

and American Life Project survey, two thirds of adult Americans, or 136 million citizens, use the Internet. For youth, that number is even higher. Over half of the adults who use the Internet used it during the 2004 campaign cycle. They used it to obtain news and determine candidate positions. They viewed websites for campaigns and advocacy groups. They looked for information to register to vote. They followed opinion polls, looked at jokes, and checked the validity of rumors. They emailed one another about the election, and received email newsletters from candidates and advocacy groups. By a 10 to 1 margin, these Americans said that the Internet was a positive addition to public debate in the 2004 campaign. In the past several years, the Internet has become a powerful way for the American People to voice their opinions on everything from car parts to hair styles to political elections.

The Internet has been utilized by Americans representing the numerous ideologies of all the political parties. It is not Republican. It is not Democrat. It is not rich or poor. The Internet, like this country, is the mixture of all of those things together. It has become the newest and most dynamic melting pot of ideas.

But all this may be threatened because in 2004 a Federal court here in Washington, DC, instructed the FEC to begin regulating the Internet. The FEC has begun working out the details for this new regulatory framework, and right now we can see what that process looks like. I'll tell you this. It's not easy to understand. There are experts who don't understand it all. There are thousands of pages of comments and proposals.

The Online Freedom of Speech Act can clean up this entire mess with 8 simple lines of legislation.

In 1996, I was a co-founder of the Congressional Internet Caucus. Today, there are 176 members of this caucus from both parties and in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. These members have pledged to uphold the following: Promoting growth and advancement of the Internet; providing a bicameral, bipartisan forum for Internet concerns to be raised; promoting the education of Members of Congress and their staffs about the Internet; promoting commerce and the free flow of information on the Internet; advancing the United States' world leadership in the digital world; and maximizing the openness of and participation in government by the people.

I helped found this caucus because I understand the importance of careful treatment of this technology in its infancy. Government tends to want to regulate, and regulation can stunt growth. I am very concerned that without legislation like the Online Freedom of Speech Act, the First Amendment rights of Americans, from Montana and throughout the rest of the county, will be severely damaged.

Experts have warned that at the very least, proposed online regulation will subject Internet advocates, like bloggers, to the prospect of FEC investigations. That can mean subpoenas, lawyers, increased government payrolls and bureaucracy. Such investigations are not only a huge commitment for the FEC, but a serious threat to free speech online.

One of the things that makes the Internet unique is that it is so broadly accessible. Compared to more traditional forms of publication it is very cheap to publish on the Internet. As little as 20 years ago, the only way for someone's ideas to reach the full Marketplace of Ideas was to secure access to a printing press or broadcast center.

But as I said, the Internet is much different, now allowing anyone to promote his or her ideas into the marketplace. Internet media doesn't crowd out other competing media. And since everyone can have their say, the reader is the one who gets to decide what he or she wants to read. We need to be mindful of allowing the government to try to limit the choices of what the consumer can make.

Mr. President, as you can see, regulatory standards for the Internet must be much different than for other forms of public communication. The traditional arguments for traditional media do not apply here.

Some of my colleagues may think that there must be some regulation of the Internet for some types of political speech. However, before we choose to regulate this infant technology, we need learned-testimony and debate on this issue by discussing this bill. We need to make sure that regulation is the best course of action. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join me in support for the Online Freedom of Speech Act.

#### BAKERS CREEK TRAGEDY

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to offer remarks on the tragedy that occurred on June 14, 1943 at Bakers Creek, Australia. On that day, 40 members of the U.S. Armed Forces, six of whom were from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, lost their lives when the B-17C Flying Fortress airplane that they were flying in crashed at Bakers Creek, Australia. This tragedy marked the worst aviation disaster of the Southwest Pacific Theater during World War II.

I understand that at approximately 6 a.m. on June 14, 1943, the B-17C Flying Fortress transporting six crew members and thirty-five soldiers that were returning from leave in Australia departed from Mackay Airport in Bakers Creek for Port Moresby, when shortly after takeoff, the plane lost altitude and subsequently crashed. The sole survivor of this crash was Corporal Foye Kenneth Roberts of Wichita Falls, Texas.

