian Science Monitor. For her work, she was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian award presented by the Governor of South Carolina.

Dr. Bell was the loving spouse of Dr. David A. Bell, President of Macon State College, and the devoted mother of three children. She leaves behind a wonderful legacy as a mother, a friend and a leader in women's education.●

ANTHONY FILIPPIS, SR. AND THE MICHIGAN ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES HALL OF FAME

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise to recognize a remarkable man and his organization—Mr. Tony Filippis, Sr. and the Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame.

Winston Churchill once remarked, "We shall draw from the heart of suffering itself the means of inspiration and survival."

And that is exactly what Mr. Filippis did.

When tragedy struck in 1929, Mr. Filippis found inspiration not only for

himself, but also for the 1.7 million disabled persons living in my home State of Michigan. Seventy-five years ago, almost to the day, Mr. Filippis's legs were mangled in a train accident, forcing amputation.

Frustrated by the discrimination plaguing him in the years that followed, he sought change. And change he found.

Mr. Filippis accepted a position as the apprentice of Carl Wright, who worked for a company that made his prosthetic legs; 10 years later they founded their own company, Wright & Filippis.

Since its founding, Wright & Filippis has grown into one of the only companies in the United States that offers complete equipment services for the disabled, from state-of-the-art prosthetic limbs to public education about rehabilitation.

More remarkably, however, is what Mr. Filippis has done for the spirit of the disabled community in Michigan. In June 1999, he founded the Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame.

Annually, the Hall of Fame recognizes the top Male and Female Athletes of the Year, as well as identifying a Lifetime Achievement Award winner and other Hall of Fame inductees.

The Hall of Fame, however, does more than recognize the immense athletic achievement of Michiganians with disabilities. It also tells their stories so that other people with disabilities can draw strength and inspiration from them.

It tells stories of people like Cheryl Angelelli who, despite being confined to a wheelchair due to spinal cord damage, has proven herself a formidable opponent in a swimming pool.

Among other achievements, she claimed a national title with one gold and four silver medals at the 1999 U.S. National Disability Championships. Ranking 10th in the world and second in the U.S. in the 100-meter breast stroke and the 200-meter individual medley, she earned a spot on the paralympic swimming team for the 2000 Games in Sydney, Australia.

It tells stories of people who also give back to their community. Ms. Angelelli is a member of several advisory councils for people with disabilities and her expertise is sought by the management of concert halls and stadiums on how to make their venues more accessible to their disabled patrons.

In the manner that Churchill called for, Mr. Filippis took his painful experience of discrimination and used it as fuel to try to prevent those with disabilities today from feeling the same sense of alienation he had. Through his organization, others with disabilities can be honored for their achievement and be a source of motivation to others.

We appreciate his hard work and thank him.●

CARILION MEDICAL CENTER NURSES

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, today I want to congratulate the wonderful nurses at Carilion Medical Center in Roanoke for recently achieving Magnet Recognition from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, ANCC, a division of the American Nurses Association.

The mission of the ANCC is to promote excellence in nursing and health care globally through credentialing programs and related services. Their designation of Magnet Recognition is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon hospital nurses. Currently, Carilion Medical Center is one of just 102 health care organizations in the U.S. to have received this recognition from the ANCC.

Last November, I had the opportunity to tour the Carilion Medical Center. During my visit, I got to see firsthand the outstanding dedication and commitment that the nurses provide their patients. I am pleased today to recognize the exceptional nurses at Carilion Health Center on their tremendous achievement and wish them continued success.●

HONORING D.L. EVANS BANK ON 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I today honor D.L. Evans Bank on reaching a tremendous milestone—100 years in business. D.L. Evans bank is a financial institution in the largest sense of that word. It is a significant, established organization with branches solely in my home State of Idaho, and widely recognized for quality, personalized banking services to the community. Today I honor the Evans family and their employees for their long, proud history of financial service to Idahoans and many others.

In 1904, D.L. Evans and a group of pioneer businessmen met and organized Cassia County's first bank. Despite the floods, fires, droughts, and even grasshoppers that have wreaked havoc on its customers, the bank has survived many tough economic times. As other banks around the country were closing their doors, D.L. Evans Bank was expanding—moving from its one-story frame building to a two-story stone headquarters in the early 1900s. From that original Albion branch, the bank has opened locations in Boise, Burley, Meridian, Ketchum, Jerome, Rupert, and Twin Falls. It is now the second largest community bank head quartered in southern Idaho with \$388 million in assets and \$345 million in deposits.

The Evans family's participation in the Idaho State Government has been no less impressive. The bank's founder, D.L. Evans, served in the Idaho Senate from 1903-1904 and 1923-1924. The current President, John V. Evans Sr., has served in numerous government capacities including as Governor of Idaho, Mayor of Malad City, State Senator and Majority and Minority Leader of

the Idaho Senate, and Lieutenant Governor. The Evans family and D.L. Evans Bank have made important contributions to both the private and public sector in Idaho.

Congratulations to the employees, friends, and family of D.L. Evans on the centennial anniversary. D.L. Evans is a bank with a proud history, impressive current achievements, and a promising future. I wish the bank and its employees the best as they continue to serve the communities and families of Idaho.●

PAGE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL 2003 BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY AND CHEERLEADING TEAMS

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am very pleased today to recognize the great achievements and dedication of the Page County High School Boys' Cross Country and Cheerleading teams. Both teams finished their outstanding 2003 seasons by winning State championship titles.

Throughout the season, the cross country and cheerleading teams showed the determination of a championship team. They worked continuously to develop needed skills, persevere as athletes and follow the leadership of their coaches.

This is the third State title in 4 years for the Panthers Boys' Cross Country Team. In addition, the Panthers have won the Shenandoah District regular season championship for six consecutive seasons and have now been crowned District Champions for 5 years in a row.

Congratulations to the members of the Page County High School Boys' Cross Country Team: Adam Atkins, Nathan Batman, Steve Beers, Wayne Beers, Zach Bouldin, Tommy Copeland, Jeff Frazier, Nathaniel Nelson, Ethan Price, Todd Somers, T.J. Stoneberger; and their Coach Stanley Price.

This is also the cheerleading team's third victory at the Virginia High School League Group A State cheerleading championship in 4 years. The Panthers have now won seven consecutive Shenandoah District Championships and five consecutive Region B cheerleading titles.

I would also like to congratulate the members of the Page County Cheerleading Team: Brittany Aldrige, Heather Alger, Casey Burke, Ashley Campbell, Caitlin Cave, Elizabeth Colopy, Tiffany Comer, Amanda Cabbage, Kara Greber, Stephanie Grimsley, Kendrick Harris, Preston Harris, Felicia Jenkins, Sara Maiden, Kayla McPherson, Clay Nevitt, Vanessa Prince, Tiara Rodgers, Holly Shifflett, Sean Stewart, Nicole Taylor, Kevin Tester, Aaron Williams, Whitney Williams, Megan Yager; and their Coaches, Barbara Hilliard, Brandy Strickler and Kevin Cabbage.

I am pleased to congratulate all of the athletes and the coaches on the Page County Boys' Cross Country and Cheerleading teams. They have made