

themselves throughout Michigan in great numbers towards the end of the 19th century. In the pursuit of a better life for themselves and their families, they settled in Polonias, or Polish neighborhoods. Many arrived in search of job opportunities in our great automotive industry. By 1904, Polish Americans were the largest and one of the most influential ethnic groups in Detroit. By 1920, they made up nearly one-fifth of Detroit's population. Polish people have enriched Michigan's culture and made metro Detroit a better place to live.

There were many institutions important to this growing immigrant population including cultural organizations, churches and the Polish American press. The Polish Daily News has played a significant role in this history, devoting itself to sustaining Polish culture and language and connecting the immigrant community to the political, cultural and social life of America.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to congratulate the Polish Daily News on reaching this significant 100-year milestone. Gratulacje!

#### MS. TAMARA BRICKMAN

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a special individual who has been serving the great State of Oregon for years. Tamara Brickman, a legislative coordinator at the Oregon Employment Department, is devoted to improving the lives of Oregonians by increasing the efficiency of the State government and improving the quality of workforce training. Her knowledge of State and Federal labor laws is expansive and impressive. My staff and I rely on her expertise frequently when addressing workforce legislation in Congress.

Ms. Brickman is a native Oregonian, the fourth generation of her family to live in a small town named La Grande, not far from my hometown of Pendleton in the northeast corner of the State. She is a graduate of Eastern Oregon University and a former intern of my esteemed predecessor in the Senate, Senator Mark Hatfield. According to Ms. Brickman, it was in Senator Hatfield's office that her true passion for public service blossomed.

Ms. Brickman began her career working for Oregonians as a teacher in La Grande at an alternative high school and a job training facility for individuals receiving public assistance. In January 1993, Ms. Brickman took a job in the Senate Ethics, Elections, and Campaign Finance Reform Committee of the Oregon State Legislature. In fact, Ms. Brickman served as a staffer in the Oregon Capitol when I carried my first bill on the Senate floor as an Oregon State Senator.

Before heading to law school at the University of Oregon, Ms. Brickman furthered her strong reputation in workforce training by running a federally-funded youth summer employment

training program in Union County in 1994 and 1995. The training program was part of the Job Training Partnership Act, JTPA, now known as the Workforce Investment Act. Ms. Brickman taught disadvantaged youth in job skills and then found community job placements for those students in local businesses.

After passing the Oregon State bar in 1998, Ms. Brickman held a range of legislative positions for a State senator, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Oregon University System Chancellor's office. For the last 3 years, Ms. Brickman has gone above and beyond the call of duty at the Oregon Employment Department to help members of our congressional delegation pass unemployment extension benefits and fiscal state relief. Ms. Brickman never fails to share important information about the state of the workforce in ways that allow me to craft timely legislation that responds to our State's needs. Her commitment to Oregon's workers and families shines through in her outstanding work.

There are thousands of dedicated State and local government employees across the country who serve their communities with the highest distinction. In my opinion, few could match the professionalism of Ms. Brickman. It is my honor and pleasure to take the time today to recognize Ms. Tamara Brickman for her dedication to Oregon.

#### BALLOON FIESTA—CHARACTER COUNTS

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to discuss the good that occurs when a community joins together. This relates to a wonderful program I have been proud to promote in New Mexico for the past 10 years—Character Counts—and the support it gets from the business community.

We have had troubling and disappointing news over the past few years about corporate scandals and questionable ethics in the corporate world. So it is with great pleasure to be able to discuss a story about responsible and caring business behavior.

For the fourth straight year, Northrup Grumman has teamed with other local organizations to help at-risk youth experience the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

On October 7 through 8, eight elementary-age students in the Character Counts education program run through the Albuquerque YMCA and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Albuquerque and Rio Rancho will be treated to a field trip to the Balloon Fiesta courtesy of the Northrup Grumman and its partners—Meals on Wheels and the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta organization. The children and their chaperones will be treated to tethered balloon rides and generally feted throughout the day as special guests.

Now, this is more than just a simple do-good action by a major corporation.

For these children it is a once-in-a-lifetime adventure linked to the Character Counts education program that builds into their lives the benefits of Respect, Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Citizenship, Fairness, and Caring. These are the six pillars of good character.

The Balloon Fiesta outing is a joint effort by these companies and organizations with the Albuquerque Character Counts Cooperative. We know these trips impact these children's lives. It is not only a reward for excelling at Character Counts, but also an entertaining way for them to broaden their horizons, meet community leaders and have a ballooning experience they might not have otherwise ever experienced.

Character Counts is an incredibly successful character education initiative. We are celebrating its 10-year history in New Mexico and these annual balloon fiesta field trips for outstanding students are a key component to helping youth become inspired by adults who are role models of the Character Counts pillars.

So I express my appreciation to the team of businesses and groups who have helped make the overall Character Counts program a success in New Mexico. In particular, I am pleased with Northrup Grumman, the YMCA, the Boys and Girls Clubs, Meals on Wheels and Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta for broadening the horizons for children.

#### CONGRATULATING MARGARET (PEG) CURTIN

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I wish a happy 70th birthday to an outstanding citizen and dear friend, Peg Curtin.

Peg was one of my earliest and strongest supporters when I first ran for Congress in 1974. Peg's family and mine have been close since the 1950s, when my father served in the House and then in the U.S. Senate.

For nearly three decades, Peg has compiled an outstanding record of public and community service in Connecticut. She has truly given her heart and soul to the people of our State.

