

one of her life's major goals and Dr. King's birthday is now celebrated annually in over 100 nations.

I wish to commemorate the incredible message of this woman. Recent celebrations commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* and the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the Voting Rights Act, remind us of just how far our country has come.

Mrs. King once remarked, "Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won—you earn it and win it in every generation." Our country has lost a giant who took on the struggle for freedom. If we truly wish to honor her, we must all assume the responsibility to fight injustice and inequality.

I thank Mrs. King for her incredible contributions to this country and to the world. Her family will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers. While she will be deeply missed, her message will never be forgotten.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING PHILIP A. FRANCIS, JR.

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today I want to honor Philip A. Francis, Jr., on his promotion as superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway, and his departure from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Since 1994, Philip A. Francis, Jr., has served as assistant superintendent of America's busiest national park. For more than 11 years, Phil did an exemplary job of keeping the Smokies on track and moving forward during a very dynamic period of the park's history. Phil served under a succession of three different Smokies superintendents and acted as superintendent himself for well over 2 years of his tenure. His leadership provided an essential element of stability to the park's operations and to improving its relationships with its many partners and surrounding gateway communities.

In recognition of his organizational management talents and his ability to work with numerous and diverse stakeholders, Phil has recently been chosen to become superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway. With over 9 million annual visitors, the Smokies is the most visited national park in the country. But the 470 mile-long Blue Ridge Parkway, with nearly 19 million travelers a year, is the National Park Service's busiest management unit.

While at the Smokies, Phil provided oversight and continuity to National Park Service managers at all levels as they negotiated through the complexities of making far-reaching decisions regarding the future of the immensely controversial Cades Cove and Elkmont Historic Districts in the Tennessee portions of the park. And he has played a key role in striving for a resolution to a 60 year-long debate over a proposed

new road though the Smokies in North Carolina. Despite the often heated debate among the parties to these contentious discussions, Phil has gained a reputation for his willingness to listen to the concerns of all sides and to look for solutions that recognize their needs while still protecting the park's natural and cultural resources.

Phil has also been an influential proponent for the Smokies in communities outside the park's boundaries and in working with its ever-expanding circle of support groups. Since their founding in 1993, the Friends of the Smokies has raised in excess of \$15.5 million in support for improvements at the Smokies. By combining Friends support with assistance from the Great Smoky Mountains Association, the park has been able to broaden its educational programs, undertake the world's first all species biodiversity inventory, and expand environmental education opportunities. Phil has been a key participant in helping develop those new programs, and in creating new nonprofit organizations to manage them.

In 2002, the National Park Service faced a challenge in finding a new superintendent for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. For those who care about the Smokies, as I do, there was lots of interest in who would be selected. Director Fran Mainella made a great choice when she appointed Dale Ditmanson, and we have grown to appreciate Dale's abilities and passion over the last few years. One of the reasons for Dale's strong start is the help he has gotten from Phil, and I look forward to working with Dale to preserve and carry on Phil's legacy in the Smokies.

I join the park's many neighbors and friends in thanking Phil for his hard work and professionalism while at the Smokies. I extend my congratulations and best wishes to Phil on his new assignment at the Blue Ridge Parkway.●

RETIREMENT OF DALLAS L. HAYDEN

• Mr. BROWNSBACK. Mr. President, on December 24, 2005, Dallas L. Hayden, a native son of Kansas retired from Federal service with 26 years with the Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General. Mr. Hayden retired as the Special Agent-in-Charge of the Great Plains Region of which Kansas is included.

Mr. Hayden exemplified all that a Federal law enforcement agent should: integrity, loyalty, and above all, the belief that the laws of the land are paramount. Politics never played a part in any investigation under his control. Only the facts mattered.

