

they'll have a better chance of survival and the health care costs will be lower. I know that this funding, and the health provisions in this Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill, will truly help to save lives.

This legislation is critical and makes a strong commitment to our Nation's future. This legislation will bolster our commitment to the education, health and well-being of our Nation's workforce.

#### TRIBUTE TO DIANE BAHRENBURG

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to one of Vermont's outstanding teachers, Diane Bahrenburg, who last month was named the 2008 Vermont Teacher of the Year. Diane is an English teacher at Colchester High School in Vermont, where she has taught since 1979. I recently had the opportunity to meet Diane in my Washington office, and I was impressed with her intellect, her passion for teaching, and her commitment to the students of Colchester High School. As we talked about her classes and students, it was evident how much Diane cares about teaching.

In being chosen as Vermont's Teacher of the Year, Diane will have the opportunity to visit schools throughout our State and others around the country. Her travels will allow her to work with other teachers, sharing and discussing the methods that have helped her become so successful. Hopefully she will share with all of us how she has been able to balance the everyday demands of teaching in the classroom, with the work she has done as an adjunct instructor at Johnson State College and UVM, acting as the Vermont debate-forensics lead coach at Colchester High School, and being a parent.

We all know that teaching is a hard job. And it is a crucial job an indispensable link between our young people and their futures, as well as our Nation's future. The opportunities for recognition of teachers' accomplishments are too few and too far between. So I am so pleased that Diane is being recognized for all she has done over three decades, day in and day out, to educate our children and to make a constructive difference, one child at a time. Teachers are the instrument by which we measure the success of our schools. The knowledge, skill, and experience of teachers like Diane are exactly what we need in each and every one of our classrooms.

We are fortunate in Vermont. I continue to be impressed by the high level of achievement of Vermont's students and the academic gains that have been made because of the strong and committed efforts of teachers like Diane. In spite of the countless hours spent sorting through the maze of No Child Left Behind requirements, our teachers are able to inspire students to look beyond tests and find the true lessons of the classroom.

As an alumnus of St. Michael's College in Vermont, I would be remiss if I failed to note that Diane received her master's in education degree from St. Michael's College in 2000. I believe that she embodies the core principles of the college's education programs with her skill in maintaining an inclusive classroom, while keeping a balance between challenge and support and between individual and community. Diane is a model teacher, and after decades of teaching, she is incredibly worthy of this recognition. Diane, again I say thank you for all that you do, and on behalf of the Senate, we say congratulations.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DAVID TAWEI LEE

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I would like to acknowledge the service of Representative David Tawei Lee, who has given nearly 3 years of exceptional service as Taiwan's principal representative to the United States. Representative Lee recently departed Washington, DC, to take on his next assignment as Taiwan's Representative to Canada. He leaves behind a legacy of friendship, prosperity, and understanding.

When Representative Lee arrived in Washington, he came equipped with a wealth of experience and insight. A foremost expert on U.S.-Taiwan relations, Mr. Lee has studied, written, and published on U.S.-Taiwan political and economic ties, including the development of the Taiwan Relations Act. I believe Representative Lee will be remembered not only for his excellent knowledge of history but also for his accomplishments.

While serving in Washington, Representative Lee dedicated his energy, intelligence, and spirit to expanding Taiwan-American ties. He raised the cultural and political profile of Taiwan and its people with cultural and education programs. To enhance our economic ties, Representative Lee oversaw the successful acceleration of our bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement talks. And he worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the benefits of a potential U.S.-Taiwan Free Trade Agreement. In these areas alone, he has left a legacy of which he should take pride.

Representative Lee's dedication and efforts were also felt far beyond our Nation's Capital. Three years ago, I was delighted to personally welcome Mr. Lee to my home State of Montana. There he witnessed Big Sky Country in all of its glory, making friends with hospitable and generous Montanans. But together we also saw the deep and healthy roots of the Montana-Taiwan economic relationship. At its core are Montana's finest agricultural products, which have long found their way to Taiwanese dinner tables and bakeries. Today, Taiwan purchases over 30 million bushels of Montana wheat annu-

ally. Our fine Montana beef is also in demand. This relationship benefits families in both Montana and Taiwan. And I hope it will continue to grow stronger.

