

and reach of its service. In addition to acute and preventive health care found at other medical centers, the many programs offered by the center make it a truly comprehensive care institution. These programs include diabetes and cardiovascular disease prevention and education and afterschool and mentoring programs for youth. Furthermore, the center has responded to the cultural sensitivities of the community by employing Native and non-Native staff members. Staff diversity increases the effectiveness of any healthcare institution, a fact which the center has recognized and incorporated into their operating procedures. In January 2004, I had the opportunity to visit the center and was impressed at the level of technology this collaborative effort had been able to bring to this rural community.

I commend the Benawah Medical and Wellness Center on its tremendous achievement in the overall community healthcare and wellness. I look forward to hearing of future successes.●

#### HONORING CENTURY COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL PROM AND GRADUATION SAFETY MONTH INITIATIVE

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Alcohol Awareness Month to recognize The Century Council for its efforts to prevent underage drinking. The Century Council is a national, not for profit organization funded by America's leading distillers to develop and implement programs designed to combat drunk driving and underage drinking. These programs, such as Ready or Not: Talking with Kids About Alcohol, Brandon's Story, and Alcohol 101 Plus, are making great strides in reducing the amount of underage drinking and irresponsible consumption of alcohol.

Right now, The Council is kicking off its sixth annual National Prom and Graduation Safety Months Initiative. Between April and June, The Council has planned a series of events across the country to educate students, parents and the general public about making responsible decisions with regard to beverage alcohol. Over the past two decades, progress has been made in the effort to stop underage drinking through the implementation of effective programs and increased public awareness regarding the negative consequences of underage drinking. According to the most recent figures from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 749 people under the age of 21 were killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes during April, May and June in 2003 as well as countless non-fatal injuries. In Louisiana, alcohol is a factor in 20 percent of all traffic fatalities involving minors, and it is a factor in 15 percent of all traffic accidents involving minors.

It was once said that "holding young people solely responsible for underage drinking is like holding fish responsible for dying in a polluted stream."

As a mother of two young children, I know that I will soon have to speak to my own kids about alcohol use. As all of the other parents in this Chamber and across the country can say, the conversation between a parent and a child about alcohol use is not always an easy conversation. However, improved communication between parents and children is essential to preventing underage drinking. According to a recent survey by TRU Omnibuzz in 2003, 65 percent of adolescents identify parents as the leading influence in their decision to drink or not to drink. Unfortunately, 36 percent of adolescents say they had not spoken to either parent about alcohol. This communication gap can be minimized by through programs that increase awareness, educate parents and kids and help facilitate conversations between parents and kids about the dangers of underage drinking.

The role of parents in the efforts to reduce underage drinking is critical. I commend The Century Council for giving parents and children across the Nation the valuable tools to initiate those important discussions regarding alcohol.●

#### CONGRATULATING JERRY VEREEN AND RIVERSIDE MANUFACTURING COMPANY

● Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I congratulate Riverside Manufacturing Company on Riverside being named "Manufacturer of the Year" for the State of Georgia. Riverside is located in my hometown of Moultrie, GA. Riverside was founded in 1911 by William J. Vereen, in Colquitt County, and has maintained its headquarters there to this day. Riverside is known worldwide both for producing business uniforms of superior garment quality and for the dedication of its employees.

Riverside sells uniforms in all 50 States, as well as in over 200 foreign countries. Riverside warehouses products in Atlanta, GA; Dundalk, Ireland; Moultrie, GA; Prichard, WV; and Reno, NV. Riverside won this year's distinction of Georgia's Manufacturer of the Year in the large company category; that is, those with more than 750 employees. Riverside was nominated for the award by Moultrie Technical College.

Governor Sonny Perdue presented this coveted award to my good friend Jerry Vereen, who is president and chief executive officer of Riverside, last Thursday in Atlanta at an annual awards ceremony as part of Georgia Manufacturing Appreciation Week.

Jerry was quoted as saying:

We were very pleased that the award recognized all the dedication and hard work that Riverside's associates have put forth to look after all our great customers. The only sustainable competitive advantage any company can have is based strictly on its people. You can buy technology, equipment and buildings but it takes the dedication of a lot of people to give Riverside the competitive edge with our customers, especially when all

of our competitors have taken their manufacturing offshore. This award recognizes our associates' dedication to exceeding our customers' expectations. It also acknowledges their efforts to contribute significantly to the communities where we are located. We feel that Colquitt County and Georgia are great areas to build a company. We are very appreciative to Jackie Rohosky and her Quick Start team, Tina Anderson and her Moultrie Technical College team, Darrell Moore, Jimmy Jeter and the members of the Moultrie Colquitt County Industrial Development Authority, as well as the Colquitt County Commissioners, Moultrie City Council and the Colquitt County Chamber of Commerce for all the assistance they have given Riverside and our associates over the years.

I am so proud of Jerry, of Riverside, and of all of Riverside's many employees, 600 of which call Georgia home. I extend my deepest and most sincere congratulations on their receipt of this prestigious award in recognition of a job well done.●

#### HONORING EAST BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, more than 1200 students from across the Nation will be competing in the finals of the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" program here in Washington, DC, from April 30-May 2, 2005. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and is designed specifically to educate our young people about the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the importance of civic participation to our political process. Schools are provided with textbooks that offer both historical information and critical-thinking activities, and students compete in the format of a congressional hearing to show their knowledge of our democracy.