From 1974 to 1977, Peg was a union organizer for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees and a member of the international staff of the AFL-CIO. In 1975, she was part of the transition team of one of our State's most beloved Governors, the late Ella T. Grasso. That year, Peg also began the first of 4 years as a member of the New London City Council, including one year as the city's mayor. Among her many accomplishments was the development and implementation of New London's first-ever affirmative action plan.

From 1979 to 1996, Peg devoted her time and energy to the State of Connecticut. For 12 years, she served as under secretary at the Office of Policy and Management's Division of Intergovernmental Relations. There, her talents enabled her to handle a demanding and diverse array of tasks,

from state labor negotiations to emergency assistance during natural disasters. Peg then went on to manage labor relations for 6 years at the University of Connecticut Health Center. She retired in 1996 after once again winning a seat on the New London City Council, an office she continues to hold today.

Peg Curtin's public service is not limited to her official duties. She has been involved in numerous charitable causes. There are far too many for me to list here on the floor, but I will just mention a few: the Connecticut Special Olympics, the American Red Cross, and the March of Dimes. It is only fitting that at tonight's celebration of Peg's birthday, the proceeds for the events will benefit two of the causes about which Peg cares so deeply—the New London Youth Organization and the New London Parks Conservancy.

We in Connecticut are lucky to have Peg Curtin working on our behalf. There is no doubt in my mind that our State is a better place today because of her efforts. I am privileged to call her my friend, and I truly admire her commitment to service, charity, and community. It is my pleasure to wish Peg a very happy birthday, and to send her my best wishes for many, many more wonderful years.●

WALTER S. SMITH, JR., CHIEF  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Chief Judge Walter S. Smith, Jr., of the Western District of Texas. Judge Smith has dedicated his life to public service and justice, and I am pleased to commend him on his 20th anniversary on the Federal bench.

Judge Smith was born on October 25, 1940, to Dr. Walter S. Smith and Mary Elizabeth Smith. He grew up in the central Texas town of Marlin. He attended Baylor University where he received his bachelor of arts and his juris doctorate. While in law school, Judge Smith was editor of the law review and served as president of the Phi Delta Phi law fraternity.

Judge Smith began his legal career in private practice in Waco, TX. In 1979, he was appointed by Gov. Bill Clements to the 54th Judicial District Court of McLennan County. Shortly thereafter, Judge Smith was appointed U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Texas.

In 1984, Senator John Tower recommended Judge Smith for an appointment to the Federal bench. President Ronald Reagan nominated him for the position and he received a unanimous Senate confirmation on October 4, 1984. Judge Smith was sworn into office on October 6, 1984, and has served since then as the first and only resident United States District Judge in the Waco Division. Judge Smith was elevated to the position of chief Judge of the Western District of Texas on June 1, 2003, a position he continues to hold.

During his legal career, Judge Smith has remained a member of the Texas

Bar Association, the Texas Bar Foundation, the McLennan County Bar Association, and the American Judicature Society.

In addition to being admitted to practice in the State of Texas, Judge Smith was also admitted to practice in Federal district courts for the Western District of Texas, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. Judge Smith is particularly proud of his participation in the formation of the Abner V. McCall American Inns of Court, for which he served as the first president.

During his years on the Federal bench, Judge Smith has traveled throughout the Western and other Districts of Texas. In addition to Waco, he has held court in Austin, San Antonio, Pecos, El Paso, Midland, Laredo, Corpus Christi and Fort Worth.

Judge Smith is married to the former Brenda Derting. They have two daughters, five granddaughters, and two grandsons. He is an ordained elder in the First Presbyterian Church and has been actively involved in church activities and community service.

During his career, Judge Smith has demonstrated the dedication and patience we seek on our judges. He is respected for his fairness and commitment to justice. Judge Smith has been asked to make rulings on many difficult cases throughout the years and has risen to the many challenges with poise and dignity. His knowledge of the law and experience make him a great judge. His dedication to his community and to the rule of law make him a remarkable public servant. I thank him for his 20 years on the Federal bench in the Western District of Texas.●

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was ordered referred as indicated:

H.R. 3428. An Act to designate a portion of the United States courthouse located at 2100 Jamieson Avenue, in Alexandria, Virginia, as the "Justin W. Williams United States Attorney's Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works by unanimous consent.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 1084. An act to provide liability protection to nonprofit volunteer pilot organizations flying for public benefit and to the pilots and staff of such organizations.

H.R. 1787. An act to remove civil liability barriers that discourage the donation of fire equipment to volunteer fire companies.

S. 2852. A bill to provide assistance to Special Olympics to support expansion of Special Olympics and development of education programs and a Healthy Athletes Program, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-9450. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allethrin, Bendiocarb, Burkholderia cepacia, Fendidazon potassium, and Molinate; Tolerance Actions" (FRL#7679-7) received on September 28, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-9451. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fenamidone; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL#7681-3) received on September 28, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-9452. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fludioxonil; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL#7682-3) received on September 28, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-9453. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Methoxyfenozide; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL#7681-6) received on September 28, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-9454. A communication from the Principal Deputy for Personnel and Readiness, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the approval of wearing the insignia of the grade of rear admiral; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9455. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management, received on September 28, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9456. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a designation of acting officer and nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management, Department of Defense, received on September 28, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9457. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a discontinuation of service in acting role for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management, Department of Defense, received on September 28, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9458. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of acting officer for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management, Department of Defense, received on September 28, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9459. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a designation of acting officer for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment, Department of Defense, received on September 28, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.