

the Medal of Honor to Master Sergeant Keeble has been reviewed by an Army Decorations Board, a Senior Army Decorations Board, and now awaits final action by the Secretary of the Army. At this point, I do not know if the Secretary's decision will be positive or negative, but I remain in contact with his office almost every month as I have for the past 4 years.

While all of us who care about this case are frustrated by the amount of time this has taken, the thorough review process is an indication of the importance of the Medal of Honor and the seriousness of this decision.

As more people learn about Master Sergeant Keeble's story, more people are joining in the effort to pay tribute to his service. While I do not know what the Army's ultimate decision will be in this case, I can think of no one more deserving of this honor than Master Sergeant Keeble.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID EVANS

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I today pay tribute to David Lee Evans, who had been a member of the staff of the Committee on Foreign Relations. He was a much loved Senate employee who was universally respected for his professionalism, patience, and generosity. Dave passed away last week at age 65.

Dave was born on October 23, 1940, in Baltimore, MD. He graduated from Kenwood High School, and attended Howard Community College. Dave served the Government as a journeyman printer and as a member of the Foreign Relations Committee staff for nearly 23 years. In addition to his service as a printer with the Government Printing Office, he had been Chief Clerk and Assistant Chief Clerk to the committee during the 1970's. Dave ably served under Foreign Relations Committee Chairmen Fulbright, Sparkman, Church, Helms, BIDEN and myself.

Committee members and staff relied heavily on Dave to shepherd our many publications through all aspects of the printing process. As a returning chairman in 2003, I brought in a new majority staff, many of whom were working for a Senate committee for the first time. Dave was indispensable in teaching these staff members committee printing procedures and patiently answering their many questions. Dave's skills, technical ability and good humor made it possible to meet our many deadlines.

During the last 6 years that Dave served the committee, we printed more than 400 documents, including executive and legislative reports, hearings, and other materials. Without Dave's tireless efforts and hard work, the committee would not have been able to produce such a huge volume of material. Dave took great pride in his work and ensured that the material he produced met his and the committee's high standards. Every publication Dave printed reflected favorably on the committee, the Senate, and the U.S. Government as a whole.

In addition to his extensive public service, Dave will be remembered as a loyal friend and loving husband and father. He is survived by his wife Angela, who is currently the Executive Clerk of the Committee on Foreign Relations; four children, David T. Evans, Christopher Evans, Kathleen Canby, and Susan Hennegan; a stepson, Jeffrey Morris; six grandchildren; and a brother.

All who knew Dave will miss his kindness and grace. The thoughts of the entire Foreign Relations Committee are with his family as they remember and celebrate the life of an exemplary man.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I associate myself with the remarks that our chairman, Senator LUGAR, has just made regarding our fine printer David L. Evans, who died last week at the age of 65 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Dave did two tours as a GPO printer assigned to the Committee on Foreign Relations, first in the 1970s, and then again from 1999 until about a year ago. For a time in the late 1970s, he also served directly on the staff of the committee as its deputy clerk and then its chief clerk. The committee, and the country, are indebted to him for his service for performing some of the numerous jobs that are essential to the operation of this institution, but which are largely unrecognized by the public.

Dave was a big and wonderfully gentle man. He reveled in the opportunity to serve his country, even though it meant working long days, and sometimes well into the night, to ensure that the committee's hearings and reports were printed promptly and properly. Why he put up with us I don't know, but it was an honor to have him on our staff, and to know that the published output of our committee had been subject to his careful and professional scrutiny. He was unfailingly courteous and pleasant to his co-workers, and never complained about his heavy workload.

Like so many others in this country afflicted with cancer, Dave was taken from us too soon. We will miss him greatly. Our thoughts and prayers are with all his family and especially his wife Angie Evans, who shared Dave's work ethic and continues to bless us with her service to the committee.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I today speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate

crime that has occurred in our country.

