

the memory of a remarkable man, Reserve Deputy John Sandlin of Solano County, who died Friday, April 23, 2004. Deputy Sandlin spent almost 50 years working to protect his fellow citizens, serving a distinguished career in the Navy and as a volunteer deputy with the Solano County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Sandlin was killed in the line of duty when his patrol car spun out of control during a recent pursuit.

John Sandlin was the devoted husband of Dr. Kay Talbot and the proud father of three daughters, Elizabeth, Lori and Susan. He was also the proud grandfather of seven grandchildren.

Deputy Sandlin compiled a remarkable record in community policing with the Solano County Sheriff's Office, becoming its second most highly decorated officer. He spent 20 years as a volunteer reserve deputy who patrolled the streets most Friday nights for the past decade. Last May, he earned the Sheriff's Office Distinguished Service Medal and the Purple Heart. Sheriff Gary Stanton said of Deputy Sandlin, "We lost a brother—a man who has been part of our department for 20 years."

Before joining the Solano County Sheriff's Office, John served in the Navy for 22 years. He became a nuclear power instructor, served in the Submarine Service, and was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for saving another's life. He attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander while on active duty.

John Sandlin also spent 14 years at Westinghouse Electric Corporation as a Senior Mechanical Engineer and Documentation Manager. During his career at Westinghouse, he was sworn in as a reserve deputy sheriff with the Solano County Sheriff's Air Squadron. He earned the 1990 Community Service Award for his dedication to law enforcement and drug surveillance activities with the Solano County Sheriff's Department.

After retiring from Westinghouse, he soon entered the patrol field training program in the Sheriff's Office and began to work on the ground, patrolling the streets to protect his community.

John Sandlin died doing what he loved to do—providing protection for his community. He was a natural leader, a compassionate mentor, and an enthusiastic, charming and very well-liked member of the Sheriff's Office. We will always be grateful for Deputy Sandlin's heroic service defending our Nation and our freedoms, and protecting his community.●

PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD HONOREES

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I recognize Meghan Pasricha and Andrew Bell for being selected as two of the Nation's top youth volunteers in the ninth annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. This is an extraordinary honor. More than 24,000 young

people across the country were considered for this recognition each year.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, NASSP, constitutes America's largest youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteerism. The awards are designed to emphasize the importance that our Nation places on service to others and to encourage young Americans of all backgrounds to contribute to their communities.

Meghan Pasricha was named as one of America's top 10 youth volunteers for 2004. Selected from more than 2,000 applicants, she received \$5,000, an engraved gold medallion and a crystal trophy from her school, Stanford School. In addition, she will have \$25,000 in toys, clothing and other juvenile products donated in her name to needy children in the area by Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc.

Meghan Pasricha, 18, of Hockessin, is a senior at Sanford School. Meghan started an antitobacco club at her school that has since developed into a full-blown campaign to educate young people across the country and overseas about the hazards of smoking. When Meghan heard that her State legislature was considering a ban on indoor smoking, she paid close attention. After learning that most smokers start before they turn 18, Meghan founded the Anti-Tobacco Action Club at her school. With a grant from the American Lung Association and the Delaware Health Fund, she recruited a core team of volunteers, led meetings, planned a year-long series of antitobacco activities, created training and presentation materials, and conducted 12 tobacco awareness workshops for school and youth groups. She also set up a tobacco education booth at a school health fair, published a newsletter and helped other Delaware schools start tobacco education programs. And by writing newspaper articles and speaking publicly, she helped mobilize youth support for the enactment of one of the Nation's toughest indoor smoking bans.

On a visit to India, Meghan observed how young people there are targeted by tobacco sellers, so she trained a group of youth advocates to raise awareness in a number of villages. Later, Meghan presented her project at the World Conference on Tobacco in Finland, and worked with youth advocates from nine other nations to prepare a World Health Organization Youth Action Guide and video. "I am convinced that a single person, even if young and inexperienced, can become a catalyst for change," she said. "Young people are often told that they are 'leaders of tomorrow.' I urge young people to become leaders today."

Andrew Bell of Seaford was selected as one of Delaware's top youth volunteers for 2004. He received a \$1,000 award and was congratulated by Academy Award winning actress and come-

dian, Whoopi Goldberg. He also received an engraved silver medallion and a trip to Washington, DC, for the program's national recognition events.

Twelve-year-old Andrew, a sixth grader at Sussex Academy of Arts and Sciences, helped collect shoes, socks, and shoelaces for needy orphans around the world. Andrew started the project by writing letters to the four elementary school principals in his hometown of Seaford, asking them for permission to collect donations in their schools. He wrote articles for his school newsletters, created handouts and brochures explaining the purpose of his project, decorated collection boxes for each of the four schools, and solicited donations from local department stores. Some 300 pairs of shoes, 83 pairs of socks and 15 pairs of shoelaces were collected for this effort. From there, the items were sent to the Buckner Orphan Care facility in Texas. The items were then distributed worldwide to orphans in need. Andrew felt that this project was important because "many children on Earth are poor, and not very many people are trying to help them."

