

TRIBUTE TO MR. DICK CHAMPION

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Mr. Dick Champion, director of the Independence Water Pollution Control Department.

Mr. Champion is an exceptional leader and public steward dedicated to the improvement of Missouri's and the Nation's environment and public health. It is my pleasure to congratulate Mr. Champion on becoming the new president of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, NACWA, formerly the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies, AMSA. Mr. Champion is ideally suited for this national leadership position.

Mr. Champion began his career in water pollution control in 1969. He has been with the City of Independence, MO, Water Pollution Control Department for the past 27 years and has been director of the department since 1983. The department is responsible for the Sanitary Sewer Utility, the Storm Water Management Program, the Household Hazardous Waste Management Program, and related environmental compliance.

He was appointed by the Jackson County Executive and legislature to the Jackson County Stormwater Commission, to coordinate regional stormwater policy and planning. Since its creation in 2001, Mr. Champion has been serving as vice-chair of the commission.

He has been an active member of NACWA since 1992, was elected to the board of directors in 1999, and now serves at NACWA's vice president and chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. Mr. Champion will become NACWA's president on July 18—an impressive accomplishment and one that will no doubt help secure NACWA's role as the leading advocate for sound water quality policies.

Mr. Champion earned a BS degree in political science with an emphasis in local government and public administration from Central Missouri State University in 1973. As a student and throughout his career Mr. Champion has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to public service and the improvement of water quality in Missouri. The fish and fishermen of Missouri owe a great deal to his tireless work to guarantee clean water.

With Mr. Champion as president, NACWA will no doubt build on its reputation as the leading advocate for responsible national policies that advance clean water and a healthy environment. Simply stated, when I hear the term "environmentalist," I think of public servants like Mr. Champion first.

Again, it is my sincere pleasure to congratulate Mr. Champion on becoming president of NACWA. I look forward to working with him and NACWA to ensure continued water quality progress for Missouri and the Nation. •

TRIBUTE TO JOE PURCELL

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, on Saturday, June 24, one of the finest public servants that my State has produced was honored in his hometown of Benton, AR. Joe Edward Purcell was many things to many people. He was a devoted family man. He was a loyal friend. He was also a dedicated public servant whose reputation for integrity and professionalism brought honor and respectability to every public office he held.

Joe Purcell was born in the small southeast Arkansas town of Helena. Shortly after graduating from Little Rock Junior College, he enlisted in the U.S. Army for service in World War II. Upon his return from service, he entered law school at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and graduated in 1952. Later that year, he opened his law practice in Benton and quickly earned the reputation throughout the community of a trustworthy advocate of the people he represented.

"Honest Joe" carried that reputation with him through what would become a distinguished career of public service at both city and State levels of government. Beginning in 1955, Joe served as Benton City Attorney and later as Benton Municipal Judge. In 1967, he was elected as attorney general for the State of Arkansas. During his tenure, his leadership led to a number of reforms and innovations, including the establishment of the consumer protection office which to this day provides consumer education and promotes the principles of fair business practices and honest balloting.

After an unsuccessful gubernatorial campaign, Joe was elected three times as Lieutenant Governor beginning in 1975. In that capacity, he also became the acting Governor of our State for 6 days in early 1979, when he filled the unexpired term of former Governor and Senator-elect, David Pryor, in the days prior to the gubernatorial inauguration of Bill Clinton. It was Clinton who would later describe his predecessor as "a self-made man who represented honesty and integrity in public service." Joe would serve as our State's Lieutenant Governor until his retirement from public service in 1981.

The Benton sidewalk memorial that was recently unveiled in honor of Joe Purcell is fittingly located just in front of the old Federal building downtown. I am hopeful that it will serve as a reminder to generations of Arkansans not just of the numerous accomplishments that Joe Purcell compiled over his political career but also of the legacy of integrity and public service that he has left us all. The genuine compassion he held for those around him led him to a life dedicated to making his community and his State better places to live for all of us. It is truly a selfless principle for those of us in public service, and those of us in our personal lives, to embody each and every day.