This June will mark the 62nd anniversary of the Bakers Creek crash. I

applaud the work of Dr. Robert S. Cutler and the Bakers Creek Memorial Association for their research and tireless dedication to ensuring that the memory of those who perished at Bakers Creek, Australia in 1943 never be forgotten.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### CONGRATULATING THE WINNERS OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS

• Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate the winners of the 2005 New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards. These awards, otherwise known as the "ED"ies, are given to those individuals and schools that have exhibited the highest standards of excellence in curriculum and instruction, teaching and learning process, student achievement, leadership and decision-making, community and parental involvement, and school climate.

On June 4, 2005, 30 individuals, 2 school boards and 6 schools were recognized for their leadership and outstanding dedication in preparing their students for our rapidly changing workplace. I am honored to lend my voice to those of their colleagues, students, and communities in conveying our appreciation and respect for the professionals they are and the sacrifices and contributions they make every day in classrooms throughout the Granite State.

Nominees consist of some of New Hampshire's finest teachers and community leaders. They are carefully reviewed by selection committees that apply standards developed by The Board of Directors for the New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards. Nominees come from elementary, middle and secondary schools, as well as higher education. Many are honored in specific categories of excellence such as art education, world languages, school nursing, counseling and technology.

As a student in Salem, I was privileged to have had many great teachers at every level of my education. Today, as a parent looking back on that experience, I see even more clearly the great impact they've had on my life. Not only did they provide an environment conducive to learning, but each in their own way provided me with the direction necessary to succeed.

Like the classroom heroes I knew growing up in Salem, the group of educators chosen this year for the "ED"ies have demonstrated superior dedication and service to their students, schools and communities. They richly deserve this prestigious honor for the important roles they play in helping our children reach their goals and succeed in school. The teachers, principals, counselors, librarians and other school leaders being commended this year have provided students with the tools

they need to become productive and engaged citizens, and have been some of our State's most treasured role models—setting positive examples for the children that surround them, teaching personal responsibility and hard work, and shaping the character of young minds. For these achievements, our State and our country owe them a great deal of gratitude.

Since being elected to Congress in 1996, I have been ever mindful that I am a beneficiary of the State of New Hampshire's public education system. A system that is an exemplary model due in large measure to the contributions and leadership of the many educators and schools being recognized this year. I am confident that the success we enjoy in our State is due to their efforts.

Mr. President, I ask that the list of the 2005 New Hampshire Excellence in Education Award winners be printed in RECORD.

The list follows.

2005 NH EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS  
RECIPIENTS

Londonderry School Board  
Seabrook School Board  
Dr. Marilyn Brannigan  
Barbara Brennan  
William Church  
MaryAnn Connors-Krikorian  
Kathleen Custer  
Cynthia Dow  
Deborah Gibson  
Heidi E. Hale Miller  
Elizabeth A. Hansel  
Kathryn G. Hanson  
Bernard Keenan  
Mary Alyce Knightly  
Lise Lemieux  
Jay Lewis  
Shelley Lochhead  
Steve Lord  
Suzanne Lull  
Meg Maroni  
Maria Matarazzo  
Terrence McKenzie  
Marie H. Mellin  
Michele Munson  
Jane M. Murray  
Dr. Charles Ott  
Robert Pedersen  
David St. Jean  
Barbara Szabunka  
Randy Wormald  
Linda A. Wright  
Dr. Phyllis Scrocco Zrzavy

Schools

Dover High School  
South Meadow Middle School  
Golden Brook School  
The Whitefield School

School Finalists

Holderness Central School  
Dunbarton Elementary School●

TSP CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is with great honor that I rise today to publicly congratulate The Spitznagel Partners, Inc., TSP, on its 75th anniversary as one of South Dakota's premier architectural, engineering, and construction firms.

Founded in Sioux Falls on June 9, 1930, by Sioux Falls native, Harold T. Spitznagel, TSP is the largest architec-

tural and engineering firm in the State. Throughout its 75 years, TSP has contributed to the landscape of 100 different South Dakota communities. Among its most notable structures are the Sylvan Lake Hotel, Sioux Falls City Hall, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Sioux Falls Arena, IBP/Tyson Foods Corporate Headquarters, South Dakota Technology Business Center, Harrisburg High School, and Sioux Falls Veterans' Memorial Park.