It has truly been a pleasure to work with Representative Lee. His personal touch to everything he did will not be forgotten. And the value of his contributions will be remembered for many years to come. I wish him luck in all of his future endeavors.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LOUISIANA WWII VETERANS

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to a group of 94 World War II veterans from Louisiana that is making its way to Washington this weekend. Here the veterans will visit the World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iwo Jima memorials as well as Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

The trip to the Nation's Capital this Saturday is being sponsored by a group in Lafayette, LA, called Louisiana HonorAir. The organization is honoring each surviving World War II Louisiana veteran by giving them a chance to see the memorials dedicated to their service. So far this year, there have been three trips to these Washington memorials and two more are planned, including this one.

World War II was the deadliest conflict in our history. More than 60 million people worldwide were killed, including 40 million civilians, and more than 400,000 American service members were slain during the long war.

In Louisiana, there remain today about 44,000 living World War II veterans, and every one of them has their own heroic tale of their experience in achieving the noble victory of freedom over tyranny.

One of our veterans traveling for his first time to Washington is Frank Menard from Lafayette. Originally from Youngsville, he was drafted into the Army in 1942 at 21 years old and trained at Camp Claiborne in Rapides Parish. In 1943, he was sent to England as part of the Army's 101st Airborne Division, serving as a driver and a mechanic. He participated in many battles with the Nazis during his 3 years in Europe, including the Battle of Normandy, where an enemy artillery shell struck his truck, and the Battle of the Bulge, which severely crippled German forces. His French and German language skills helped him gather intelligence about enemy plans. During the Battle of the Bulge, he took a pregnant Belgian woman whose toes had been shot off by the Germans to an American hospital, saving her life. When he returned to Louisiana after the war, Frank used his mechanics skills to become a union electrician in Lake Charles and Lafayette, where he settled.

I ask the Senate to join me in honoring Frank Menard, the other 93 Louisiana heroes we welcome to Washington this weekend and Louisiana HonorAir for making these trips a reality.●

IN HONOR OF REVEREND  
WALLACE S. HARTSFIELD

● Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me today in honoring Rev. Dr. Wallace S. Hartsfield, a much-loved member of the Kansas City community. Reverend Hartsfield will soon retire after 40 years as the senior pastor of Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church. He has served as Metropolitan's pastor since 1972 with the support of his wife Matilda and their four children. Prior to that, he held pastoral positions in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Kansas.

Reverend Hartsfield's distinguished career in the ministry has touched thousands in Missouri. As the ambassador for his church, he has graced pulpits across the country bringing words of hope to the masses. He is a respected servant-leader of many organizations including the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.; National Baptist Convention, USA; Congress of National Black Churches and the General Baptist State Convention of Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska.

He has expanded his ministry as a community advocate. Reverend Hartsfield has spent much of his life speaking up for those whose voices are ignored on the subjects of civil rights, health care, education, crime and safety, and economic development. One of his bravest acts occurred in 1964 when five department stores in downtown Kansas City refused to allow African Americans to try on clothes, use the restrooms, drink at the water fountains, or eat at the lunch counters. Reverend Hartsfield organized a boycott and marched on the stores. Eventually African Americans were allowed to patronize these stores but it was not without the personal intervention of this inspirational leader.

His service has afforded him a seat at many tables where he has proven to be a skillful diplomat and a cunning negotiator. Reverend Hartsfield has worked on countless boards including those of the Jazz District Redevelopment Corporation, Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission, and Kansas City Interfaith Council.

Reverend Hartsfield has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and minor degrees in religion and psychology from Clark College in Atlanta, GA. He also holds a bachelor and master of divinity from Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta. Dr. Hartsfield has served as an adjunct professor and guest lecturer at numerous colleges and universities across the Nation.

Reverend Hartsfield has been a mentor to many, from pastors to politicians. He continues to provide wise counsel to those who want to make a difference in the world. He also has the ability to identify hidden treasures in those who have not been afforded an opportunity to thrive. This precious gift has been the catalyst for many to realize their dreams.

