

its size. The father of Edinburg was a Norwegian by the name of Christian Buck. He became the first postmaster of Edinburg when the post office was established in 1882. The town of Edinburg was named in honor of the university where Mr. Buck obtained his college education. The first establishments in Edinburg included a blacksmith shop and a drug store.

Despite a significant fire that destroyed nearly all of the town's businesses in 1900, Edinburg has grown and flourished since its beginning. Known as the Bird Capital of North Dakota, Edinburg offers many opportunities for bird enthusiasts to observe nature at its finest. A city park offers the chance for family gatherings and picnics. The Edinburg Fire Department is boasted as one of the best in the area.

The town of Edinburg is a beautiful place for people to live and visitors to visit. To celebrate its 125th anniversary, the town will hold an all school reunion, a street dance, a parade and fireworks.

I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Edinburg, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Edinburg and all other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Edinburg that have helped shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Edinburg has a proud past and a bright future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOPE, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 5-8, the residents of Hope will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Founded in 1882, Hope is a small town in Steele County located in eastern North Dakota. The post office was established in 1881, and it became a city in 1904. The community was named in honor of Hope A. Hubbard Steele, wife of E.H. Steele, for whom the county was named.

The residents of Hope describe their town as an active and close-knit community. When a function or task needs to be completed, the residents work together to accomplish it. Many of the recreational facilities, such as the outdoor swimming pool and the nine hole golf course, are supported by local organizations and the community. The local Sportsmen's Club purchased a building from the community for one dollar and converted it into a 24-hour youth recreational facility. A further investment into the community was made by residents when they purchased La Rinascente Pasta, a New Jersey based pasta company, that was relocated to Hope.

The residents are excited to commemorate their upcoming anniversary with a weekend celebration that will include a parade, a Texas Hold 'em Tournament, a tractor pull, and many other activities. In addition, there will be a Veterans Memorial dedication that will feature a cannon from the Civil War.

I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Hope, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Hope and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Hope that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Hope has a proud past and a bright future.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIGNITE, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased today to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 6-8, the residents of Lignite will celebrate their community's history and founding.

Lignite is a vibrant community located in northwestern North Dakota. It was founded in April 1907 as a coal town. The first post office followed within the same month. Today the name Lignite pays tribute to the coal veins located in and around the town. Lignite is also the first town in North Dakota to drill an oil well within the city limits.

Today, Lignite remains a small but thriving town with a strong sense of community. Many different local organizations are proud to call Lignite home. These include local chapters of 4-H, FFA, American Legion, and the Boy and Girl Scouts of America.

There are also many recreational opportunities for the citizens of Lignite, from quilting to hunting, camping to golf, softball to ice fishing. The town also boasts a large public park for residents and campers alike. For its centennial celebration, Lignite has planned a four-day-long festival that includes softball and golf tournaments, a day-long street festival, and a local fashion show.

I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Lignite, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well in the next century. By honoring Lignite and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great tradition of the pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Lignite that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Lignite has a proud past and a bright future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF PETERSBURG, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 13-15, the residents of Petersburg will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Petersburg is a vibrant community in the northeastern part of North Dakota, not far from Grand Forks Air Force Base. Petersburg holds an important place in North Dakota's history. Founded by Levi Peterson and Martin N. Johnson, the name of the community was determined by a coin toss. Peterson won the coin toss and declared the city name Petersburg in honor of his birthplace in Petersburg, Norway.

Today, Petersburg is a farming community with an assortment of clubs. Some of these organizations like the Sons of Norway, Red River Valley Scandinavian Singers Association, and the Norwegian Singers and Association of America are keeping the region's Scandinavian culture alive. Petersburg also takes much pride in its curling club.

For those who call Petersburg home, it is a comfortable place to live, work, and play. The community has planned an exciting 125th anniversary weekend. There will be a parade, food, bands, dancing, a craft show, flea market, magicians, games, an all school reunion, and much more.

I ask the U.S. Senate to join in me congratulating Petersburg, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Petersburg and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Petersburg that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Petersburg has a proud past and a bright future.●

COMMENDING THE EFFORTS OF DAVID JOSEPH LYNCH

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a very special Idahoan who has undertaken a very important and challenging mission. Many people are moved by a cause; few are inspired to take action and leadership in support of such cause. David Joseph Lynch is one of the few. In 2004, Mr. Lynch was moved by the plight of Israeli schoolchildren—Jewish, Muslim, Druze, Bedouin, Baha'i and Christian—who do not have ready access to English language books because of limited financial resources and demands on the Israeli government in its ongoing war against terrorism. He read an article about the Jade Bar-Shalom Books for Israel Project and knew immediately that this was his calling. This grandfather of three and great grandfather of four who will be 89 next

month, founded the Idaho flagship of the international Books for Israel project.

Between 2004 and 2006, Mr. Lynch gathered over 10,000 books from Idaho schools to send to Israel for the school-children there. His goal is to have books donated from all the counties in Idaho. Mr. Lynch has enlisted supporters from the community including school officials, bookstore owners, a restaurant franchise, Office Depot, Boise State University, and even members of the criminal justice community in Boise.

I commend Mr. Lynch on his outstanding efforts and thank him also for his esteemed service in the U.S. Navy before and during World War II. Clearly, David Joseph Lynch embodies a life of service and a commitment to improving humanity. He is an inspiration to all—a man whose singular efforts are felt across the globe by our friends in Israel.●

SVIHOVEC FAMILY TRIBUTE

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, this year marks the 100th anniversary of the last great wave of homesteading upon the prairies of America. Mr. President 1907 was the high water mark of the western boom, the last real chance for entrepreneurs and pioneers to capture 160 acres of free land.