Today, I rise to congratulate Meghan and Andrew. These youngsters inspire examples of community spirit and leadership. They serve as role models not only to their peers, but to all of us, as well as to the people they have touched through community service. They represent the State of Delaware at its very best.●

ALAMEDA CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY'S EARLY LOAN REPAYMENT

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I congratulate the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority, ACTA, for repaying its loan to the Federal Government 28 years ahead of schedule.

ACTA has proven that it is an asset for Southern California and the Federal Government by building the Alameda Corridor on time and on budget—and now repaying the loan so early.

I have worked on this project since 1995, when I secured the Alameda Corridor as a high priority corridor in the National Highway System bill.

This project is extremely important because the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach receive 40 percent of the Nation's imports, together composing the largest shipping complex in the United States.

By taking trucks off the road, the Alameda Corridor helps move goods more rapidly and reduces congestion for many communities in southern California.

I am proud to be associated with this project. It is a model for the Nation and a model for innovative finance.

I look forward to working with ACTA on new projects supporting goods movement in southern California.

I ask that a proclamation signed by the City of Los Angeles, the City of Long Beach, and the Alameda Corridor

Transportation Authority be printed in the RECORD.

The proclamation follows.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, in connection with the issuance of the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority Subordinate Lien Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2004A and Series 2004B, the Authority intends to prepay the remaining balance of the Federal Loan dated January 17, 1997 by and between the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA) and the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (DOT);

Whereas, the City of Los Angeles, the City of Long Beach and ACTA hereby acknowledge the critical role of the DOT in the development and financing of the Alameda Corridor Project;

Whereas, the DOT was an instrumental partner in achieving the substantial completion of the Alameda Corridor Project and in significantly improving the transportation system and movement of goods in the Southern California region;

Now Therefore, the undersigned hereby proclaim their gratitude and appreciation to the DOT for its efforts in connection with this significant transportation project.●

TRIBUTE TO FATHER JOHN D. DEATRICK

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I would like to take the opportunity to honor an outstanding member of the Catholic church, Father John D. Deatruck, the pastor at St. Martha in Louisville, KY.

Father Deatruck is retiring June 13, 2004 upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of the Catholic church. He has been an ordained priest for 38 years. Throughout his years as a pastor, Father Deatruck served as chaplain at St. Xavier High School as well as Bellerme University where he also served as the Bellerme Knights baseball coach. He has remained a steadfast baseball fan throughout the years and attends the National spring training camp in Florida when he gets the opportunity.

Father Deatruck has been the pastor at St. Martha for 11 years. He will be greatly missed by the members of his congregation. I join all Kentuckians in commending Father Deatruck for his faithfulness and dedication to the Catholic church for the past 38 years. I wish him well in his retirement.●

2004 WINNERS OF THE "WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION" NATIONAL COMPETITION

● Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, on May 1-3, 2004, over 1,200 students from across the United States visited our Nation's Capital to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution. This program, administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the Department of Education, was developed specifically to educate young people about our great Constitution and Bill of Rights.

I am proud to announce that students from East Brunswick High School in East Brunswick, NJ, won first place in this prestigious academic event. After winning the statewide competition, these outstanding students demonstrated superior knowledge of the U.S. Constitution during the national competition.

The 3-day We the People competition is modeled after Congressional hearings. First, the students are given an opportunity to exhibit their knowledge before a panel of adult judges while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Their testimony is followed by questions designed to probe the students' depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

This innovative program continues to be one of the best antidotes to apathy and cynicism in our Nation. Numerous evaluations and independent studies have validated the effectiveness of the We the People program on students' civic knowledge and attitudes. The program helps students to develop an increased understanding of the institutions of constitutional democracy and the fundamental principals and values upon which they are founded. It also teaches students the skills necessary to participate as effective and responsible citizens.

I commend the students from East Brunswick High School on their exceptional achievement—their accomplishment is truly inspiring. I wish them the best of luck in learning and advocating the fundamental ideals that identify us as a people and bind us together as a Nation.●

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 withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2315. An act to amend the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 to extend the deadline for the INTELSAT initial public offering.

The message also announced that the House passed the following bills in

which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

H.R. 27. An act to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to exempt small public housing agencies from the requirement of preparing an annual public housing agency plan.

H.R. 2771. An act to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize the New York City Watershed Protection Program.

H.R. 4227. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend to 2005 the alternative minimum tax relief available in 2003 and 2004 and to index such relief for inflation.

At 6:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagree to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2443) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2004, to amend various laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

Ordered, That the following Members be the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendments, and modifications, committed to conference: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. COBLE, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BISHOP, and Mr. LAMPSON.

For consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendments, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. COX and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 326. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the arbitrary detention of Dr. Wang Bingzhang by the Government of the People's Republic of China and urging his immediate release.

H. Con. Res. 398. Concurrent resolution expressing the concern of Congress over Iran's development of the means to produce nuclear weapons.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 2315. An act to amend the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 to extend the deadline for the INTELSAT initial public offering.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated.

H.R. 27. An act to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to exempt small public housing agencies from the requirement of preparing an annual public housing agency plan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.