

Against Women Act of 2005. This effort will require a bi-partisan commitment.

Again, I am thankful to Senators REID and FRIST for their work on seeing that bill is passed and to all of my colleagues who unanimously supported the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, last evening, S. 1197, the Violence Against Women Act, was passed out of the Senate. I commend the Judiciary Committee for including Title 9, Safety for Indian Women, in its bill to reauthorize the act. Title 9 focuses on the needs of Indian tribes to enable them to reduce and treat incidents of domestic violence in Indian country. Among other things, it would authorize the creation of tribal criminal history databases to document domestic violence convictions and protection orders and it creates a new Federal criminal offense authorizing Federal prosecutors to charge repeat domestic violence offenders before they seriously injure or kill someone. S. 1197 also would authorize the Bureau of Indian Affairs police and certain tribal officers to make arrests for domestic violence assaults committed outside of their presence.

Since 1999, the Department of Justice has issued various studies showing that Indian women experience the highest rates of domestic violence compared to all other groups in the United States. These reports state that one out of every three Indian women are victims of sexual assault; that from 1979 to 1992, homicide was the third leading cause of death of Indian females between the ages of 15 to 34; and that 75 percent of those deaths were committed by a family member or acquaintance. What we don't know, however, is the impact of these violent acts on law enforcement, judicial, mental or medical services in Indian country. I am, therefore, pleased to see that this bill would authorize a comprehensive study of domestic violence in Indian Country to gauge the impact of these acts to Indian tribes and their resources. The findings of such a study will help the Congress and the administration to better focus resources to areas with the greatest need.

Earlier this Congress, Senator DORGAN and I introduced the Restoring Safety to Indian Women Act. We worked closely with the Senate Judiciary Committee to ensure that the provisions of this bill, some of which I mention here, were given due consideration. Throughout the more comprehensive S. 1197, Indian tribes would be eligible for various grants to enhance their victim services, judicial function, and law enforcement service capacity to the same extent as State and local governments are eligible.

Domestic violence is a national problem and not one that is unique to Indian country. Yet, due to the unique status of Indian tribes, there are obstacles faced by Indian tribal police, Federal investigators, tribal and Federal prosecutors and courts that impede

their ability to respond to domestic violence in Indian country. Title 9 of this bill goes a long way toward removing these obstacles at all levels and to enhance the ability of each agency to respond to acts of domestic violence when they occur. These critical changes to the current law will greatly curb violence against Indian women, and perhaps even save lives.

Again, I thank the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee for their thoughtful consideration in drafting a bill that includes an often forgotten segment of our population, the Nation's Indian tribes.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING ASHLEY JEFFERS

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Ashley Jeffers of Alvaton, KY. Ashley was recently awarded a \$15,000 college scholarship as part of the Girls Incorporated National Scholars Program.

Ashley experience at Girls Inc. of Bowling Green, KY is a testament to her impressive work ethic, initiative, and leadership skills. She joined Girls Inc. at the age of 14, and was hired shortly after to help teach classes. Eager to expand the center, Ashley learned about other Girls Inc. national programs and incorporated new classes into the existing program at Bowling Green. Inspired by her experience working with other young women at Girls Inc., Ashley has decided to pursue a career in social work following her studies at Western Kentucky University.

The Girls Inc. National Scholars Program was created in 1992 by a \$6.1 million gift from Lucille Miller Wright, a volunteer pilot during World War II, who wanted to help young women overcome financial barriers to attending college. Since 1992, the National Scholars Program has awarded over \$1.8 million to 304 girls.

By inspiring other young women to become strong, smart, and bold, Ashley Jeffers does justice to the legacy of Lucille Miller Wright. She is an example of how young Americans can have a positive influence on their communities by participating in mentorship activities such as Girls Inc.

I congratulate Ashley on this achievement. She is an inspiration to the citizens of Kentucky. I look forward to seeing all that she will accomplish in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO AUGUST WILSON

• Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I want to pause in the Senate's business today to recognize the passing of a great American who we in Minnesota are proud to call our own: Pulitzer Prize winning poet and playwright August Wilson. He died yesterday at the age of 60.