On May 17, 2003, Sakia Gunn was fatally stabbed during a confrontation about her being a lesbian. Gunn and four other girls were waiting for a bus in downtown Newark, NJ, when Richard McCullough and another man drove up and asked them to go to a party. When the girls responded that they were lesbians, the two men began spewing homophobic insults and McCullough proceeded to stab her.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. By passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.●

ATLANTA GAS LIGHT

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Atlanta Gas Light on its 150th anniversary. Atlanta Gas Light was incorporated on February 16, 1856, and first brought lighting to the streets of Atlanta on Christmas Day, 1855, enabling accelerated growth and the safe transportation of individuals and supplies necessary for the expansion of Atlanta and its surrounding communities.

At the end of the Civil War, Atlanta Gas Light quickly rebuilt its gasworks to facilitate the rebuilding of Atlanta and contributed to the rise of that great city to a major commercial center in the Southeast. In the 1920s, it invested in the State of Georgia's future by creating the infrastructure necessary to allow natural gas to flow under the city streets and into homes, ending the need to manufacture gas and expanding the use of gas throughout the Southeast region. In the early 20th century, it began expanding its services to cities and towns throughout the State of Georgia.

Atlanta Gas Light has faithfully served the State of Georgia and its citizens for each of its 150 years, delivering natural gas to customers throughout the State safely and reliably. This great company and its top-notch employees deserve special recognition. They have contributed millions of dollars and hours to improve the communities in which they work and live.

Atlanta Gas Light and its Georgia parent, AGL Resources, continue to provide exemplary service to their customers and remain a vital part of the economic development of the State of Georgia. I am pleased to take this opportunity to commemorate the contributions and services rendered by Atlanta Gas Light in its 150 years of operation and look forward to its continued service for the next 150 years.●

CONGRATULATING MS. SARA J. KIEFFNER

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate Ms. Sara J.

Kieffner for being selected as one of the Cincinnati Enquirer newspaper's Women of the Year.

The Enquirer has done well to bestow this honor on Ms. Kieffner. Among her many causes, she has done much for the St. Elizabeth Medical Center Foundation. She has also devoted herself to promoting breast health awareness and to raising funds for the Fischer Homes Breast Center. If that weren't enough, she is also active with the Redwood Rehabilitation Center, the American Cancer Society's Northern Kentucky chapter, United Ministries, and her church, Gloria Dei Lutheran.

Since The Enquirer's Women of the Year program was started in 1968, over 350 women in Greater Cincinnati and northern Kentucky have been singled out for their efforts to improve the community for everyone.

Ms. Kieffner has certainly deserved this citation. As a Senator and a member of her community, I am proud of her dedication. Her accomplishments serve as an example to all citizens of the Commonwealth.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM A. COOPER

● Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I rise to extend my congratulations to Mr. William A. Cooper for long standing service as CEO at TCF Financial Corporation, a financial holding company based in Minnesota.

Bill Cooper came to TCF Financial in 1985 with an impressive financial leadership record which included serving as a senior auditor for Touche, Ross and company, a Detroit firm, and as President of Huntington Bank of Ohio.

But based on my personal relationship with Bill, I would say his high school graduating class might have voted him "least likely to become a banker." The banker's stereotype is reserved, cautious, and circumspect. Bill Cooper is bold, innovative, and refreshingly outspoken. Like his hero Ronald Reagan, there is never a bit of doubt as to where Bill Cooper stands.

During his tenure as CEO, Bill Cooper directed an impressive expansion of TCF Financial in Minnesota and elsewhere through his innovative leadership. From 1985 until his retirement in January, he helped to transform TCF Financial from a small banking enterprise into a thriving operation offering industry leading consumer services.

Bill Cooper is a complete citizen. He not only led a thriving business that provided thousands of jobs and financial services to a big proportion of our Minnesota population, Bill used his voice, his philanthropy, and his influence to improve as many sectors of our State as he could get his hands on.

His work on education not only shaped Minnesota public policy, his personal involvement changed the lives of hundreds of disadvantaged students forever. He has always had strong opinions and had the integrity to walk his talk.

Although Mr. Cooper has retired as CEO of TCF, he has not completely given himself up to the ski slopes or the golf courses as he continues to re-

main active in the financial world and in his community.