I am proud to have on my staff a young man named David Hogue. David

is the grandson of Joe Purcell and it was at his suggestion that this tribute in Benton came to fruition. David has been a tremendous asset to my office, and I am appreciative of all of his hard work and dedication on behalf of our State and its citizens. This fall, he will be headed to law school in Fayetteville, just like his grandfather so many years before, and I wish him the very best.

It is often said that a community reveals itself, not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors and remembers. Joe Purcell embodied the best in all of us and because of people like him, the community of Benton and the State of Arkansas are such wonderful places to live today. •

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCETON HEALTH CARE CENTER

• MR. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the longevity and accomplishments of the Princeton Health Care Center in Princeton, West Virginia. Last week, this long-term care provider celebrated its 25th anniversary, and I wish to recognize its achievements and its enormous contribution to its community. Twenty-five years ago, I stood with many community leaders in Princeton, at that time as Governor of West Virginia, to dedicate a brand new facility called the Princeton Health Care Center.

Now, two and a half decades later, the Princeton Health Care Center is a 120-bed facility in the heart of Mercer County. It serves residents of Princeton and surrounding communities, including Bluefield and most of southern West Virginia. The facility offers medical services, nursing services, social services, therapeutic and recreational activities, dietary services, financial planning and consulting, transportation, and other standard activities many of us use in our daily lives. This litany of available services shows that this facility attends to all the needs of its residents—physical health, mental health, social well-being, and others. The health care center is located very near to the Princeton community, providing residents with easy access if it is ever needed.

Long-term care is an enormously important part of our health care system and one that is often overlooked or underfunded. By the year 2020, there will be more than 70 million older persons in America—more than twice the number today. We must provide our seniors with the dignity and peace of mind they deserve in their golden years. Facilities like the Princeton Health Care Center provide a place for those who need care to live comfortably and in their community while still getting the assistance that they require.

The facility in Princeton is located in a serene setting, granting residents access to nature in all seasons and allowing them to enjoy the outdoors. In addition to the center's environs and its many amenities, the center boasts a

well-trained and professional staff, which attends to the needs of its residents.

The board of directors and all those involved with the center have made it a wonderful success for the past 25 years. The center's association with the Princeton Community Hospital has served its residents well, and I look forward to decades more of success for this facility.

Mr. President, I hope the Senate will join me in congratulating the staff and management of the Princeton Health Care Center for 25 successful years.●

TRIBUTE TO SHIGEJI IKENAGA

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I also wish to honor a leader in the automotive industry and a friend of West Virginia, Shigeji Ikenaga, as well as the team members of Diamond Electric located in Eleanor, WV. Together they have contributed to the company's global growth and economic prosperity, as well as developing West Virginia's automotive industry.

President Shigeji Ikenaga has worked for Diamond Electric since 1954, dedicating an impressive 52 years of service to the automotive industry. During his extensive career, Mr. Ikenaga was instrumental in bringing Diamond Electric to the United States and tapping our workforce to help produce automotive parts. In 1987, Diamond Electric established a plant in the Detroit, MI area. Then, in 1992, Diamond Electric started manufacturing ignition coils at its headquarters in Dundee, MI. Soon thereafter, West Virginia began to benefit from operational expansions by Diamond Electric. In April, 1996, just as Toyota was beginning its work in West Virginia, ground was broken for an ignition coil plant in Eleanor, WV.

Building upon Diamond Electric's success in North America, Mr. Ikenaga expanded to other continents, establishing a manufacturing plant in Esztergom, Hungary, and incorporating the company in Suzhou, China. These expansions solidified Diamond Electric's stance in the global market.

As is evidenced by the various awards of excellence he and the company have received, Mr. Ikenaga's work and the work of his employees is exceptional. In 1994, Diamond Electric received the Deming Award, which recognizes medium and small companies for their outstanding total quality control program. In addition, Mr. Ikenaga was awarded the Medal with Blue Ribbon in 1997 and again honored in 2002 when he was awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon. These awards are testament to the high quality and hard work of Diamond Electric and its employees.