I want to publicly commend Mr. Hayden for his service and wish only the best for him and his family in the years to come.●

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY—GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, on February 3, 2006, the University Of Mississippi Medical Center School of Dentistry hosted "Give Kids A Smile Day/National Children's Dental Access Day." This event is part of a national initiative by the American Dental Association to focus attention on the epidemic of untreated oral disease among disadvantaged children. As part of this program, 40,000 dental professionals and volunteers provided free educational, preventive, and restorative dental services to children from low-income families at 2,000 locations across the country. In Mississippi, more than 1,200 children from elementary schools in Jackson, MS, and the Mississippi Delta visited the dental school and the School of Nursing Mobile Dental Van for dental services. The event was co-sponsored by the Mississippi Dental Association, the Medical Center School of Health Related Professions, the Medical Center School of Nursing, the School of Dentistry's ACT Center, and the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation. Events such as this raise public awareness of dental disease and highlight the ongoing challenges faced by disadvantaged children in accessing dental care.

I applaud the efforts of the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Dentistry, the Mississippi Dental Association, and other supporting organizations for their efforts to combat childhood dental disease in Mississippi.●

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, on January 12-15, 2006, the State of Mississippi hosted the Alpha Kappa Alpha, AKA, Sorority's 98th National Founders Day Weekend which celebrates the founding of the first Greek-letter organization of African-American college women in 1908. AKA was created to encourage high scholastic and ethical standards and to enrich the social and intellectual aspects of college life for African American women. AKA is now a 17,000 member organization with a broad mission to improve conditions in communities through volunteer service. AKA has made great strides in helping individuals and communities develop and maintain constructive relationships with others. National Founders Day Weekend also serves to recognize and commemorate the Mississippi Health Project.

The Mississippi Health Project, sponsored by AKA, brought primary medical care to the rural Black population across the state of Mississippi for 2 to 6 weeks every summer from 1935 to 1942. During the 98th National Founders Day Weekend, a historic landmark was dedicated in Mound Bayou in the Mississippi Delta to commemorate the success of the Mississippi Health Project and to serve as a reminder of AKA's continuing commitment to provide health services to families across the world.

Through collaboration with the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the University of Mississippi Medical Center, AKA hosted a health forum in Jackson, MS, as part of the 98th National Founders Day Weekend. Additional activities included health fairs in Jackson and the Mississippi Delta, a special salute to AKA members affected by Hurricane Katrina, and an African-American Heritage tour.

I applaud the accomplishments of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and recognize the 98th National Founders Day Weekend as the first national AKA meeting in Mississippi.●

TRIBUTE TO SISTER DOROTHY STANG

• Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Sister Dorothy Stang, who was brutally murdered nearly a year ago on February 12, 2005. Two hired assassins shot and killed her while she was traveling to visit a remote rural settlement near the Trans-Amazon Highway. She was 73 years old.

In May 2005, I introduced a resolution here in the Senate to honor Sister Dorothy—known as Dot to family and friends—for devoting her life to the cause of justice for the dispossessed in Brazil. Refusing to back down in the face of death threats from those who opposed her efforts, she doggedly continued assisting impoverished families and worked to protect the rain forest. Her life exemplifies the highest ideals of reverence for human dignity, compassion for those who lack a voice in their own society, and respect for nature.

Born in Dayton, OH, Dot was one of nine children. While she was growing up, she expressed a wish to one day become a missionary. Her siblings say their sister was always a strong, adventurous woman who truly loved life.

After joining the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in 1948 and taking her final vows in 1956, Sister Dorothy taught elementary classes at St. Victor School in Calumet City and St. Alexander School in Villa Park in Illinois and Most Holy Trinity School in Arizona. She began working in Brazil in 1966, and in the early 1980s, she moved to a rural area 1,300 miles north of Rio de Janeiro. There, she worked with the Catholic Church's Pastoral Land Commission, an organization that seeks to eradicate poverty and protect the environment by helping impoverished Brazilians to secure land.

Sister Dorothy's passionate commitment to this mission was an inspiration to many. She was known for riding a motorcycle and camping outside the offices of local officials when they refused to meet with her. She lived her lifelong passion for teaching by organizing peasant groups and educating hundreds of families about sustainable farming techniques, land tenure issues, and the importance of con-

servation. Her extensive knowledge of Brazilian law, which was entirely self-taught, won her great respect from locals and other activists.