Homesteading was one of those singular inventions that proved a triumphant success—one that gave families of modest means a genuine opportunity to share in the American dream.

Among the tens of thousands who surged west to take part in this great enterprise was a family of Bohemian emigrants—the Svihovecs. They are particularly intriguing because seven brothers homesteaded side by side. While it was not unusual for family groups to homestead near each other, the uniqueness of seven brothers doing so was unprecedented in homesteading history.

Although only two decades removed from their near feudal farm existence in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Svihovecs were shrewd enough to strategically locate their homesteads to nearly surround a section of railroad-owned land, thereby protecting it for their own use and future purchase.

These brothers and their equally hearty Czech spouses were Frank and Rose Svihovec, Charles and Anna Svihovec, Vincent and Anna Svihovec, Joseph and Annie Svihovec, Emil and Barbara Svihovec, and two single brothers, James, and Louis. Their homesteads were in southwestern North Dakota, along the Hettinger and Adams County line. Two more brothers, Rudolph—and his wife Nellie—and Edward—and his wife Terezia—opted to become businessmen, one in Minneapolis and other in the New York City area.

The homesteaders' beginning was inauspicious. There was a train wreck on the way west. Upon their arrival, they

were met by the blackened desolation of one of the great western prairie fires which had burned the expected winter feed for their livestock. Snowbound the first winter, they ran out of food.

There were other setbacks and tragedies, but a life was created for themselves and almost 40 offspring, so many children that the school became known as the Svihovec School.

A hundred years later, descendants of these Svihovec pioneers are scattered from London to Los Angeles. A number still remain near the homesteads, in the communities of Mott and Hettinger, and one couple, John and Arlyce Frieze, still actively farm and ranch part of the original homestead lands. Most of the original homesteads, in fact, remain in the ownership of one of the Svihovec families.

It is a remarkable saga, a tale of grit and courage, one that illustrates the kind of strength of character and hardy determination that has served America so well for so many years. The Svihovec tribe has a proud, vital, and continuing legacy that I am honored to acknowledge and salute today in the Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO SUPHADA ROM

● Mr. LEAHY. I want to speak briefly about a remarkable event that happened last Friday, June 15, 2007, in the small town of Windsor in my home State of Vermont. But first a bit of history.

In January 1989, a member of my staff, Tim Rieser, traveled to the Thai-Cambodia border to locate a young Cambodian woman whose mother and two brothers, all of them survivors of the Khmer Rouge holocaust, had resettled in Vermont. The woman, Rhumdoul Rom, had been kidnapped and smuggled back into Cambodia, but she had escaped and was in a Thai refugee camp.

When Rhumdoul was located she was holding her 5-day-old baby daughter, whose name was Suphada. A few days and several long airplane rides later, the two of them arrived in Vermont where they were reunited with the rest of their family. Sadly, Suphada's grandfather and other family members were among the 2 million Cambodians who were murdered or starved to death by the Khmer Rouge. One of Rhumdoul's sisters survived, and is living in Cambodia today.

Adjusting to Vermont was not easy. Imagine traveling for the first time on an airplane and arriving from the tropics in a foreign land in the middle of winter, ice and snow everywhere, and not speaking a word of English.

But the family persevered, supported by the generosity of the Windsor community. As the years passed, Rhumdoul learned English, graduated from high school and then community college, and became a skilled medical technician, at the same time that she was raising her daughter as a single mother.

Suphada, coming to America so young, learned English easily and over time became an outstanding student and athlete. She won a prize for her writing, learned to play the flute, served meals at a local nursing home, and this year she was the captain of the Windsor girls' basketball team. She is also a very outgoing and friendly person.

Recently, tragedy struck the family again, when Rhumdoul's mother and Suphada's grandmother, Prak Soy, died suddenly of meningitis. My wife Marcelle and I had the privilege of meeting Prak Soy, for whom living in the United States was not easy. I will always remember her as a selfless person who cared deeply for her children and grandchildren. They meant the world to her.

This is a family that has experienced great loss, but they are also an example for those of us who have never known what it is to live through something as horrifying as genocide.

On June 15, Suphada graduated from Windsor High School, and I understand that she has been accepted to several colleges, including, I am proud to say, my own alma mater, St. Michael's College in Colchester, VT. It is also the alma mater of another accomplished Cambodian refugee, Loung Ung, who years ago resettled in Vermont and has since become a world renowned author for her book "First They Killed My Father," and a tireless campaigner against the scourge of landmines.

I, Marcelle, and my staff would have liked to attend Suphada's graduation, but it was not possible due to the Senate's schedule and other commitments. But I want to congratulate her and her mother for her outstanding scholastic and athletic achievements, and wish her the best in the coming year at whichever college she chooses.●

HONORING JOSEPH SIMUNOVICH

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I honor Joseph Simunovich for his leadership, dedication, and accomplishments at Hackensack University Medical Center and the New Jersey Turnpike Authority. Joe retired as chairman of the board of these great New Jersey institutions earlier this year.

Joe's life of public service spans more than three decades. In 1972, he was elected to serve as a Hudson County freeholder, a position he held for 12 years, 3 of them as director/chairman of the board. In 1986, Joe was appointed by New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean to serve on the New Jersey Economic Development Authority. Reappointed by Governors Jim Florio and Christine Whitman, for a total of six consecutive terms, Joe is the longest serving member in the organization's history.

In 2002, Joe was chosen by Governor James McGreevey to serve as the chairman of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, where he led the organization through the consolidation with