

CAPE VERDE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleagues, my fellow Rhode Islanders, and our Cape Verdean community in celebration of Cape Verde Independence Day.

Every country is rich with its own history and unique story of how it achieved democracy, and Cape Verde is no exception. In 1462, Portuguese settlers arrived at Santiago and founded the first permanent European settlement city in the tropics. In 1951, Portugal changed Cape Verde's status from a colony to an overseas province in an attempt to blunt growing nationalism. Five years later, a group of Cape Verdeans, led by Amílcar Cabral, and a group from neighboring Guinea-Bissau organized the clandestine African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, PAIGC, demanding improvements in economic, social, and political conditions in Cape Verde and Portuguese Guinea. This important action formed the basis of the 2 nations' independence movements.

By 1972, the PAIGC controlled much of Portuguese Guinea despite the presence of the Portuguese troops, but did not disrupt Portuguese control in Cape Verde. It was not until the April 1974 revolution in Portugal that the PAIGC and Portugal signed an agreement providing for a transitional government composed of Portuguese and Cape Verdeans. On June 30, 1975, Cape Verdeans elected a national assembly, which received the instruments of independence from Portugal on July 5, 1975, making it the official national day of independence.

For its first 15 years of independence, Cape Verde was ruled by one party. Then in 1990, opposition groups came together to form the Movement for Democracy. Working together they ended the 1-party state and the first multi-party elections were held in January 1991.

Cape Verde enjoys a stable democratic system where 4 parties share seats in the National Assembly. It is an example to other nations as to what can be accomplished. These democratic changes meant better global integration as the government has pursued market-oriented economic policies and welcomed foreign investors.

Today there are close to 350,000 Cape Verdean-Americans living in the United States, almost equal to the population of Cape Verde itself. These Americans hold a special right since the Cape Verdean Constitution formally considers all Cape Verdeans at home and abroad as citizens and voters. Thus, July 5th is a day of independence for all Cape Verdean-Americans as well as those in Cape Verde.

Recently we celebrated the independence of our own country, reflecting on the personal sacrifices many have made to ensure our own freedom and democracy. It is fitting we do the same with Cape Verde and I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing all those

with direct and ancestral ties to Cape Verde a happy Independence Day.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THAYAS RAY BRAY

• Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, on July 20, 2004, the city of Moss Point, MS will take time out to honor and pay tribute to one of its own, Mr. Thayas Ray Bray. In fact, his accomplishments are so numerous and his dedication to his community so strong, Moss Point officials have designated this Saturday as "Thayas Ray Bray Day." Along with his wife, Joyce Bray, and two sons, Jerry and Keith, and their families, I want to take this opportunity to join the City of Moss Point in congratulating Mr. Bray on all of his hard work.

Mr. Bray's service to his local community and fellow citizens has taken on many different forms over the years. He has served as president of YMBC, MPAC, Exchange Club, and JC. He has owned Moss Point Sonic since 1976, as well as Lucedale Sonic, and has co-owned Jackson County Funeral Home. I understand he was the original organizer of Moss Point Impact, and a member of the Mississippi Restaurant Association. All the while, he has remained an active member of First Baptist Church of Moss Point.

By giving back so generously to the community through volunteer time, he has truly made a difference in the lives of others. Leading youth in Boy Scouts and Little League baseball are prime examples of his dedication. He has supported local activities such as the high school band and football, Gulfport Special Olympics, and YMBC Golf Tournaments. He also has been an active supporter of the fight against Muscular Dystrophy, and has supported both the American Cancer Society and American Heart Association.

As you can see, his contributions to the City of Moss Point are far-reaching and have benefited the community in many different ways. So again I want to thank Mr. Bray for his contributions to his community, and I want to join my friends and neighbors in applauding and commemorating his service.●

OPPORTUNITY VILLAGE'S 50TH BIRTHDAY

• Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I wish to honor and celebrate an organization that has made an unbelievable impact on my home State of Nevada.

Today marks 50 years since Opportunity Village became part of the Las Vegas landscape. In 1954, a group of families joined together to support the needs of children with mental retardation. In the 50 years that followed, Opportunity Village grew to become the largest private provider of vocational training, employment, advocacy, and recreation for people with disabilities in Nevada.