While she worked hard, she did not see her endeavors as a sacrifice. Rather, she professed a love for the region and its people, becoming a Brazilian citizen and instructing her family that she would someday like to be buried in the place about which she cared so deeply.

Last year, Sister Dorothy testified before a Brazilian congressional committee on deforestation and did not hesitate to name companies that were engaged in illegal logging. Furthermore, only days before her death, she met with Brazilian human rights officials to voice her concern about the dangers that she believed some loggers and landowners posed to the peasant farmers with whom she lived.

Although she received death threats for years, she told those around her that the Bible was the only weapon she needed. Sister Dorothy lived her commitment to her faith in the bravest of ways, demonstrating courage and determination to the end. Witnesses recall that, when the gunmen confronted her, she read to her killers from the Bible before she was murdered.

Sister Dorothy was a much beloved figure in the communities where she worked. Last year, the Brazilian state where she spent more than two decades of her life named her "Woman of the Year," and the Brazilian Bar Association honored her with its Humanitarian of the Year award. At her funeral, thousands of peasants mourned the loss of a woman whom they knew as both a determined leader and a fun-loving friend.

The Brazilian Government sent troops to stabilize the area following the tragedy, and it also has honored Sister Dorothy's legacy by setting aside disputed lands for a sustainable development program that she supported. In addition, President Lula da Silva denounced the killing and restated his government's commitment to defending Brazil's rain forests from destruction and environmentally unsound development.

Despite these positive signs, many peasants in the areas where Sister Dorothy worked remain landless; Brazil has one of the world's largest wealth gaps. Violence also continues in the region, which is widely recognized as a place where federal Government control is often tenuous. During the past two decades, hundreds in the area have died in violent clashes between poor settlers and landowners who resent government attempts to resettle landless families and prohibit illegal logging.

Sister Dorothy recognized the many daunting obstacles that face Brazil's poorest people and, rather than simply hoping for conditions to someday improve, happily devoted her life to fighting for what she believed was right. There is much to be done, but she has

set an outstanding example of how one person can make a difference in the face of hopelessness. It is up to us to keep her memory alive and never forget her determination and her commitment to helping those most in need.●

THE CLIMATE OF TRUST PROGRAM

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Bay Area Council for Jewish Rescue and Renewal's Climate of Trust Program. The council's work in combating ethnic and religious hatred while strengthening tolerance and moderation in Russian society has made a great difference in the lives of all the program's participants.

In 1998, a wave of anti-Semitic activity terrorized the Jewish population in a provincial town in northwest Russia. In response, the Bay Area Council established the Climate of Trust Program, a collaborative partnership between American and Russian police officers, local officials, human rights activists, and ethnic and religious community representatives dedicated to resolving conflicts peacefully and establishing an atmosphere of tolerance and mutual respect in Russia.

It is fitting that the pilot program for the Climate of Trust began in one of the most diverse cities in the world, my hometown of San Francisco.

In 2000, representatives of the San Francisco Police Department, the District Attorney's Office, the California Superior Court, and the Anti-Defamation League went to Russia to join their counterparts in a seminar on religious tolerance. The participants continued the dialogue when the Russian delegates traveled to San Francisco later that year.

In total, seven of these exchanges have now taken place. During these meetings, attendees discuss a wide variety of issues including hate crime laws in the United States, how hate incidents are investigated, elements of a hate crime and its impact on the community, diversity in the police department, and community policing.

These interactions culminated in the establishment of four permanent regional tolerance centers in Russia. These centers design and implement activities that promote tolerance and effective communication between law enforcement and the community.

Organized and run by Russian police officers and community members alike, the centers sponsor hate crimes courses for police cadets to identify and handle ethnic or religious violence and produce a tolerance textbook for high school students.

From its modest beginning in 1998, the Climate of Trust has grown into a far-reaching and effective program. Thousands of Russians, from small town police officers to federal government officials, have attended Climate of Trust seminars and workshops.

The success of this program is due in no small part to the hard work of the