

strengthen national health and social systems by integrating HIV/AIDS intervention into programs for primary health care, mother and child health, sexual and reproductive health, tuberculosis, nutrition, and education. Not only will it be more cost-efficient to work with existing systems, but it will also increase access for people who otherwise might not seek out counseling, testing, or treatment. As we look ahead to the next 5, 10 years and beyond, strong national health systems will be crucial for sustainability.

The 25-year anniversary of this terrible disease is an opportunity to take stock of where we have been and to renew our commitment to overcoming the challenges that lie ahead in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

#### 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL HOUSING CONFERENCE

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the National Housing Conference, NHC, an organization of over 900 members dedicated to forwarding the cause of affordable housing and community development. For the past 75 years, the National Housing Conference has been an important contributor to the national debate on housing policy. Over the years, NHC has worked to achieve the goal set forth in the landmark Housing Act of 1949: "a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family."

Organized in New York City in 1931 by the efforts of reformer and social worker Mary Simkhovitch, NHC has the distinction of being the first non-partisan, independent coalition of national housing leaders from both public and private sectors. This pioneering advocacy group included bankers, builders, civic leaders, realtors, organized labor, architects, and residents. Early on, NHC was instrumental in the efforts to raise public awareness in New York City about the plight of hundreds of thousands of its people and the consequences slums had on the general welfare.

In 1945, NHC moved its headquarters to Washington, DC, and took on a tremendous challenge: get rid of the slums, and eliminate substandard housing. Through the 1940s NHC forged partnerships and mobilized grassroots forces around the country in an effort to pass Federal legislation to meet this challenge. Finally, NHC's efforts were rewarded with the passage of the landmark Housing Act of 1949, the most sweeping, ambitious housing legislation the Nation had ever had. The act called for "a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family."

In the 1960s, NHC was again instrumental in the passage of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965, which resulted in the creation of a Cabinet-level department devoted to housing.

Throughout the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s NHC was a constant presence in the na-

tional debate on housing policy, and continued to advocate on behalf of better housing opportunities for all Americans.

NHC continues to be a force in shaping this Nation's housing policy. Today, as NHC celebrates this milestone, it has rededicated itself to a central mission: fulfilling the dream of the 1949 Housing Act—"a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family." I commend the National Housing Conference for its past efforts and honor the organization on this very special anniversary.

#### COAST GUARD CUTTER "ACACIA"

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today at a 10 a.m. the U.S. Coast Guard will decommission the Cutter *Acacia* in a ceremony in Charlevoix, MI.

The *Acacia*'s keel was laid in 1942 in Duluth MN, and was commissioned on September 1, 1944. The cutter is named after the original *Acacia*, a U.S. Light-house Service vessel sunk off the coast of British West Indies by a German U-boat on March 17, 1942. The *Acacia* is the last of the Coast Guard's 180-foot World War II era buoy tenders still in service and has called Charlevoix, MI, home since 1990.

The *Acacia* has served as a buoy tender on the Great Lakes for 62 years and its area of responsibility extends from Chicago at the south end of Lake Michigan to Alpena on Lake Huron. The cutter's primary mission is maintaining aids to navigation but has also performed search and rescue missions, as well as providing icebreaking assistance during the winter. The *Acacia*, also known as "The Big A" or "Ace of the Great Lakes" has performed an unheralded but vital mission in the Great Lakes for more than six decades.

I commend the *Acacia* crew both past and present for their tireless service to maintain the Great Lakes navigational aids. Each fall the *Acacia* and its crew begin a race against the Lakes brutal winter weather when they set out to remove buoys in Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. These buoys can weigh over 18 tons and are covered in ice. Pulling buoys out of the frigid and unpredictable Great Lakes in October, November and December is back breaking work in rough seas and sub zero weather. However, it is crucial to keep these waterways open for commercial shipping as long as possible before the ice closes the shipping lanes and grinds any buoys left behind into scrap metal.

Mr. President, the *Acacia* and her crew have served the Great Lakes faithfully since the 1940s and we will miss her fondly.

#### PROCLAMATION

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I request unanimous consent that my proclamation honoring the Bicentennial of the Steubenville Herald-Star newspaper be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE STEUBENVILLE HERALD-STAR NEWSPAPER

Whereas; The Herald-Star Newspaper was founded on June 7, 1806 in Steubenville by William Lowry and John Miller, who named it the Western Herald, and

Whereas; It is the oldest newspaper in Jefferson County and is also one of the oldest daily circulated newspapers in Ohio, and

Whereas; John Miller left the paper to fight the British during the War of 1812, where he received lands in Missouri, and earned the rank of Colonel—eventually becoming the territorial governor, and

Whereas; President Woodrow Wilson's grandfather, James Wilson bought the Western Herald in 1815. The newspaper stayed in the Wilson family for nearly three decades, and

Whereas; With the establishment of a telegraph between Steubenville and Pittsburgh, the Western Herald became one of the most widely read and influential papers in the area, and

Whereas; The Western Herald once employed journalists who went on to become powerful players in the newspaper industry, like R.B. Allison, who left Steubenville to purchase the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and

Whereas; The Western Herald and the Steubenville Star merged in 1897 to become the Herald-Star, and

Whereas; The Herald Star is now operated by Ogden Newspapers Inc, and now resides at 401 Herald Square in downtown Steubenville.

Now, therefore, I, Mike DeWine, United States Senator from the Great State of Ohio, would like to commend The Herald-Star for two centuries of commitment to one of this country's founding ideals—the freedom of the press—and congratulate past, present and future employees for their success.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### COLLBRAN JOB CORPS

● Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, today I recognize and commend the fantastic work and accomplishments of the students and staff at the Collbran Job Corps located in Collbran, CO.