Minnesota has been fortunate to have a business leader like Mr. Cooper who not only has enriched the economy of Minnesota and elsewhere but has also used his good name, time, and money for the good of the community. Minnesota celebrates its lakes and farms and excellent community assets. One of the secrets of our success is community leaders like Bill Cooper who shoulder the burdens of leadership.

I congratulate Bill Cooper, the staff of TCF, and his family on his great career and leadership in the community.●

CELEBRATING THE 2006 BILL TALLMAN MEMORIAL WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I rise to recognize the Bill Tallman Memorial Women in Science Conference, which is taking place in five communities across South Dakota from March 6th through April 28th. Since 2002, the Women in Science Conference has helped to increase interest in science and technological careers among young women in my State. This year's conference is named in honor of the event's distinguished founder, Bill Tallman, who unexpectedly passed away last October while helping with recovery efforts for victims of the devastating hurricanes that hit the gulf coast region.

The cover of a recent Time magazine features a rather amusing photo of a child wearing a lab coat and oversized safety goggles, accompanied by the question, "Is America Flunking Science?" Though the image is meant to provoke a laugh, its associated question is anything but humorous. By a number of measures, our country is losing the competitive edge in scientific and technological fields that has for decades been a key driver of our economy. At a national level, one of the factors that undoubtedly contributes to this unfortunate trend is a failure to adequately engage young women in scientific pursuits. It is discouraging to think of how many important discoveries were never made because of our failure to cultivate young female researchers.

In my view, the Women in Science Conference in South Dakota is a shining example of what we as a nation need more of to retain and enhance our superiority in science and technology. The conference provides young women in South Dakota with first-hand exposure to women who are leading important scientific work. These distinguished individuals share the rewards and challenges of their work in vivid, concrete terms, and serve as role models for young women who may not have previously considered a career in science.

The Women in Science Conference is a product of a partnership between several forward-thinking entities, including the National Weather Service, and several nonprofit and private-sector sponsors. Without their contributions,

this valuable event would not be possible.

It is a fitting tribute to Bill Tallman that this year's event should be named in his honor. Bill not only recognized the need for an important event like this, he actually made it happen. I know it was one of his proudest achievements, and I congratulate everyone who participates in the Women in Science Conference for helping to carry on his vision. Bill began his career by engaging young minds as a high school math teacher, and then served his country during a 20-year career as a meteorologist with the U.S. Air Force. Next he joined the National Weather Service, and was eventually asked to lead its Aberdeen, SD, office. At a time of national tragedy, few were surprised at Bill's willingness to serve again by leaving home to help those who had suffered through the devastating hurricanes that hit the gulf coast in 2005.

Bill Tallman's presence will be sorely missed by all the people whose lives he touched. It is my distinct pleasure to honor his life and legacy by recognizing the Bill Tallman Memorial Women in Science Conference today in the Senate.●

MRS. PRANKE'S SIXTH GRADE

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize a special group of students. It is not often enough that we have the opportunity to acknowledge heartwarming acts of kindness, but the actions of Mrs. Pranke's sixth grade class in Sheyenne, ND, have touched my hearts and the heart of their neighbors and friends.

Throughout their years together, this special group of students has worked on more than one occasion to serve their community. As third graders, they collected box tops to purchase new games for schoolmates. When they were in the fifth grade, they initiated a fundraiser and donated the proceeds to benefit the Ronald McDonald House in Fargo, ND.

As one final project, Mrs. Pranke's sixth graders decided to treat themselves to a class trip to celebrate their years together before moving on to junior high school.

The students began holding fundraisers for their trip. Shortly after all the funds had been raised, they learned that the father of one of their classmates had fallen critically ill. The students quickly realized that they were faced with unique circumstances. After learning of their classmate's situation and the medical costs the family would bear, the children chose to donate the funds to their classmate's family and forgo their class trip.

By choosing to help with their hard-earned money rather than keep it for themselves, these extraordinary students proved that their hearts are deep and their love for one another is real.

Again, I commend Mrs. Pranke's exceptional group of sixth graders. Their