

thank him for his leadership and commitment to the people of Indiana.

Charlie Phillips began his distinguished career in 1950 as an examiner with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, FDIC, where he dedicated himself to banking and bank supervision. In 1958, Charlie Phillips moved to New Albany to work as president of Floyd County Bank. As a leader in his community for more than 25 years, he helped acquire land to establish the Indiana University Southeast campus in New Albany. For this achievement, Charlie Phillips was recognized with the Chancellor's Medallion for Distinguished Service.

In 1989, after a brief retirement, Charlie agreed to become the director of the Department of Financial Institution for Indiana. I am proud to have been able to appoint him to that post. During his tenure as director, he served three other Governors besides myself.

As director, Charlie Phillips was responsible for promoting the modernization of the Indiana Financial Institutions Act, which addressed corporate governance, interstate branching, and payday lending reform. His commitment to encouraging employees to pursue continued professional development is among one of his greatest accomplishments. As a result, one of his legacies will be a well-trained staff, important to the health of Indiana's banking system and economy.

The people of Indiana have benefited from Charlie's hard work and dedication. I am proud to have appointed him to a position that made use of his many talents and to be able to honor him today. I wish him all the best in his retirement.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ALBUQUERQUE VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I stand before you today to recognize Albuquerque Vocational Technical Institute (TVI), a community college in New Mexico that is celebrating its 40th year of service to the community.

Since TVI's humble beginnings in an old vacated school building serving only 150 students, the school has made a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of students and has grown to serve about 27,000 students each year across four campuses. Considering the enriching education and workforce opportunities TVI provides it is no surprise that TVI is a "crown jewel" of the city of Albuquerque.

In a community noted for cultural diversity, TVI is a model technical education institution which provides high quality instruction and training in a variety of technical careers, trades, and professions. TVI delivers innovative, customized training and skill development to develop a highly skilled workforce for business, professional organizations, and government agencies. TVI wisely collaborates with business and industry to ensure that their students, as future workers, meet the de-

mands of the high-tech 21 century workforce. TVI graduates provide needed technical assistance and services to a variety of industries including our National Labs. TVI's dedication to their students' professional growth has positively impacted the economic development of the community and of the State.

For its leadership in educational advancement and for its invaluable contributions, I commend the students, the teachers, and the administration of the Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute for 40 years of exceptional service to the community and to the State of New Mexico.●

#### HONORING THE CITIZENS OF DEXTER, NEW MEXICO

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the citizens of Dexter in the Pecos Valley of southeastern New Mexico, who will soon be celebrating the centennial of their community.

In its early years, the settlement that would become Dexter was located near the large body of water known as Lake Van in Chaves County. With the rise of the railroad and the construction of an irrigation canal a few miles away, a new town was necessary. Three men selected the townsite, and the only married man of the bunch, Albert Macey, was given the privilege of choosing the name of the town. He chose the name Dexter in honor of his hometown of Dexter, IA.

Dexter served an important role as a railroad depot in its early years. The depot contributed greatly to the economic and social life of the town. Dexter also became part of the historic Ozark Trails highway system and still has remnants of this fabled roadway, now known as State Highway Two. Agriculture, with cotton and alfalfa being the chief crops, has been and continues to be important for Dexter and the Pecos Valley.

These days, Dexter is also known for its fish hatchery, where advanced biological research takes place and endangered species are protected and propagated. The Dexter National Fish Hatchery is currently working with 17 species of fish native to New Mexico and neighboring States. If something should happen to devastate an original fish species in the wild, the hatchery could use the fish it holds in refuge to help replace the damaged population.

Given the long history of settlement in New Mexico, turning 100 barely qualifies a town as middle aged. But Dexter and its 1,200 residents have done a great deal in that short amount of time. I congratulate the town of Dexter on its centennial and offer my best wishes for the next 100 years.●

#### IN MEMORIAM TO ASSEMBLYMAN MIKE GORDON

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to honor the memory

of a most dedicated public servant, California Assemblyman Mike Gordon. Assemblyman Gordon passed away on June 25, 2005. He was 47 years old.

Assemblyman Gordon began his political career at the young age of 18 as a voter registration coordinator for Assembly Speaker Leo McCarthy and later joined the staff of Assemblyman Bruce Young (D-Downey). In 1982, Gordon began his 3-year tenure as executive director of the California Democratic Party and in 1995 co-founded Gordon and Schwenkmeyer, Inc., a successful polling and fundraising firm that is still operating today.

Mike Gordon was elected to the El Segundo City Council in 1996 and as the city's mayor in 1998, 2000, and 2002. During this time, he focused on revitalizing El Segundo's downtown and helped increase funding for police, fire and recreation. As cofounder of the Los Angeles Air Force Base Alliance, he fought against the closure of the base and focused his attention on finding a solution for regional air and road traffic. Of all his great work as councilman and mayor, Mike's focus on education and funding for the El Segundo Unified School District made him a hero in the community.

In 2004, Mike Gordon ran successfully for the 53rd California Assembly seat in the South Bay of Los Angeles County. Assemblyman Gordon introduced 22 bills during his first 2 months in the assembly and was appointed chair of the Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs and as the body's representative to California's Milton Marks Little Hoover Commission. His strong leadership skills and passion for public service were instrumental in his early success in the assembly.

Assemblyman Mike Gordon knew firsthand the concerns and needs of his community and dedicated his life to serving the citizens of Southern California. He grew up in La Mirada, CA where he attended Neff High School and in 1979 graduated from California State University, Fullerton with a bachelor's degree in political science. Whether as mayor or assemblyman, he used his knowledge, influence, and skills to better the lives of his constituents.