Last year, the Collbran Job Corps was awarded the outstanding Organization of the Year award by the Colorado Special Olympics Hall of Fame for their outstanding service and dedication to the Special Olympics in Colorado. This recognition was well deserved as Collbran Job Corps has actively participated and supported the Colorado Special Olympics for almost 20 years.

Recently, the students and staff at the Collbran Job Corps Center collaborated to form a robotics team that competed in national competitions against other robotics teams from universities, colleges, and the private sector. In May, Collbran team was awarded 1st place honors in a regional robotics competition in Denver and won an opportunity to compete in the International Robotics Competition in Atlanta against robotics teams from around the globe. The judges at the international competition in Atlanta

awarded Collbran the Engineering Inspiration Award for their ability to inspire other competitors.

The students and staff at the Collbran Job Corps certainly live up to their mission statement: "Believe, Achieve, and Succeed." Their first place victory at the Denver regional competition and excellent showing and award at the International Robotics Competition demonstrates that Collbran is meeting and excelling above and beyond this mission statement.

Collbran Job Corps students are well known throughout western Colorado for their achievements and commitment to the betterment of their community. They have actively been involved in community projects that utilized the skills of students in the construction trades, including the CISCO Networking Program, business technology occupations, as well as those in culinary arts training. The long-standing sense of commitment to enhancing community spirit and outreach serves as a benchmark to other Job Corps sites throughout the country.

Recently, the Department of Labor national Office of Job Corps selected Collbran Job Corps as a Career Success Standards, CSS, Pilot Center and national trainer. The CSS sets a standard for behavioral expectations of students participating in the Job Corps program in support of the President's High Growth Training Initiative. The Collbran Center was selected as a result of their outstanding core values, positive and engaging student culture, and consistent high performance.

Collbran Job Corps highlights the positive impacts the Job Corps opportunity has had on the lives of the disadvantaged youth who participate and the positive effect those youth contribute back to their communities and the strong values of community. As the budget and appropriations process proceeds, I hope the Senate will continue to support the Job Corps program and keep the wonderful example of Collbran Job Corps in mind. I know I will.

I commend the Collbran Job Corps Center for believing, achieving, and succeeding.●

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "J" THOMPSON

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, it is with the greatest pleasure that I rise today to honor William "J" Thompson of Highland, AR. J Thompson works as a lineman for the Southern Electric Cooperative, and since 2004, he has also been a first responder and truck captain for the Highland Volunteer Fire Department.

On Christmas Eve, 2005, J Thompson responded to an emergency call from the Highland Police Department. A young man had been stopped by a police officer and had admitted to taking several tranquilizers. Shortly there-

after, he lost consciousness and was unresponsive to the officer. When Mr. Thompson arrived on the scene, the young man had stopped breathing. He was pulled from the vehicle, and it was discovered that he had no pulse. At this point, Mr. Thompson administered CPR, and the individual started breathing and regained a pulse.

Without the heroic actions of J Thompson, this young man would not be alive today. My home State of Arkansas is fortunate to have men of his caliber volunteering their time and expertise to their communities.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding William "J" Thompson and all the remarkable volunteer firemen for their selfless commitment to safety and humanitarian efforts in our country.●

#### IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT L. DUVALL, III

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to honor the life of Bob Duvall, not only out of great respect for his contributions to technology advancements in the defense industry but also for all of those who have played a key role in the strength of our Armed Forces and Nation's security. Warfighters and commanders among all service groups have directly benefited from his engineering contributions. Mr. Duvall passed away on May 24, 2006. He was 61.

Mr. Robert L. Duvall, III, was born in Cheverly, MD, on October 8, 1944 and grew up in the suburbs of Washington, DC. His father was an electrical engineer for the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company and inspired him to pursue a career in engineering. In 1967, he graduated from Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, with a degree in electrical engineering and subsequently went to work at Hughes Aircraft Company in California. Mr. Duvall furthered his education with a master's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Southern California in 1975.

After Mr. Duvall's placement within the defense industry, his technical expertise expanded to include a variety of disciplines, including circuit design, optics, infrared technology, optoelectronics, and systems integration. It was within the infrared technology and laser systems integration sector that his contributions made the most notable and recognized impact to the military capability of the United States. Early contributions and developments during his 20-plus years with Hughes Aircraft led to innovation in Naval and Air Force laser pointing and tracking technology. His contributions are better known for supporting the U.S. Army's Second Generation Forward Looking Infrared, FLIR, developments in the early 1990s.

Mr. Duvall's pioneering efforts with Hughes Aircraft and subsequently his current position as vice president of advanced technology at DRS Tech-

nologies have indeed made a difference for our present generation of warfighters. Our sons and daughters enter into battle with the decisive ability to "own the night" and precisely target and defeat the threat because of the incredible contribution he made as a member of our defense industry. There is no doubt Mr. Duvall contributed directly to the saving of many lives and the avoidance of great loss because of his efforts and expertise.

Mr. Duvall is survived by his wife Shirley and his two children Mark and Michelle. Their loss should not be felt alone and should not be remembered alone. It is indeed with great respect and admiration for his contribution to our Nation's defense that we pause today to recognize Mr. Robert L. Duvall, III. His effort will have a lasting effect on many, and no doubt others lives will continue because of him.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 9:22 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1235. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and extend housing, insurance, outreach, and benefits programs provided under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to improve and extend employment programs for veterans under laws administered by the Secretary of Labor, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1953. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the Old Mint at San Francisco, otherwise known as the "Granite Lady", and for other purposes.

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. 5401. An act to amend section 308 of the Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act to make certain clarifying and technical amendments.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

At 12:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by