August Wilson spent a good part of his adult life in Saint Paul, MN, which is my home. He worked for a time at the Science Museum of Minnesota, writing educational scripts. As his work became recognized and his fame spread, he continued to be seen around Saint Paul, working in coffee shops and other such places, sketching out ideas on the backs of napkins.

In his many plays, Mr. Wilson brought his audiences back time and again to the neighborhood where he grew up, in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, PA. Through a series of 10 plays, he traced the African-American experience through the ten decades of the 20th century. The first, "Jitney," about a city taxi station, was written in Saint Paul.

Decades ago, the poet T.S. Elliot wrote that, "Poetry is not an assertion of the truth, but making that truth more fully real to us." America struggles with deep divisions on matters of race. The tragic events in the gulf coast have brought that home to us. How desperately we need the kind of expression of the truth that August Wilson brought to a large audience.

Facts are important, but we have all experienced the frustration of not seeing our set of facts "carry the day." Psychologists have even determined that we use one part of our brain to process the ideas of political candidates we support and a different part of our brain when we are listening to the views of one we don't. Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead wrote a line I like: "People ain't gonna learn what they don't wanna know."

But we hold out the hope the art can find a way through our defenses and make truth fully real to us. When Abraham Lincoln met Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," legend has it that he said, "So this is the little woman who started this big war."

It is a special honor that August Wilson will have a theater on New York's Broadway named in his honor. The Minnesota connection in that is the theater has previously born the name of Virginia Binger, the late wife of Jim Binger, one of Minnesota's great citizens. The eight Wilson plays that made it to Broadway were nominated for more than 50 Tony awards.

Talking about the blues in a way that could just as well have been applied to his own writing, he said: "You don't sing to feel better. You sing 'cause that's a way of understanding life."

We recognize the history and forces which shaped the life of August Wilson and we honor his life long effort to make the truth real.●

A FRIEND TO IDAHO ARTS

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I would like to recognize an Idahoan, who through his lifelong love and support of the arts, has gained national recognition. Dan Harpole, executive director

of the Idaho Commission on the Arts, ICA, since 2002, has recently been named board director of the National Assembly of States Arts Agencies, NASAA.

Dan's years of energetic and committed arts leadership in Idaho and the Northwest made his appointment to this position very fitting. He understands the intrinsic and overt value to society of a thriving arts community at all levels. In the course of Dan's leadership of the Idaho Commission on the Arts, the ICA has developed a new strategic plan for its mission and vision in Idaho. By reaching out to all parts of the community, including non-profits, cultural organizations, schools, art professionals, and State and local government officials, the ICA under Dan's direction has created a plan that aims to successfully integrate art into communities across Idaho for the greater benefit of all. Dan's seminal vision was demonstrated to his colleagues in other States when Idaho hosted the NASAA National Convention this year.

I want to publicly recognize Dan for his continued efforts and accomplishments as well as the commissioners and staff for their support. His children, Hunter and Fiona, are his inspiration and joy and we are pleased that they chose to make Idaho their home. What Idaho has gained by Dan's expertise and enthusiasm will now be shared throughout other States as he takes the helm of NASAA.●

HONORING SOUTH DAKOTA'S BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to publicly honor and congratulate O'Gorman High School of Sioux Falls, Alcester-Hudson Elementary, and Corsica Elementary on achieving blue ribbon status under the Federal No Child Left Behind Act. All three schools earned the prestigious blue ribbon designation based on strong test scores and a myriad of other successes.

These three schools are among only 295 recognized nationwide this year, and O'Gorman is 1 of only 40 high schools to receive this distinction. In fact, O'Gorman is the only high school in the entire Denver region, which includes South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, and Utah, to earn this honor.

For public schools such as Alcester-Hudson Elementary and Corsica Elementary to qualify for blue ribbon status, they must meet State testing levels or have a student body comprised of a high percentage of economically disadvantaged students, yet demonstrate improvement. Achieving this goal is a wonderful accomplishment and Alcester-Hudson and Corsica elementary schools ought to be commended.

