

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
URBAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the Urban Scholars Program of the University of Massachusetts Boston. The program was created to provide academically talented students in urban middle and high schools the skills and motivation to achieve their full potential. In 1984, UMass Boston and the Boston Public Schools formed a partnership that helped the first 15 students and the program has grown increasingly ever since. Today, the program lists hundreds of graduates who have gone on to earn undergraduate and advanced degrees.

The Urban Scholars Program is a year-round enterprise featuring rigorous after-school classes, seminars, tutoring and supervised study. In the summer, the program offers a 7-week institute in which students are immersed in science, technology, and humanities courses not offered at their high schools, and many earn college credit for their work. Students and their families make sacrifices to participate, but they work hard, and the results are remarkable.

A study showed that participants in the Urban Scholars Program improved attendance and academic achievement. And over the past 20 years, 100 percent of the Urban Scholars have been accepted at colleges across the country. They have an 85 percent college retention rate, compared to the 50 percent national rate. Investing early in these talented young men and women pays off for the students and the entire community.

UMass Boston deserves great credit for its commitment to this outstanding program, and I especially commend Adaline Mirabal, the director of the program, and Joan Becker, its administrator. Their skillful work and dedication has transformed the lives of these young students, and has demonstrated the immense possibilities of early intervention in bringing a first-class education within reach of every child.●

HECTOR BARRETO, SR.

• Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I rise today to mourn the passing of a great businessman and a pioneer in the Hispanic community, Mr. Hector Barreto, Sr. The story of his life and his accomplishments are truly inspiring, and his leadership will be sorely missed.

Hector Barreto, Sr. was born in Mexico City and raised in Guadalajara, Mexico. In his early twenties, he immigrated to Kansas City, MO, where he met and married his wife, Maria Luisa. He started out digging potatoes on a farm near Corning, MO, for 80 cents an hour. After saving money from years of work, he was able to start his own restaurant, Mexico Lindo, which means "Beautiful Mexico." Though Mexican

restaurants were rare in Kansas City in the 1950s, Hector's business thrived, and its success allowed him to open a second and third restaurant as well as an import company and a construction firm.

In 1979, Hector founded the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce along with several other Hispanic business leaders. For the last 25 years, the Hispanic Chamber has represented the interests of the Nation's more than 1.2 million Hispanic-owned businesses and harnessed the vast economic potential of Hispanic Americans. Also in 1979, Hector decided to delve into politics, supporting Ronald Reagan's successful Presidential bid and eventually working on his transition team. President Reagan addressed the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in 1983, becoming the first sitting President to address such a conference.

Hector was also quite proud of his son, Hector Barreto, Jr., who like his father has made a name for himself in both business and politics. Hector Jr. delivered a speech at the Republican National Convention nominating George W. Bush for President, and President Bush later appointed him the administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Hector leaves behind Maria Luisa, his wife of 43 years, his children Hector Jr., Anna, Gloria, Rosa, and Mary, and 12 grandchildren. His efforts opened doors for millions of Hispanics and other Americans, and his legacy as a successful entrepreneur who lived the American Dream will live on.●

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
GLENN CUNNINGHAM

• Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, on the night of Tuesday, May 25, 2004, New Jersey lost one of its most dedicated public servants, Jersey City Mayor and State Senator Glenn Cunningham. It was a terrible tragedy and terrible loss to the people of Jersey City and New Jersey.

Mayor Cunningham was a compassionate public official who was deeply committed to his city, his State, and his country, serving 4 years in the U.S. Marine Corps before returning home and beginning a life-long career rooted in his pride in Jersey City and his caring for his fellow citizens.

He was a police officer, Hudson County freeholder, Jersey City councilman, and U.S. marshal. He distinguished himself further as a fierce and aggressive fighter for Jersey City as the city's mayor and State senator. His voice was strong and his love for his city boundless.

He worked every day to bring his diverse community together, to unite rather than divide. As the State's first African-American U.S. marshal and Jersey City's first African-American mayor, Glenn Cunningham plowed a path of excellence for others to follow.

Sadly, his tenure as mayor was far too short, and he will be missed by

those he served. As Annette McMillian of Jersey City told the Jersey Journal last week, "He was fair and decent and honest." Terry Suarez of Union City added poignantly, "A light has been darkened by the silence of death."

I join those who will miss Mayor Cunninghams great energy, creativity, and perspectives on government and public service. On behalf of the people of New Jersey, I extend my deepest condolences to the mayor's widow, Sandra Bolden-Cunningham, and my prayers are with his family and his beloved community of Jersey City.●

COMMENDING THE CAREER OF
FRANCES PRESTON

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, Frances Preston, the president and chief executive officer of BMI announced in April that she is stepping down from her leadership role at BMI. Though I know she will continue to play a role at BMI, I take this opportunity to commend her for distinguished and dedicated service to the writers, composers, and publisher of BMI, as well as to the broader creative community.

For many years, Mrs. Preston has successfully guided BMI to a position of international leadership in the entertainment industry. She is one of the industry's most widely admired executives. Fortune magazine has called her "one of the true powerhouses of the pop music business."

In large part as a result of her business and creative acumen, BMI today represents legendary artists ranging from Sting to Paul Simon to Shania Twain. And, in the world of public policy, Mrs. Preston has been a strong voice for creators' rights. She also maintains a passionate dedication to a number of charities and serves in a volunteer capacity as the president of the largest medical charity, the T.J. Martell Foundation for Leukemia, Cancer and AIDS Research.

The list of awards Mrs. Preston has received for excellence in industry and public service is too long to list here. They range from being the first non-performing woman invited to join New York's prestigious Friar's Club in 1993 to the American Women in Radio and Television's Outstanding Achievement Award in 1998 to induction in the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame in 1999. More recent honors include the Touchstone Advocate Award from Women in Music in October 2003 and the NARAS Heroes Award from the New York Chapter of the Recording Academy in December 2003.

Frances Preston has been successful in business, a leader in her community, and generous in her service. She leaves a lasting legacy of leadership and excellence.●