I am proud to announce that students from East Brunswick High School in East Brunswick, NJ, will be returning this year to defend their national title earned in May 2004. East Brunswick High School won my home State's competition again this year and will represent New Jersey in our Nation's Capital this weekend. I wish the following students, and their teacher Alan Brodman, the best of luck in the future and congratulate them on their hard work and inspiring civic advocacy: Rajiv Agarwal, Elliot Chiu, Theresa Cui, Yan Cui, Aditi Eleswarapu, Michael Genson, Stephanie Horwitz, Frances Huang, Manisha Johary, Michael Kofsky, Kevin Kuo, Sam Lau, Alexandra Palmer, Resham Patel, Mark Pruce, Panwan Punjabi, Caroline Rana, Natalie Rana, Sana Sheikh, Allison Sorkin, Ilana Stern, Eric Struening, and Lauren Volosin.●

#### CONGRATULATING FRANK DURKAN

● Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I am delighted today to extend congratulations to Mr. Frank Durkan on the 50th anniversary of his admittance to the New York State bar. Born in County

Mayo, Ireland, Frank immigrated to the United States in 1947. He is a graduate of Columbia College and New York Law School. Like so many who follow their dreams to this great country, Frank worked hard as a janitor, parking attendant, and office clerk as he pursued his education. Upon graduation, he joined his uncle, the late Paul O'Dwyer, at the law firm of O'Dwyer and Bernstien. As a trial lawyer, Frank has an excellent reputation as an advocate for injured plaintiffs. For half a century he has been a defender of civil rights in Federal courts from New Hampshire to Texas. Frank epitomizes those who come to our shores following the American dream and enrich our institutions through their hard work and dedication. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO KIP JANVRIN

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a native Iowan and a remarkable athletic champion, Kip Janvrin. Today marks the beginning of the 96th annual Drake Relays, one of the Nation's most prestigious track and field events, held each spring at Drake Stadium in Des Moines. Kip will take the field for the last time in a sport in which he has dominated at Drake for the last 22 years, the decathlon.

The Relays are aptly called "Americas Athletic Classic." This will be the last year they are held in the old Drake Stadium. This summer, the stadium will get a dramatic face-lift and overhaul in order to conform to national and international standards.

Over the years, the words "Drake Relays and Kip Janvrin" have become virtually synonymous. The Drake Relays are one of America's premier track and field venues, and Kip Janvrin is one of America's premier track and field athletes, competing in what is arguably the most demanding event in all of sports. From Jesse Owens to Wilma Rudolph, Gwen Torrance, Carl Lewis and Michael Johnson, the Drake Relays have seen almost all of the great Olympians in track and field. But one Olympian, Kip Janvrin, has been a dominant presence at the event for more than two decades.

If the cheers are especially loud for Kip, it is because he is a native son of Iowa. Raised in Panora and a graduate of Simpson College in Indianola, Kip has won the decathlon at the Drake Relays a remarkable 14 times. It is fitting that the last year for the original Drake Stadium will also be the last year that this American original competes in the Drake Relays.

Kip is one of the top-ranked decathletes in the world, and he is the oldest active U.S. competitor in this extraordinarily demanding event. The decathlon is a 10-event competition which takes place over two days. It includes the 100 meter dash, long jump, shot put, high jump, 400 meter dash, 110 meter hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin and 1,500 meter run. Kip began

competing in the decathlon in 1983, and quickly excelled in all 10 events.

While attending Simpson College, Kip competed many times in the Drake Relays. His first victory came in 1987 in the decathlon, and he went on to add 13 more titles over the next 18 years. His 14 championships at the Drake Relays are the most by any athlete in the history of that event. In 1998, he was inducted into the Drake Relays Hall of Fame. During his years at Simpson, he earned 3 NCAA titles in the decathlon, and 2 more NCAA titles in individual events. He was inducted into the Simpson Hall of Fame in 1998, and the NCAA Division III Track and Field Hall of Fame in 2004.

Kip's accomplishments are nothing short of amazing. He has completed more than 80 decathlons. He holds the world records in career victories, scores over 7,000 points, and consecutive finishes. He also holds the world record for the double decathlon, a grueling event involving every event in track and field, except for the marathon and walks.

Kip won the decathlon at the 1995 Pan American Games. As a member of the U.S. Olympic team at the 2000 Games in Sydney, Australia, he was the oldest decathlete ever to compete for the United States. In 2001, he won the decathlon at the USA Outdoor Championships. Last year, Kip came in second at the Drake Relays, the first time in 9 years that he did not come in first. However, Kip took the loss in stride, because the victor was his protégé, Travis Goepfert, also a native of Panora, IA.

Kip is currently in his 15th year as co-head coach at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg. He and his wife, Teresa, have two sons, Jaxon, age 9, and Mason, age 7.

So as Kip Janvrin warms up for his final Drake Relays, I extend my congratulations and best wishes. With his self discipline, his commitment to excellence, and his enormous human decency, he represents Iowa at its very best. I wish him success in this, his final, Drake Relays. Win or lose, he will be a true champion. ●

#### 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.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:08 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. 748. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent the transportation of minors in circumvention of certain laws relating to abortion, and for other purposes.

H.R. 902. An act to improve circulation of the \$1 coin, create a new bullion coin, provide for the redesign of the reverse of the Lincoln 1-cent coin in 2009 in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 81. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the two-year anniversary of the human rights crackdown in Cuba.

At 8:37 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agree to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 95) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006, revising appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2005, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 through 2010.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 902. To improve circulation of the \$1 coin, create a new bullion coin, provide for the redesign of the reverse of the Lincoln 1-cent coin in 2009 in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 81. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the two-year anniversary of the human rights crackdown in Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 975. A bill to provide incentives to increase research by private sector entities to develop medical countermeasures to prevent, detect, identify, contain, and treat illnesses, including those associated with biological, chemical, nuclear, or radiological weapons attack or an infectious disease outbreak, 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: