

Seeking to put numerical ratings on service to these various stakeholder groups, the 100 Best Corporate Citizens list uses data provided by KLD Research & Analytics of Boston. It employs statistical analysis to identify those major public U.S. companies that excel at serving a variety of stakeholders well, using eight measures of service: stockholders, community, governance, diversity, employees, environment, human rights, and product.

[From the Burlington Free Press, Apr. 29, 2006]

WATERBURY COFFEE FIRM DESERVES HIGH PRAISE

Vermont should take pride in the accomplishments of Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc., the Waterbury company named the nation's top corporate citizen by Business Ethics magazine.

For this company, which employs 600 people, the human dimension clearly matters. Employees, the local community and coffee workers in far-away places have benefited from Green Mountain Coffee's refreshing divergence from the standard of bottom-line business.

In its annual "100 Best Corporate Citizens," Business Ethics magazine praised Green Mountain Coffee for its corporate social responsibility, in particular its commitment to fair trade, a Free Press story said. Fair trade ensures coffee growers are paid fairly with a guaranteed minimum price. Sales of the company's fair trade coffee have done extremely well, especially with a lucrative deal signed last fall with McDonald's restaurants in the Northeast.

Not only are the company's ethics admirable, Green Mountain also makes money—a winning combination that other businesses should heed for long-term success.

Within the organization, employees receive a firsthand education on the product they handle. Every year, a group of U.S. workers travel to coffee-growing areas in Mexico to experience the hard labor of picking and sorting beans. According to the magazine's Web site, the annual trips have given these employees a real appreciation of the work done in Mexico. It can be a life-changing experience.

The magazine, which has compiled the corporate citizens' list for seven years, has included Green Mountain Coffee in four of those years, including a second place last year. Chittenden Corp. was the only other Vermont business on the list, coming in at 26th place. The bank also deserves recognition.

To compile the list, eight measures of service are considered by Business Ethics: stockholders, community, governance, diversity, employees, environment, human rights, and the product, the magazine's Web site said.

There are many companies in Vermont that take their social responsibilities seriously. In 1990, Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility was created by a group of businesspeople who shared the belief that companies have a duty to their employees, the environment and their communities as well as to their stockholders. Last month, the organization named Green Mountain Power of Colchester its "Large Company Leader of the Year" for the company's socially responsible approach to business. It's an impressive award, and a rare one for a utility.

With companies like Green Mountain Coffee, Chittenden Corp., and Green Mountain Power in our midst, the bar has been set high for other companies in the state and across the country. Bravo to them for leading the way.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING JANE HUNN

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable science teacher, Jane Hunn, from Tippecanoe Valley Middle School in Akron. Last week, Jane was honored with the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, the Nation's highest honor for teaching in these fields.

Jane is the only winner from Indiana and one of just 100 middle and high school teachers nationwide to receive this prestigious award. This award is an extraordinary honor to Jane. It recognizes her hard work and dedication to her students and their academic achievement.

Now more than ever, education is the key to greater personal opportunity. Here in Washington, I have fought to ensure that education is available and accessible to all our Nation's students. However, the real, heroic work is done on the ground, in our schools, by teachers like Jane.

Jane has concentrated on including hands-on learning in her classroom as a way to challenge and inspire her students. In her own words, she "would much rather put the students in the active role of discoverers than be the fountain of knowledge. They really own their discoveries when they do activities and put together their own findings." By allowing them to take an active role in their own education, Jane has made science accessible to every student regardless of his or her learning ability.

Through countless hours of work both inside and outside the classroom, Jane has demonstrated her commitment to ensuring the success of future generations and to encouraging the curiosity and development of our Hoosier youth. I am sure that hundreds of Akron students both past and present, along with their families, join me in expressing my sincere gratitude for her efforts.

On behalf of the State of Indiana, I thank Jane for her dedication to her profession and our young people, and I am proud to enter her name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the Senate.●

AWARD TO DR. PHILIP GOLD

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate Dr. Philip Gold on receiving the Rabbi Norman F. Feldheim Award. The Rabbi Norman F. Feldheim Award was established to pay tribute to those members of Congregation Emanu El who have conspicuously and exceptionally reflected Rabbi Feldheim's qualities of love for and loyalty to the synagogue, service to the community, and the personal traits of humility, loving kindness, care, and love. Dr. Gold receives this award as part of the ceremonies marking the 115th anniversary of the founding of the congregation.

Dr. Philip M. Gold has been an extraordinarily devoted leader of Congregation Emanu El through his service as a member of its board of directors since 1990. He served as secretary, second vice-president, vice-president, and, from 2000 until 2002, he served as the president of the congregation.

During his remarkable tenure with Congregation Emanu El, Dr. Gold has masterfully guided it through a period of leadership change. He has been an inspirational leader of the congregation with a deep love for Judaism, participation in worship and education, and an exemplary commitment to Jewish values and their application to contemporary society.

In addition to his immense contributions to Congregation Emanu El, Dr. Gold is a highly respected physician and teacher, and he has been recognized by his colleagues as a leader in the field of medicine. He has served as the president of various medical organizations, and he has received numerous awards for his work and achievements.

As his family, colleagues, patients, and fellow congregants would attest, Dr. Philip M. Gold is a truly deserving recipient of an award that honors the importance of integrity, character, ethics, humility, and love for others. Throughout his life, Dr. Gold has consistently embodied the best ideals of human values.

