

the transfer of discoveries from the laboratory bench to actual medical treatments. I am continuing to develop legislation to enhance our Federal translational research efforts. I believe we can and must bring new treatments for diseases such as dystonia to the public faster than ever.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR REBEKAH FRESE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the accomplishment of a particularly talented student from my home State of Iowa. Rebekah Frese has been chosen to present her National History Day documentary, "Boarding the Freedom Train: The Underground Railroad in Iowa," at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. I congratulate her on this achievement and commend her for her hard work and determination in creating such a wonderful project.

Rebekah's documentary highlights the significant role Iowa and Iowans played in the effort to ensure the safety of escaped slaves prior to the American Civil War. She is a student at the Lenihan Intermediate School in Melbourne, IA and was selected as one of 22 presenters out of 2000 finalists that attended the National History Day national contest at the University of Maryland June 10 to 14.

In Iowa, we take great pride in our educational system, and it is personally rewarding when one of our students sets themselves apart at the national level. Programs such as National History Day give students opportunities to succeed through hard work and determination, encouraging what is at the heart of the American spirit. I appreciate National History Day and its commitment to improving the teaching and learning of American history in our schools.

I would also like to take this opportunity to make special mention of teachers Millie Frese and Karen Roessler, who offered their assistance and encouragement to Rebekah while undertaking this difficult project. Quality teachers like these motivate and inspire students to push themselves to realize their potential. By helping to shape citizens and future leaders, teachers like Millie Frese and Karen Roessler are indispensable parts of our democracy. Once again, congratulations, Rebekah, for your first-class work bringing greater awareness to Iowa's role in the Underground Railroad.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING LINDA DAVIS AND BRIGID O'CONNOR

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I wish to honor Linda Davis and Brigid O'Connor. I want to recognize their public service, their courage, and their dedication. As public health nurses in Lake

County, MT, they worked tirelessly since last year to manage the care of a person diagnosed with tuberculosis. They did this while continuing to ensure the safety of other Lake County residents.

Let me share with you a little more about Linda and Brigid.

Linda Davis has been the director of nursing services for the Lake County Health Department since 1991. Her vision and leadership have transformed Lake County's nursing services. Under her guidance, the office staff has grown from 3 to 15. And services have become more comprehensive.

For Linda, public health is about creating programs that address all the community's needs. Linda's resourcefulness and ingenuity have made her a success. She continues to overcome barriers and move forward. This current example of patient care shows that.

Linda is a dedicated public servant. She has worked in public health for 29 years, all in Lake County. And Linda is a fine example of Montana's education system. She is a graduate of the Montana State University-Bozeman School of Nursing.

Brigid O'Connor is the communicable and infectious disease nurse for Lake County. She has worked in public health for the last 10 years, all in Lake County. Before that, she worked in home health. Although Brigid is not originally from Montana, she has spent her entire nursing career in our great State. Brigid also received her degree from the Montana State University-Bozeman School of Nursing. Before moving to Montana, she spent some time in India working with leprosy patients. This experience moved her to pursue nursing. Brigid is a compassionate, driven, and dedicated professional.

The residents of Lake County are fortunate to be served by such outstanding nurses as Linda and Brigid.

The Lake County Health Department's handling of this case is exemplary. It worked because Linda and Brigid focused on patient education and community awareness. They balanced respect for a patient's rights with taking appropriate steps to protect public health.

Lake County is a low-incidence area. That means that these cases are uncommon. Typically, one patient a year is diagnosed with tuberculosis in Lake County. And that makes Linda's and Brigid's ability to react effectively even more impressive.

And people are recognizing Linda's and Brigid's handling of this case. The Montana Tuberculosis Officer is presenting the case at the Centers for Disease Control's annual meeting on tuberculosis.

This case exemplifies the creativity of individuals across Montana. It highlights their resourcefulness. The Lake County Health Department has been able to use emergency preparedness funds to help create an infectious dis-

ease response program. These funds have also allowed them to step up their after-hours capabilities.

Linda and Brigid worked with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services in caring for this individual and the community. Responding to a challenge like tuberculosis requires cooperation, ingenuity, and hard work.