Assemblyman Gordon is survived by his wife Denise and children, Ryan, Erika, Amanda, and Gordy. He was a deeply loved member of both the California State Legislature and the South Bay community for his willingness to champion the causes of those he represented. He will be missed by all who knew him.●

#### CONGRATULATING MISS KENNEDY WOMACK

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate Miss Kennedy Womack, a 10-year-old student of Russell-McDowell Intermediate School in Flatwoods, KY.

The Kentucky Association for Gifted Education in cooperation with the National Association for Gifted Children

awarded Miss Womack the Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award during the KAGE 25th Annual Conference on February 8, 2005. The award is designed to recognize excellence in young children and is given to one student per State each school year. Award recipients are between ages 8 and 12 and have achieved excellence in one of the following areas of endeavor—leadership, visual/performing arts, and academic achievement. The student selected is one who makes a contribution to the community at a level beyond what is expected of the student's age group.

While spending time with her grandfather who is the jailer for the Greenup County Detention Center, Miss Womack became aware of the needs of the inmates, as well as the children who come to visit them. She observed inmates who needed to read or write to their families, but for some reason they were not able to do so. Kennedy tried to find a way to help. Through various means, Kennedy has also tried to help the young children who come to visit their relatives. She hopes her efforts will help the children make wise choices and not follow a path of crime. Chief Tomas E. Kelly, Ashland Chief of Police, says of Miss Womack, "Kennedy has a keen interest in bettering her community, stopping the chain of crime and being a young advocate for victims of crime, and clearly demonstrates her leadership traits and initiative while doing so."

National recognition by this organization is truly an honor to Greenup County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I congratulate Miss Womack for her hard work and achievement. I encourage her to keep up the hard work and commitment to improving her community.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JADA TRABUE, ASHLYN WILSON AND CHARLES CLARK

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Jada Trabue, Ashlyn Wilson, and Charles Clark as three truly outstanding students from the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

In the fall of 2005, Reading is Fundamental, Inc. held a national poster contest in which more than 25,000 children created artwork reflecting the 2005 theme, "Celebrate the Joy of Reading." Out of 365 posters submitted to the national competition, a panel of judges selected Jada Trabue of Louisville, KY, as the National Winner. Ashlyn Wilson of Louisville, KY, and Charles Clark of Hopkinsville, KY, were selected as Honorable Mention winners.

Being recognized by this organization is truly an honor. I congratulate these three students for their hard work and their achievement.●

#### CONGRATULATING MR. BRANDON HARVEY AND MR. CRAIG PEDEN

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I congratulate and honor two young Ken-

tucky students who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Brandon Harvey of Breeding and Craig Peden of Henderson have just been named the top two honorees in Kentucky by the 2005 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each State, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Mr. Harvey, a senior at Adair County High School, is being recognized for raising nearly \$1,000 to purchase smoke detectors for the families of all 175 students at a local elementary school. Mr. Harvey organized a special Fire Prevention Day at the school, during which he taught the students fire prevention and safety techniques and issued every child a smoke detector.

Mr. Peden, an eighth grader at Henderson County North Middle School, is being recognized for leading an effort by his school's Junior Optimist Club to raise money to help support the operating budget of Riverview School, a preschool for special needs students. With Mr. Peden's help, Riverview School was able to pay off its mortgage, and now Craig hopes to expand his efforts to directly benefit the handicapped children at Riverview.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution these young citizens have made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Mr. Harvey and Mr. Peden are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued. Since its inception, the program has become the Nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with more than 170,000 youngsters participating.

Mr. Harvey and Mr. Peden should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Mr. Harvey and Mr. Peden for their initiative in seeking to make their communities a better place to live, and for the positive impact they have had on the lives of others. They have demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserve our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young Americans can play important roles in our

communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.●

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE KENTUCKY COMMANDERY

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate the hard work of fellow Kentuckians to establish the Kentucky Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

The Military Order of the Loyal Legions of the United States was established by a group of Federal officers formed to act as an honor guard for the remains of President Abraham Lincoln. These officers later met to form a society to commemorate the events and principles of the War of the Rebellion. MOLLUS became the first military society based upon the War of Rebellion to be formed.

Over 125 officers of Kentucky regiments, as well as over a dozen general officers and admirals of Kentucky birth, were original companions of MOLLUS. At the MOLLUS National Congress in October of 2004, the dedicated efforts of the Kentucky members paid off, as the Commonwealth of Kentucky was granted full Commandery status.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the members of the Kentucky Commandery for their hard work and dedication to their principles.●

#### CONGRATULATING MR. JOHN W. HINKLE AND MISS COURTNEY E. OTTO

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate two young Kentucky students who have achieved national recognition for their academic excellence, artistic accomplishments, and civic contributions. Mr. John W. Hinkle of Shelbyville and Miss Courtney E. Otto of Louisville have been named to the 41st Class of Presidential Scholars.

Each year the Presidential Scholars program invites more than 2,700 students to apply for recognition based on outstanding scores on the College Board SAT or ACT assessments. A 28-member Commission on Presidential Scholars, appointed by President Bush, made the final selection from a pool of over 500 semifinalists. The 141 winners include one young man and one young woman from each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, and from U.S. families living abroad, as well as 15 chosen at large and 20 Presidential Scholars in the Arts.

Mr. Hinkle and Miss Otto should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated students. National recognition from this program is truly an honor to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I heartily applaud their hard work and achievements.●