I congratulate Dr. Philip M. Gold on receiving the Rabbi Norman F. Feldheim Award and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of North Augusta, SC. Preceded by the settlements of Hamburg and Campbelltown, North Augusta was founded on the north bank of the Savannah River in 1892 by James U. Jackson, whose development company planned the city's original layout. Officially chartered a town on April 11, 1906, North Augusta remained small and mostly residential until the early 1950s when the Savannah River Site was built. Thereafter, the town tripled in size, becoming a city. During the next half century, as new subdivisions were constructed around the city, commercial development flourished. Today, North Augusta is known for its first-class recreational facilities, community league sports teams, and caring people. It is a city that prides itself on responsive government and a strong sense of community. With a healthy respect for its past, an emerging riverfront, and careful growth, the city's future is bright.●

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

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION
SIGNED

At 10:22 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 83. An act to memorialize and honor the contribution of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist.

The enrolled joint resolution was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

At 11:33 a.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. 3829. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Muskogee, Oklahoma, as the Jack C. Montgomery Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

H.R. 4204. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer ownership of the American River Pump Station Project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4902. An act to award a Congressional gold medal to Byron Nelson in recognition of his significant contributions to the game of golf as a player, a teacher, and a commentator; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4912. An act to amend section 242 of the National Housing Act to extend the exemption for critical access hospitals under the FHA program for mortgage insurance for hospitals; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5037. An act to amend titles 38 and 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain demonstrations at cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration and at Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5311. An act to establish the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1382. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to accept the conveyance of certain land, to be held in trust for the benefit of Puyallup Indian tribe.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1499) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow members of the Armed Forces serving in a combat zone to make contributions to their individual retirement plans even if the compensation on which such contribution is based is excluded from gross income, and for other purposes, with amendment.

At 6:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4297) to provide for reconciliation on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3829. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Muskogee, Oklahoma, as the Jack C. Montgomery Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 4204. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer ownership of the American River Pump Station Project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4902. An act to award a Congressional gold medal to Byron Nelson in recognition of his significant contributions to the game of golf as a player, a teacher, and a commentator; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 4912. An act to amend section 242 of the National Housing Act to extend the exemption for critical access hospitals under the FHA program for mortgage insurance for hospitals; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were, laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-292. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to funding fully the Select Michigan Agriculture Program through the United States Department of Agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 181

Whereas, the Michigan Department of Agriculture introduced the Select Michigan campaign in the Grand Rapids area to encourage Michigan residents to purchase locally grown and produced foods. Recently expanded to the Detroit area, the program uses posters, banners, and stickers in Michigan grocery stores and farmers' markets to identify locally grown food products. Since 2001, the Select Michigan program has highlighted the numerous Michigan-grown products available in the state, including apples, asparagus, blueberries, cherries, chestnuts, corn, dry beans, honey, maple syrup, peaches, and strawberries; and

Whereas, access to fresh and nutritious food products is vital to the health and well-being of Michigan residents. Michigan farms, which are second in the nation in the diversity of agricultural products grown, provide residents with a wide variety of locally grown fruits and vegetables. Identifying and marketing these products to the local population enables residents to support Michigan's agricultural industry, which contributes significantly to Michigan's economic well-being. The impact of Michigan's agriculture on our economy is estimated to be \$60.1 billion annually and growing; and

Whereas, in 2001, a one-time block grant of \$3.75 million from the United States Department of Agriculture provided support to launch the Select Michigan program. The program is able to continue due to a unique funding partnership involving the private sector and the federal government. However, to ensure all Michigan residents have access to fresh and nutritious locally grown food products and allow the Select Michigan program to expand to encompass the state, full funding of this program by the federal government is necessary: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives. That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to fund fully the Select Michigan agricultural program through the United States Department of Agriculture; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-293. A concurrent memorial adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Arizona relative to enacting a 2007 Farm Bill that is supportive of the specialty crop industry; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2001

Whereas, the fruit, vegetable and tree nut production in the United States accounts for \$35 billion in farmgate value, or 33 percent of farm cash receipts, and with the addition of nursery and greenhouse production, overall specialty crops account for 51 percent of farmgate value; and

Whereas, in Arizona, fruit, vegetable and tree nut production represents a \$1 billion industry representing over 35 percent of Arizona's farm cash receipts; and

Whereas, the fruit, vegetable and tree nut industry is a critical and growing component of United States agriculture, deserving of full and equal consideration as other agricultural sectors in the Farm Bill; and

Whereas, the fruit, vegetable and tree nut industry does not seek direct program payments to growers, but rather places its emphasis on building the long-term competitiveness and sustainability of United States fruit and vegetable production; and

Whereas, government investment in the competitiveness and sustainability of the United States fruit and vegetable industry will produce a strong return on investment for all of America, not just farmers, by expanding access and availability of safe, wholesome, healthy and affordable fruits and vegetables. The Farm Bill will be a critical component in reaching the mandate of doubling fruit and vegetable consumption called for in the USDA/HHS 2005 Dietary Guidelines; and

Whereas, with the government's mandate that domestic producers meet the very highest standards in environmental regulation, labor and other areas comes the responsibility to help those producers achieve cost-effective compliance through government investment in this agriculture industry to create a fair, level playing field with international competitors who do not face the regulatory burdens of United States producers; and

Whereas, without appropriate assistance, United States fruit, vegetable and tree nut production will relocate to less restrictive foreign growing areas; and