I am very proud, not only of Linda and Brigid's work, but of all of Montana's State and local health officials.

We are lucky in Montana. Even though we are a big State with a small population, we are well prepared to respond to such public health challenges because of our dedicated and capable public health professionals.

Working together, the Montana health care community has found ways to beat challenges like these, despite apparent obstacles.

We depend on our public health professionals to constantly come up with creative ways to respond to such challenges while continuing to provide high quality care for the sick.

Linda and Brigid are two such professionals. It is my honor to recognize them here today in the Senate. And it is an honor to be able to work with them to create a safe and healthy Montana. •

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, today I recognize three New Mexico students who participated in the National History Day contest that took place earlier this week at the University of Maryland. More than half a million students in grades 6 through 12 from all over the country prepared research projects to be presented at local- and state-level competitions this year. I am very proud that three New Mexico students were chosen to present their National History Day projects at the National Portrait Gallery here in Washington yesterday.

Ryan Andrews-Armijo and Ashley Page, from Moriarty Middle School, used this year's National History Day theme: "Triumph and Tragedy in History" to produce a documentary entitled "Breaking the Unwritten Rules." Ryan and Ashley put in many hours of hard work, researching the 1966 Texas Western Miners basketball team. I commend them for their excellent work.

Shannon Burns, from Los Alamos Middle School, filmed a documentary entitled: "Léará Dóchas (Ray of Hope) The Irish Triumph over Tragedy in America." Shannon did a superb job in putting together a beautiful documentary about the history of Irish immigration in America.

Along with these three exceptional New Mexico students, I would also like to recognize their outstanding teachers: Ms. Bethany Vaughn from Moriarty and Ms. Gayle Beckett from Los Alamos. These teachers have demonstrated great skill and commitment

in helping their students understand and appreciate history.

I commend Ryan, Ashley, and Shannon for their hard work and commitment to sharing our national history. They are models of student excellence not only for their peers in New Mexico, but for students nationwide.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAREL LEETUN

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, on Saturday July 7, Hettinger, ND, population 1,574, a town near where I grew up, will celebrate its centenary. In honor of that historic date, the entire community is hosting a week of parades, speeches, dances, picnics, concerts and all kinds of entertainment.

Along with all the other centenary events, Hettinger has set aside time with a choir and a band to honor America's veterans. During the program the community will recognize the service of LTC Darel Leetun, a local son who earned the Air Force Cross and lost his life in Vietnam.

Darel Leetun's service is typical of the dedication and sacrifice that American veterans have exhibited throughout our history. But his individual story is remarkable. And I would like to spend a few minutes to tell you some of it.

Darel Leetun was born in Hettinger on December 24, 1932. He was raised in North Dakota and graduated from Steele High School and North Dakota State University. He served as a county agent, spent a year in India and then joined the Air Force and became a fighter pilot. He was sent to Vietnam.

On September 17, 1966, then-Captain Leetun took off on his 96th mission, leading a flight of F-105 Thunderchiefs against a high priority target near Hanoi. It was heavily defended and Captain Leetun had to lead his flight through intense and accurate flak, surface-to-air missiles, and MiG fighters.

On the bomb run, Leetun's Thunderchief was hit by ground fire. According to witnesses, his F-105 became a flaming torch and nearly uncontrollable. But Leetun remained in formation and delivered his high-explosive ordnance directly on target.

After releasing his bombs, Captain Leetun's plane went out of control and was seen to crash approximately 10 miles from the target area.

Other pilots in the flight saw the jet crash, but did not receive emergency beeper signals or see a parachute.

For a long time, his family did not know what had happened to him. They didn't know if he was killed in the crash or if he was a prisoner of war.

The Air Force declared Darel Leetun missing in action and promoted him twice. But finally, in 1975, the U.S. Government declared Lieutenant Colonel Leetun dead.

In 1995, remains that were believed to be Leetun's were found on a hillside by a joint U.S.-Vietnamese search team. It wasn't until 2005 that they were posi-

tively identified by American forensic experts in Hawaii.

Darel Leetun was buried with full military honors on July 8, 2005, at Arlington National Cemetery. I attended his funeral.

