

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.●

CONGRATULATING OFFICER  
DUANE HARPER

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate Officer Duane Harper of Owensboro, KY. Officer Harper was recently awarded the Owensboro Police Department's citation for officer of the year.

Officer Harper, a vehicle crash reconstructionist, is a 14-year veteran with an eye for detail and a steady, meticulous investigative technique. As a reconstructionist, Harper is called on to conduct investigations not only for his department, but others as well. Chief John Kazlauskas describes Harper as committed to conducting his investigations thoroughly and professionally.

The officer of the year award is given annually to an officer selected solely by the Chief of Police based on performance and merit. Officer Harper was also the recipient of the Chief's Award, the department's second highest honor.

It is very important to have members of our law enforcement dedicated to the safety and well being of our communities. I am very proud to have Officer Harper as a member of local law enforcement in Kentucky. I heartily applaud his hard work and commitment to serving his community.

I hope that you will join me today in both recognizing and congratulating Officer Harper in his achievement. He serves as an example to the rest of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I wish him continued success in the future.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MERCER,  
NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 1-3, the residents of Mercer, ND, will celebrate their community's founding and history.

Mercer is a small town of 86 citizens in west-central North Dakota, encircled by rolling prairie and enchanting lakes. Despite its small size, Mercer holds an important place in North Dakota's history, one that long predates the establishment of the town. The community was at the crossroads of major events that shaped the early Dakota experience. The cultures of three Native American tribes converged here at Prophet's Mountain, and their relics still dot the prairies. Early fur traders traipsed the Coteau du Missouri, skirting Medicine Hill while on expeditions between Canada and the Missouri River. Major wagon trains, seeking an overland route to Montana gold fields, rutted its terrain. Trails traversed the community, some reaching as far north as Canada. At the close of the nineteenth century, lush rangeland at the foot of Prophet's Mountain beckoned pioneer ranchers along the Missouri River bottomland. Among them was William Henry Harrison Mercer, who drove his cattle herds to this area. The largest influx of new citizens the com-

munity would ever witness—the homesteaders—then followed.

At the behest of the Northern Pacific Railway Company, the town of Mercer was platted July 24, 1905. The first rail traffic arrived on November 7, and construction of a depot followed in 1907. Mercer Township was organized in 1908, and three supervisors, a clerk, treasurer, assessor, two justices, two constables, a road overseer and a commission of conciliation were all elected.

Like many other plains country towns, Mercer has witnessed and withstood major upheavals in its struggle to survive. Other than its fine citizens, Mercer's proudest asset has been Brush Lake. As early as 1926, community leaders with vision established the Mercer-Brush Lake Community Association, an organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of a serene, natural recreational resource for the public good. That association was reorganized in 1958 as the Brush Lake Community Association, with a membership spanning the entire region.

I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Mercer, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Mercer and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Mercer that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Mercer has a proud past and a bright future.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROLETTE,  
NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 1-3, the residents of Rolette, ND, will gather to celebrate the community's centennial.

Rolette is located in the northern part of North Dakota with a population of 538. Although its population is small, Rolette holds an important place in North Dakota's history. A post office named after the nearby Willow Creek, along with a junction on the Great Northern Railroad, fueled the city's growth, which peaked in 1970 with 704 people. Rolette was named after the fur trader, Joseph Rolette, who lived from 1820 to 1871.

Located in the scenic Turtle Mountains, Rolette boasts exceptional outdoor activities. A healthy number of lakes sprinkle the region, which provide for fishing opportunities and an abundance of waterfowl for hunters and birdwatchers in the fall. Many community members enjoy the nearby golf course or the International Peace Gardens in the warmer months. Today, Rolette is home to two cafes, a clinic, a bank, and much more.

In recognition of the community's centennial, eight murals were painted by local artisans on the exterior of the

Rolette Mall. Five additional murals recognizing the community's dedication to volunteerism were recently completed. Rolette's lively centennial celebration will include an all school reunion, a civic parade, dances, and an air and car show.

I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Rolette, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Rolette and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering tradition alive for future generations. Places such as Rolette shaped this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community deserves our recognition.

Rolette has a proud past and a bright future.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANTLER,  
NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 8 and 9, the residents of Antler, ND, will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Antler is a small town in the northern part of North Dakota, with a population of approximately 40. Despite its small size, Antler holds an important place in North Dakota's history. It began around 1889 when settlers Mr. and Mrs. Jack Schell; Jack, Mike, and Dan Manning; and Robert Wright first populated this region. By 1898, Duncan McLean had established a post office, and in 1905, Antler was incorporated as a city.

Antler was named after Antler Creek, one of two tributaries, which resemble a deer's horns, branching from the Mouse River. Today, Mayor Tom Arneson leads this enthusiastic community. Currently, Antler is known around the State for its unique Town Square and its close proximity to the Canadian border. Residents of this peaceful town enjoy spending time outdoors, hunting, and fishing.

I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Antler, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Antler and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Antler that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why Antler is deserving of our recognition.

Antler has a proud past and a bright future.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
ROCKLAKE, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 8-10, the residents of Rocklake, ND, will celebrate their community's history and founding.