Words cannot adequately describe the difference that Opportunity Village

makes in the life of a person with severe disabilities. The organization gives individuals long-term work experience, marketable job skills, independence, and increased self-esteem. Those benefits are the very least that they provide.

However, Opportunity Village's accomplishments have not been made single-handedly. In Las Vegas, there are many wonderful partnerships between Opportunity Village and community businesses and agencies. Among them are America Nevada Corporation, ATC-Vancom, the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. General Services Administration, the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the Las Vegas Valley Water District, Bellagio, Harrah's, Station Casinos, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bank of Nevada, Bechtel, Boyd Gaming, the City of Henderson, the Clark County Health Department, Desert Automotive Group, GES, the Internal Revenue Service, KNPR, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, McCarran International Airport, New York-New York Hotel and Casino, Southwest Gas Corp., Wells Fargo, and Wynn Resorts. I applaud all of Opportunity Village's partners for their vision and their commitment to providing opportunity for so many individuals.

I had the chance to see one of the Opportunity Village partnerships in action and it was then that I truly understood the tremendous impact they make each and every day. Opportunity Village clients serve more than 60,000 meals per month at the Nellis Air Force Base (AFB) dining facility and also operate the postal service center at the base. On one of my visits to the base, Senator REID and I joined Opportunity Village workers in serving lunch in the mess hall.

It was incredible to see individuals with disabilities working and interacting with our military. Not only were they serving food and smiles, but they were contributing to our Nation and the Air Force with their work.

Their accomplishments and contributions are quite remarkable given the hurdles they have faced all their lives.

Eddie was diagnosed a mentally retarded child in the first grade. Those who know him say he has a genuine and caring personality, a child-like shyness, and the focus of a genius. Eddie began working with Opportunity Village in 1986 where his specialty was packaging and product assembly. Following his mastery of that program, Eddie moved on to janitorial services in the work center. Later, he moved to another promotion as a room attendant in a hotel. Finally, he was promoted to mess attendant at Nellis AFB where the results of his hard work are easily seen in the respect he has earned from his coworkers and supervisors.

Jamie was diagnosed with mild mental retardation when he was a child. He refused to let the diagnosis slow him

down and began working with Opportunity Village in 1998. Jamie started in the Work Center where he assembled buckets for \$5 an hour. He moved on to become a part of the janitorial crew in the work center. Then he joined the American Nevada Enclave cleaning parking lots. Today, Jamie has proved to be a valuable member of his work team at Nellis AFB where he washes dishes, performs janitorial services, and busses tables. Jamie will proudly tell you the \$8.27 an hour he earns now helps to pay his mom's mortgage.

Paul was diagnosed a moderately mentally challenged adult and has a history of seizures. Despite all of the obstacles placed in his way, Paul continues to persevere. Beginning his career with Opportunity Village in August of 1999, Paul focused on production assembly. Quickly mastering the techniques necessary, Paul was promoted to room attendant. Then he moved to a position cleaning at the American Nevada Enclave parking lot. Now, Paul is also a mess attendant at Nellis AFB. Paul proudly calls himself a "team player."

While the accomplishments of Eddie, Jamie, Paul, and all of Opportunity Village's clients are inspiring, the benefits to our community are not just emotional. Employment generated through Opportunity Village contracts helps to reduce dependence on Government benefits and increases tax revenues. Individuals with severe disabilities are paid wages that reduce their need for other Government benefits. Earning wages allows them to become productive members of society and to join the ranks of the taxpayers of Nevada. Economic studies show that since its inception 50 years ago, Opportunity Village has saved Nevada taxpayers almost \$1 billion.

I mentioned earlier that Opportunity Village receives vital support from business partners in reaching its goals. The other two essential elements to the success of Opportunity Village are its leadership and the contributions of the Las Vegas community.

Year after year, Opportunity Village is named by Las Vegas residents as their favorite charity. Las Vegans of all ages look forward to the yearly Magical Forest fundraising event as well as many other Opportunity Village programs. From world-renowned entertainers to local celebrities to area children to Las Vegas businesses, southern Nevadans continue to understand the importance of Opportunity Village's mission and fully support the 100 percent local organization.