Following the firm's significant expansion in 1969, TSP established offices in Minnesota, Wyoming, Colorado, Iowa, and Nebraska. Accordingly, what was once a small budding company staffed by a single person in Sioux Falls is now a prominent firm with offices in nine cities and over 200 employees.

Mr. President, it is with great honor that I share with my colleagues the accomplishments of Harold T. Spitznagel, his partners, associates, and employees. TSP's proven success will undoubtedly continue to enhance both the beauty and property of South Dakota for many years to come.●

HONORING THE CITY OF SPENCER,  
SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and publicly recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of the city of Spencer, SD. On June 18, 2005, the citizens of Spencer will celebrate their city's proud past, as well as their hope for a promising future.

Located in southeastern South Dakota, the origin of Spencer's name is a bit contentious. One story tells of an Indian Camp located exactly where the town of Spencer now sits. One tale has it that scouts from the Lewis and Clark expedition came across the Indian Camp in 1804, where they found an ill and weary Indian woman with her new born baby. After nursing the two back to health, the woman gave the men a short jacket, known as a "Spencer" jacket, as a token of her gratitude. Additionally, she prophesied that a city would one day flourish there; decades later, her prophecy was fulfilled. The railroad came to Dakota Territory in 1887, and in the words of the Spencer News, the town "like a mushroom, sprang into existence." Similarly, the other account of Spencer's name asserts it was named for Hugh Spencer, the division superintendent of the Omaha Railroad.

Platted in 1880, Spencer was officially incorporated into McCook County in 1917. Ever since E. L. Hunskaar opened the town's first railroad depot in 1887, the community has been home to a number of prosperous businesses and has supported farmers and ranchers across the region.

Unfortunately, as many know, Spencer suffered a horrific tragedy in 1998 when the most destructive tornado in South Dakota history, an F-4, devastated the region. On Saturday, May 30, the tornado ripped through the tiny

town, killing six people and injuring over 150 of Spencer's 320 residents. I remember peering over the city from a ladder on a Sioux Falls fire truck and thinking how much the terrible scene resembled a Civil War battlefield. Most of the houses were reduced to rubble; the post office, first station, library, bank, and multiple churches were all destroyed. Despite the devastation, Spencer's dedicated residents committed themselves to the rebuilding effort with undaunted determination. As a result of the residents' diligence and determination, Spencer commemorates its 125th anniversary as a proud and thriving town.

In the twelve and a half decades since its founding, Spencer has proven its ability to flourish and survive. Spencer's proud residents celebrate its 125th anniversary on June 18, 2005, and it is with great pleasure that I share with my colleagues the achievements made by this remarkable and resilient community.●

HONORING THE TOWN OF De  
SMET, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and publicly recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of the town of De Smet, SD. As the 125th anniversary approaches, De Smet looks back on a proud history and looks forward to a promising future.

Founded in 1880 by the Western Town Lot Company, De Smet is almost equidistant from the Nebraska State line and from the North Dakota State line. Situated in central Kingsbury County, De Smet is named for Father Pierre Jean De Smet, a Belgian priest who tirelessly worked among the region's local Indian tribes. Despite the town's status as Kingsbury County seat, De Smet originally was sparsely populated, home predominantly to single men. The arrival of the Chicago Northwestern Railroad in 1880, however, sparked an influx of residents that included many families.

In 1889, De Smet's most notable resident, Laura Ingalls Wilder, author of the Little House on the Prairie books which evolved into the longest running series in TV history, arrived with her family. While her series immortalizes this great community, every summer De Smet honors the famous writer with the Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant.

Another of De Smet's attractions is Washington Park, host to countless family picnics and outdoor activities. The park is also home to a statue honoring Father Pierre Jean De Smet, the duplicate of which is located in his hometown of Dendermonde, Belgium. De Smet's statue, which was dedicated to the public on June 8, 1986, established a bond between Dendermonde, Belgium and De Smet, SD and the two became sister cities.

De Smet's other distinguished landmarks include the historic courthouse, the Ingalls Homestead, the Loftus Store, and the De Smet Depot, a museum immortalizing the town's past.