Although all South Dakota public schools are required to take part in Dakota STEP, the State's test for tracking progress under the No Child Left

Behind Act, private schools, on the other hand, are under no such obligation. Nonetheless, O'Gorman administers the Dakota STEP exam to provide parents and supporters a comparison between O'Gorman students and those of other schools. Unlike the criteria used to rate public schools, the standards private schools are required to meet in order to achieve blue ribbon status are more rigorous, as students must place in the top 10 percent on both the State test and on the national level for reading and math. As noted by Kyle Groos, principal of O'Gorman High School, the junior class scored in the top 10 percent of schools on the State test, with more than 90 percent of students considered proficient or advanced in reading and math.

While test scores play a significant role in determining whether a school fits the blue ribbon standard, O'Gorman also submitted in its application a 24-page report detailing the school's various attributes. The statement highlighted students' high participation in the performing arts, the school's many sports championships, the 13,000 hours students devoted to volunteering and community service last year, as well as O'Gorman's emphasis on foreign language, math and theology studies.

Earning this distinction under No Child Left Behind is certainly an achievement for all these outstanding schools; however, O'Gorman was also a blue ribbon school under the Federal Government's former recognition program that began in 1982. Like the previous Blue Ribbon Schools Program, this distinction is one that never expires unless the program is replaced.

I am proud to have this opportunity to honor these three exceptional schools. It is a privilege for me to share with my colleagues the exemplary leadership and tireless commitment to education O'Gorman High School, Alcester-Hudson Elementary, and Corsica Elementary provide to their students. I strongly commend the hard work and dedication all the faculty, administrators, and staff devote to these three institutions, and I am very pleased that their dedication and the students' substantial efforts are being publicly honored and celebrated. On behalf of all South Dakotans, I would like to congratulate these three extraordinary schools and wish them all the best.●

HONORING FATHER BRIAN SHANLEY

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, on July 1, 2005, we welcomed home a son of Providence College to assume the presidency of that great institution. Father Brian Shanley is a man of great intellect, great enthusiasm, and a man of deep and abiding faith.

He is superbly prepared to continue the extraordinary progress of Providence College as a distinguished community of scholars serving to educate

the talented young men and women who proudly claim PC as their own.

Generations of students and graduates of Providence College have enriched our Nation and our State not only with their knowledge but just as importantly with their character.

Father Shanley understands this great legacy of Providence College and, through his effort and his energy, he will sustain and enhance this extraordinary place.

St. Thomas Aquinas, a theologian who Father Shanley is acquainted with, wrote "If the highest aim of a captain were to preserve his ship, he would keep it in port forever."

Under Father Shanley, I do not think Providence College will get many "port calls." He will sail forward with determination, faith, and good humor to inspire faculty and students to think seriously, to face the challenges of our times, and to live a life of character and concern that has always been the hallmark of Providence College.

I wish him good luck and Godspeed.●

BLACK HILLS POW-WOW

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, it is my distinct pleasure to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues in the U.S. Senate about a special event taking place in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota. In Rapid City, on October 7 through October 9, the 19th Annual He Sapa Wacipi and Fine Art Show, otherwise known as the Black Hills Pow-Wow, will be held. Hundreds of dancers from throughout the Northern Plains and Canada will celebrate, compete, and engage in fellowship.

It is also a time of coming together and enjoying the fine art and authentic handmade crafts of many gifted artisans. There will also be contemporary indigenous music and handgame tournaments, which have become quite popular with the Native youth in our State. This year, for the first time, educators and officials with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, will be in attendance with exhibits and presentations that will help foster the possibilities of careers in space and technology for South Dakota youth.

The Tribes of the Great Sioux Nation are a uniquely family-oriented culture that has always placed great emphasis and importance on relationships with family and friends. Worthy of note, is the Indian way of life that means when you walk into their home, you never leave hungry. Their hospitality is legendary. They are kind and generous and will give from the bottom of their hearts. They embrace their spirituality as a part of who they are and they respect and honor their Creator.

Their desire to continue their language and traditions is very dear to their hearts. For many years, the language of the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota was in danger of being lost. But in the last 30 to 40 years, it has begun to flourish and is being restored,