The Diamond Electric employees of West Virginia have also made an enormous contribution to the company's success. The plant has been awarded the Toyota Delivery and Quality Awards each year since beginning pro-

duction in 1998. This allowed Diamond Electric one of their greatest achievements to date—becoming the first U.S. supplier to build an ignition coil for the Lexus SUV engine.

Moreover, because of the well-earned success in West Virginia, the facility has expanded 3 times since production started in 1997, growing from a 50,000-square-foot facility and 3.4 million in capacity to a 110,000-square-foot facility and 13 million in capacity. Currently, the company employs nearly 150 West Virginians.

As the company has proven numerous times throughout the years, they are a leader in the automotive industry thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Mr. Ikenaga and the workforce at the Eleanor, WV facility. Diamond Electric and its employees are pioneers, expanding to other continents and manufacturing new and innovative automotive products.

Additionally, Mr. Ikenaga's actions have not only illustrated his desire for professional growth but also a desire to educate young individuals through Diamond Electric's participation in The Dictionary Project. I was very proud to learn that Diamond Electric presented every third grader in Putnam County this past year a dictionary to help them with their studies.

I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Ikenaga for his confidence in West Virginia and our remarkable workforce. I also congratulate Diamond Electric's remarkable team members for playing such an important role in Putnam County's growing economy. I appreciate your hard work and commitment to the automotive industry.●

RECOGNIZING DUSTIN ADAMS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to thank Dustin Adams, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past year and a half.

Dustin is a graduate of Belle Fourche High School in Belle Fourche, SD, and the University of South Dakota. In the fall, he plans to attend George Washington University Law School. He is a hard worker and has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I give my thanks to Dustin and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES WHITEPIPE, SR.

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Charles Whitepipe, Sr. Charles was 1 of 11 Sioux codetalkers who served in World War II. He defended our country as an army radio operator using the Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota languages.

Charles played an integral and unique role in furthering our Nation's ability to defeat our enemies in times of war. His willingness to put himself

in harm's way for the American people is truly inspiring, and I commend him for his bravery. The pride and dignity with which the Sioux codetalkers served our Nation makes them true American heroes.

Today I rise with Charles Whitepipe, Sr.'s friends and family in remembering his selfless dedication and service to our country as a Sioux codetalker. I, along with the citizens of South Dakota and the entire United States, owe Charles and the other codetalkers a debt of gratitude that we will never be able to repay.●

RECOGNIZING THE LOUISIANA TECH CHAMBER SINGERS

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge the Louisiana Tech Chamber Singers for their participation in the 2006 Mozart Choral Festival in Vienna, Austria. As 1 of only 12 choral groups selected to perform in this festival, the Louisiana Tech Chamber Singers will stand among the most elite vocalists in the world.

The Louisiana Tech choral program embodies the high standard of musical and artistic excellence in Louisiana's higher education system and represents the finest musicians the university and the Nation have to offer. Former members of the Louisiana Tech choral program have established national and international reputations as performing and recording artists in many musical genres.

The 2006 Mozart Choral Festival is a celebration of the 250th anniversary of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The participating choral groups are traveling from across the world to celebrate one of the greatest musicians of all time by performing pieces of Mozart's most brilliant work.

I applaud the Louisiana Tech Chamber Singers for their success and wish their program continued prosperity.●

RECOGNIZING THE NATCHITOCHES NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I also wish to acknowledge the Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery. This year, they will celebrate their 75th anniversary, and I wish to take a few moments to highlight their contributions to Louisiana.

As the only Federal fish hatchery in Louisiana, the Natchitoches station has steadily served the needs of the region. Founded in 1931, the Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery was originally established to provide recreation and food for the public during the depression and war eras.

Today the hatchery dedicates itself to the restoration of depleted species, recovery of threatened or endangered fish, and management of interjurisdictional fisheries. Over the years, the Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery has been involved with raising 16 species of fish and has stocked more than