Darel's grandchildren Joni, Jack, and Jane sang "America the Beautiful" at the memorial ceremony in the Arlington chapel. Then eight Army horses drew his caisson down a twisting road to the grave site, where MG Charles Baldwin presented Darel's son Keith with the American flag that covered the casket.

The service ended with a 21-gun salute, followed by the playing of "Taps."

Darel Leetun was awarded 14 medals for his military service, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal and the Purple Heart. He is the only North Dakotan from the Vietnam war who received the Air Force Cross for extraordinary heroism, which is the second highest medal for valor in combat.

Keith Leetun was only six when his father was shot down. He barely knew his father and he didn't know much about how he died.

But one day in 1992, Keith met his father's wingman on the golf course, completely by accident. They happened to be the only golfers on the first tee at 7 a.m. No one was around except the greens keeper. They started chatting and learned of their mutual connection to Darel Leetun.

When he found out that Keith was Darel's son, the wingman said, "Your father was my mentor, best friend and the 'heart and soul' of the squadron. He was the life of the party and we called him 'Gravel'. He was a substitute pilot the day he got shot down. He went the extra mile and hit his target as his jet was on fire!"

Since then, Keith Leetun has been driven to share his father's story with other Vietnam veterans and to get them to share their own stories.

After the main veterans program in Hettinger, Keith and the rest of Darel Leetun's family will host a smaller program about Darel's life and military service called "My Way Back." They are doing that not just to commemorate Darel, but to honor all Vietnam veterans and to encourage them to share their stories and experiences with each other and with the public.

Most Vietnam veterans were drafted into service. But they served honorably. Nearly 60,000 of them didn't come home.

By the time the Vietnam conflict ended in the 1970s, the war had split the Nation. In the ugliness of it, the returning veterans were often derided for their part in it.

Many of them were treated horribly. Much of the general public spurned them, and their government ignored them.

Fortunately, times have changed.

In 1982 the Vietnam Memorial Wall was dedicated with the names of the

fallen etched into black granite. That has gone a long way toward healing the wounds of Vietnam.

And with today's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, our country is beginning to pay more attention to the needs of all veterans. It is ironic that the Vietnam veterans who were cheated of their welcome home parades have been loud advocates of seeing that today's veterans get theirs.

LTC Darel Leetun is an example of the courage and sacrifice of all those who have followed orders and gone into harm's way in defense of our country. This Nation's survival depends on present and future generations of Darel Leetun's kind of soldier.

I wish to join the citizens of Hettinger, ND, in thanking Darel Leetun and all of America's veterans for their service to our country.●

TRIBUTE TO BOB BARKER

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, Bob Barker has graced millions of living rooms with his warm presence and genuine manner. Sadly today airs his final episode hosting America's beloved "The Price is Right" on CBS, but today is appropriate to remember the impact this wonderful man had on all of us, as he became a piece of our history and a small part of our lives each day.

Bob Barker's name is synonymous with CBS's "The Price is Right," which he began hosting on September 4, 1972. It ends today as the longest running daytime game show in television history. He holds a plethora of longevity records, including a record for holding a weekday TV job continuously for 50 years as of 2006, the oldest person to receive an MTV movie award for his role in the comedy "Billy Madison," and he has hosted or appeared on a 5-day-a-week television program longer than anyone else in the history of television. Also on December 31, 2006, Bob Barker celebrated the anniversary of his 50th year on national television. He is truly a fixture in American culture and television legend. His grace and humor have truly contributed to his success, and will be missed greatly by his millions of loyal fans ranging from the young to the young at heart.

Bob Barker is also a strong advocate for animal rights, and brings that passion into his role as host of "The Price is Right." He credits his love of animals and awareness to animal rights activism to his late wife Dorothy Jo. He continued the work in her memory. Bob insisted the show stop giving away fur coats as prizes, and formed the DJ&T Foundation that contributes millions of dollars to fund animal rescue and park facilities across the country. His passion for the cause has even brought him here to Washington, DC, where he spoke on Capitol Hill on the issue of animal rights.

Barker has been recognized for his success and talent by receiving 17 Emmy Awards and the Lifetime Achievement Award for Daytime Television in 1999. Barker has also had the