

Baseball player, I appreciate their athletic excellence. As a United States Senator from Kentucky, I appreciate the dignity and decorum with which they played.

I am proud to read the names of these teammates into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today. They are Whitney Atcher, Alicia Ewen, Jodi Pence, Jennifer Young, Jennifer Kisselbaugh, Tiffany Dean, Courtney Roller, Holly Goemmer, Jessica McGohon, Krystle Johnson, Kasey Graham, and Jennifer Johnson.

The citizens of Kentucky should be proud of these young ladies. Their example of dedication and hard work should be an inspiration to the entire Commonwealth. I wish them continued success both on and off the softball field.●

IN RECOGNITION OF SENATOR CARPER'S NATIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE

● Mr. CARPER. Madam President, today I give thanks to the members of my National Parks Committee in Delaware for all of their efforts, time, and dedication in attempting to establish a national park in Delaware.

Delaware is the only State that does not have a national park, national monument, national historic site or any other unit of the National Park Service. It is through the hard work of the members of this committee that we have narrowed down the search in recommending the first national park in the First State.

I began the process of trying to establish a national park in 2002. My staff and I took suggestions from the public via surveys, a web poll, and phone calls. We received hundreds of responses, and suggestions ranged from Fort DuPont to Cape Henlopen State Park to the Underground Railroad to the World War II Towers. After several months of hearing what the public recommended, I established the National Parks Committee in 2003.

The committee was comprised of 12 people, including Dr. James Soles, the head of the committee, Dr. Wilma Mishoe, Ms. Norma Lee Derrickson, the Honorable John Schroeder, Mr. O. Francis Biondi, Mr. Ernst Dannemann, Dr. Linda Johnson-Gilliam, Ms. Jane Richter, Ms. Maria Matos, Mr. Ruly Carpenter, Mr. Bill Powers and Mr. Edwin Mongan III. For several months, the members met and discussed extensively each of the suggestions offered by the public. They held workshops in each county whereby the public could attend, participate and offer suggestions. They took a tour of the proposed sites to determine which location would make the best national park.

After months of deliberation, the committee came to its final recommendation: the creation of "The Delaware National Coastal Heritage Park." This National Park would memorialize the rich and diverse history of Delaware's coastal areas, bringing

that history and related attractions into sharp focus for area residents and visitors alike.

This park would be unique among national parks in both its physical dimensions and its theme. Physically, the park would be comprised of a series of four interpretive centers. The centers would largely direct visitors to already existing attractions related to the theme of the park—that is that Delaware's coastal region is comprised of a series of historic, cultural and natural interwoven threads that hold great significance in the history of both Delaware and the United States.

The concept of the unit recognizes that Delaware's coastal region is a near perfect microcosm of America's coastal regions and that they have always played a key role in human activity. It recognizes that the fabric that makes up our Nation is in turn made up of many threads of human and natural activity and that most of those threads have their origins in coastal regions like Delaware's.

In the First State, these threads start with the development of the earliest human settlers in the area and run through to some of the most sophisticated human activities of modern times. Among the most significant are the history of the first European settlers in the Delaware Valley who built Fort Christina in 1638, the development of coastal defenses from the beaches of Cape Henlopen on the Atlantic Ocean to Pea Patch Island in the Delaware River and, the successful operation of the Underground Railroad, by which thousands of enslaved Africans found their way to freedom along Delaware's ocean, bay and river coastline. Other threads include: the history of the Native American tribes such as the Lenni Lenape in what is now Delaware, the arrival of the Finns and the Swedes at the Rocks in Wilmington, the increased influence of the English and Dutch as European immigration grew, the development of transportation and commerce along the same waterways starting with the earliest explorers and extending to today's ultra modern Port of Wilmington, the expansion of modern industry including the early gunpowder factories of Irene DuPont, the rise of the chemical industry and today's two modern auto assembly plants and the credit card giants that dominate Wilmington's skyline, Delaware's significant contributions to the development of our constitutional republic, including Delaware's historic vote at the Golden Fleece Tavern in Dover to ratify the Constitution of 1787, making it the first State to do so, and the beautiful and ecologically important natural areas along the coast that are already preserved as wildlife refuges.

These threads will be highlighted and showcased in a format unique to the National Park system. The park will be structured much like a series of four bicycle wheels, each with a hub and spokes. The hubs will be interpretive centers located strategically along the

coast line. The spokes will be the multitude of attractions and sites that relate to the various threads described above.

The "gateway" or "headquarters" hub will be located on the 7th Street Peninsula at the site of the original Fort Christina. Within a short walking distance of the existing Fort Christina State Park is the Old Swedes Church, the oldest Episcopal Church in America in continuous use; the Kalmar Nyckel, a replica of the ship that carried early Swedes to our shores; Tubman-Garrett Park, located at a point in Wilmington where escaping slaves swam across the Christina River as part of their journey on the Underground Railroad, and other attractions. As a hub, it would provide information, recommendations and directions about other sites in the Wilmington area that relate to the threads of the coastal region.

A second hub would be located in the City of New Castle. It would provide information on attractions in the city's renowned historic district as well as related attractions in New Castle County such as Fort Delaware State Park on Pea Patch Island and Old St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Middletown, originally founded in 1705.

A third would be located in Kent County, along the coast of the Delaware River. It would provide information on the existing preserved natural areas such as Bombay Hook and on the myriad other attractions in Kent County that are integral parts of the threads highlighted by the park. These would include the John Dickinson Mansion, Dover's historic Green and others.