And at the helm of Opportunity Village is a man whose vision and dedication has made it possible to serve more than 600 disabled workers every day. Opportunity Village Executive Director Ed Guthrie has proven to be a tireless advocate for individuals with disabilities and a true friend to the disabled community. I have had the pleasure of working with him on many projects, and I know how committed he

is to the continued success of Opportunity Village.

Today, we look back on the last half century with heartfelt gratitude for those local families who, in 1954, decided that their loved ones with disabilities deserved more. They planted the seed that has been nurtured and cared for by their extended family of Las Vegans. Today, families of disabled individuals proudly see their loved ones—who 50 years ago would not have had an opportunity—gain self esteem and achieve things once not thought possible. With Opportunity Village's continued strong leadership, business partners, and community support, the next 50 years will bring opportunity and optimism to future generations of intellectually disabled individuals.●

TRIBUTE TO CHUCK VEST

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, Chuck Vest will soon end his distinguished 14-year tenure as President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has been an excellent leader for this outstanding institution in our State. He has attracted and retained a world class faculty, including Nobel Prize winners. He has maintained an impressive balance between consistency and change to meet the changing needs of the university in the modern high-tech world. And has developed the research capacity of the institution far beyond its abilities when he took the helm.

His commitment to diversity has also been impressive. In 1990, the undergraduate student body was 34 percent women and 14 percent underrepresented minorities; today the student body is 42 percent women and 20 percent underrepresented minorities—the result of a conscientious effort by President Vest and the community he cared so much about.

His leadership was marked by many innovative reforms. He decided to publish all course material online, so that it is freely available to anyone in the world. He brought the unequal treatment of senior female faculty to the attention of the community and held an open dialogue on how to correct the situation. He offered health benefits to same-sex partners. His leadership on financial aid methodologies laid the groundwork for the provisions that are now part of the Higher Education Act.

Chuck has worked skillfully as well to obtain increased support for scientific research—especially in the physical sciences—and he was a familiar figure in corporate boardrooms and to many of us in Congress. His cooperative work with Lincoln Labs, with Harvard and with the Broad Foundation and his commitment to the Cambridge and Boston Public Schools are important parts of all he has brought to MIT. When he was named in February to the President's Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction, he said, "I will concentrate on two priorities, MIT and the Commission."●

There is so much to be said about Chuck Vest—his intelligence, his appealing personality, his modesty about his own high accomplishments, and his tireless pursuit of excellence in everything he does. All of us who know him wish him well in the years ahead, confident that we will continue to think and act boldly about the role of science and scientific education in our changing world and its fundamental importance to the future of our Nation and its best ideals.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:23 a.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. 103. An act for the relief of Lindita Idrizi Heath.

The message also announced that the house passed the following bills in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 530. An act for the relief of Tanya Andreea Goudeau.

H.R. 712. An act for the relief of Richi James Lesley.

H.R. 867. An act for the relief of Durreshahwar Durreshahwar, Nida Hasan, Asna Hasan, Anum Hasan, and Iqra Hasan.

H.R. 2121. An act to amend the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Act of 1990 to authorize additional appropriations for the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Program Trust fund, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3340. An act to redesignate the facilities of the United States Postal Service located at 7715 and 7748 S. Cottage Grove Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the "James E. Worsham Post Office" and the "James E. Worsham Carrier Annex Building", respectively, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3247. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73 South Euclid Avenue in Montauk, New York, as the "Perry B. Duryea, Jr. Post Office".

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which is requests the concurrence of the Senate.

H. Con. Res. 257. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President should posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harry W. Colmery.

H. Con. Res. 410. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and recognizing the Marshall Islands as a staunch ally of the United States, committed to principles of democracy and freedom for the Pacific region and throughout the world.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 530. An act for the relief of Tanya Andreea Goudeau; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 712. An act for the relief of Richi James Lesley; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 867. An act for the relief of Durreshahwar Durreshahwar Nida Hasan,