For 40 years, the members of Metropolitan have been blessed to have this powerful leader at the helm. Reverend Hartsfield has worked hard and he has earned the opportunity to step back. However, we know his work is not yet done. He will continue shaping lives, communities and destinies for years to come.

During one of the many times he was honored for his good works it was said:

Wallace Hartsfield does battle with all the dark forces that would keep us from knowing and loving one another. With his Bible and his passion for justice and his rock-ribbed integrity, Reverend Wallace Hartsfield leads us to the high moral ground where all God's children sit down together as family at the table of peace and delight.

No truer words could be spoken.●

REMEMBERING WYNN SPEECE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the passing of Wynn Speece. Wynn passed away on October 22, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, SD, at the age of 90.

Many will remember Wynn as the "Neighbor Lady" from her WNAX talk radio show. For 64 years her voice came into the homes of countless Midwestern families. Her household tips, recipes, and personal anecdotes will be missed not only by South Dakotans but also by her many listeners throughout the Midwestern region.

Wynn grew up in Marshalltown, IA, where she took a special interest in home economics and theater. Upon her graduation from high school, she continued her education at Drake University where she majored in speech with a broadcasting emphasis. After her graduation in 1939, she took a job writing commercials for WNAX in Yankton, SD. It took 2 years of writing before WNAX gave Wynn her very own show. From the first show she was an instant success, and that success would follow the "Neighbor Lady" for the next 64 years.

Wynn won several awards for outstanding radio work. She was presented with the prestigious Marconi Award for "Best Small-Market Radio Personality" and was named one of the top 10 Yankton citizens of the 20th century by the Yankton Press and Dakotan. Not only was Wynn a celebrated radio host, but she also worked hard to make a positive impact on the community of Yankton. Her local involvement and selfless giving earned Wynn the 1991 Yankton Community Citizen of the Year Award.

Wynn Speece was an extraordinary woman and a great South Dakotan who will be greatly missed by all who knew her.●

REMEMBERING CAROLE HILLARD

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the passing of Carole Hillard, former Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota. Carole Hillard was a gracious woman with an authentic and deeply held passion for public service.

Ms. Hillard was born August 14, 1936, in Deadwood, SD. She attended the University of Arizona and received a degree in education in 1957. She received a master's degree in education from South Dakota State University in 1982 and a master's degree in political science from the University of South Dakota in 1984.

As the mother of five children, David, Sue Ellen, Todd, Eddie, and Lornell, she possessed the practical knowledge to connect with the needs of South Dakotans as she served on the South Dakota Board of Charities and Corrections, the Rapid City United Way Campaign, the South Dakota Children's Home Society, and as the first woman president of the Rapid City Council.

She was elected to the South Dakota House of Representatives in 1991 and served until 1994, at which point she became the first female Lieutenant Governor in South Dakota. From 1995 until 2003, Ms. Hillard graciously presided over the Senate and memorably seemed initially surprised when State Senators on the Senate floor formally referred to her as "Madam President." Her career in public service and the impact she had did not go unnoticed, as she won many awards in her lifetime, including the 1987 Public Service Award, the 1988 Governor's Outstanding Citizen Award, the 1993 South Dakota Outstanding Women Award, and induction into the South Dakota Hall of Fame in 2007.

Not only has she accomplished much for the State of South Dakota but she has also accomplished much on the international level. In recent years, Carole Hillard was an international consultant traveling on behalf of the U.S. Department of State. Ms. Hillard completed assignments to 67 countries such as Panama, the Czech Republic, San Salvador, Bosnia, and Africa. Recently, she also helped bring to life a skill-building workshop for residents of Kabul, Afghanistan, and supervised the January 2007 elections in the West Bank.

Carole Hillard's life accomplishments are truly remarkable. Her positive outlook on life, her integrity, and her warm personality truly embodied a woman whose passion was the betterment of humankind. While Ms. Hillard is no longer with us, her legacy of service to the people of South Dakota and her diligent work on the promotion of democracy and economic development will not be forgotten.●