The fourth and final hub would be located in the Lewes area and would provide information on the numerous historic sites and natural areas that have made Sussex County's coastal region so pivotal to Delaware. These would include the Zwaanendael Museum, the Fenwick Lighthouse, and the Georgetown County Courthouse.

Together, these four interpretive centers would direct visitors to the many existing attractions that help us understand and appreciate the entire fabric of our society, a fabric woven from the many threads of Delaware's coastal region.

It is through the dedication and hard work of these sixteen members that this park is even a possibility. Each of the members took time out of their busy lives to help with this important project marking Delaware's history. I thank them, along with several members of my staff, for all their hard work and congratulate them on a job well done.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VOICES OF DETROIT INITIATIVE

● Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the Voices of Detroit Initiative, VODI. VODI provides an opportunity for people living in Detroit and Wayne

County, who do not have insurance, to improve their health. VODI has emerged as an extraordinary leader in Michigan's efforts to provide better health care access for the uninsured. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, RWJF, recognized VODI for its efforts and awarded them a grant as part of RWJF's Urgent Matters initiative to increase understanding of the health care safety net and improve the efficiency of emergency care.

Over a quarter million residents are without health insurance coverage in Detroit and Wayne County. This lack of insurance has severe implications on patient health and the availability of resources to care for the uninsured, most of whom are low-income working people. As a result, more than 50 percent of emergency room visits are for problems that could have been treated outside of the emergency room.

VODI is a coalition between Michigan's leading systems: Henry Ford Health System, Detroit Medical Center, St. John Health, Oakwood Healthcare and Federally Qualified Health Centers. The Federally Qualified Health Centers are made up of Advantage Health Centers, Community Health and Social Services, CHASS, and Detroit Community Health Connection, and the Detroit and Wayne County Health Departments. Together these leaders work to connect the uninsured with a provider or clinic that can provide direct care on an ongoing basis, a "medical home." Health care services at these sites are provided to VODI's members on a sliding-fee scale. VODI also engages in multiple activities to promote better health care access for the uninsured, including a pharmacy assistance and medication review program, a tobacco use reduction program, and care management services to assist clients with managing their chronic health conditions.

On behalf of the people of Michigan, I am pleased to express appreciation to the Voices of Detroit Initiative for their untiring leadership in coordinating and leveraging scarce resources on behalf of the underserved and uninsured and to honor the organization, its staff, and its partners as they continue to work to fulfill their lifesaving mission.●

TRIBUTE TO MR. WALTER HAMBLIN

● Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, I pay tribute today to the life of Mr. Walter "Sam" Hamblin of Demossville, KY.

Sam served his country in the Army for 22 years. He enlisted as a private, but worked his way through Officer Candidate School before retiring with the rank of major. He served with distinction during the Vietnam war and provided important service both at his station in Texas and at the Pentagon in Washington, DC.

Sam chose to retire near his family's home in Kentucky, adopting the farm

life and raising his children. Family and service were very important to Sam. Six generations earlier, Pierce Dant Hamblin crossed the Delaware River with General Washington during the Revolutionary War. His great grandfather, Henry Clay Hamblin, served in the Kentucky 7th Regiment during the Civil War. And Sam's father, Walter Hamblin, served in the Navy during World War II. Through the years, the Hamblins have been known as defenders of the Commonwealth.

During Sam's retirement—and in between attending local sporting events and taking care of his growing family—he continued to travel to Washington and lend his expertise to the American military. He was also the manager and owner of the Peaselsburg Inn of Covington. And he still found time to write country music songs with his son, Samuel.

Unfortunately, Sam developed thyroid and throat cancer 5 years ago. After fighting hard against cancer, Sam died Friday, July 23, 2004 at his home.

I am proud of Sam Hamblin's distinguished service. He honored the legacy and traditions of the Hamblin family and served our country well. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.●

AMERICAN LEGION OF OSAGE, IA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I would like to pay special tribute to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 278 of Osage, IA. On Sunday, April 18, the American Legion, the Auxiliary, and SAL held one of their "famous omelet" breakfasts for a fundraiser to support the Osage High School Band's trip to Washington, DC on May 29. The Osage band was chosen to represent Iowa in the parade at the dedication of the new World War II Memorial.

It was necessary for the band to raise \$65,000 so that all members could participate in this great event. The American Legion Family of Osage agreed to host a breakfast and to match funds that were raised that day. A number of Legion members cooked meals, with band members serving the food. In all, over 300 people were served.

The American Legion was proud to present a check in the amount of \$2,400.00 to band director Jeff Kirkpatrick at their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 20.

I join State Commander John Ross in congratulating his hometown band for being chosen to represent Iowa. Along with the Osage Legion family, I salute the community, the band, and all who helped in any way to make this trip possible.●

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 which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under authority of the order of the Senate of September 7, 2004, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 7, 2004, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 5005. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, for additional disaster assistance.

Under the authority of order of September 7, 2004, the enrolled bill was signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS) during the adjournment of the Senate on September 7, 2004.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:15 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4381. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2811 Springdale Avenue in Springdale, Arkansas, as the "Harvey and Bernice Jones Post Office Building".

H.R. 4442. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1050 North Hills Boulevard in Reno, Nevada, as the "Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building" and to authorize the installation of a plaque at such site, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4556. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1115 South Clinton Avenue in Dunn, North Carolina, as the "General William Carey Lee Post Office Building".

H.R. 4618. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 West Prospect Street in Nanuet, New York, as the "Anthony I. Lombardi Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 4654. An act to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 4381. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2811 Springdale Avenue in Springdale, Arkansas, as the "Harvey and Bernice Jones Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.