

Library's Center for the Book. Throughout the country more than 56,000 young readers in grades 4 through 12 participated in the program, which encourages young kids to read and write a letter to their favorite author, of any era, whose books inspired them.

Carley chose to write about author Judith Guest's "Ordinary People." She was one of two winners chosen this year in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

I now ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating Carley for her dedication and commitment to reading and writing. In order for our society to continue to advance in the right direction, we must encourage more young people like Carley to read and write as often as possible. She represents Kentucky at its finest.●

HONORING NEW ENGLAND OUTDOORS CENTER

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr President, today I honor an exceptional small business from my home State of Maine that is striving to employ more Mainers and revive tourism in one of Maine's hidden natural treasures. The New England Outdoors Center of Millinocket is a multifaceted ecotourism and recreational sports business and a wonderful example of entrepreneurial spirit in Maine. Local residents of the Millinocket region and tourists, who come from far and wide to see Maine's splendor and beauty, enjoy the Outdoors Center's diversity of services. In addition, the Center's owner, Matt Polstein, is working to add a resort to his business which would bring additional jobs to the Katahdin region.

The New England Outdoors Center is an all-season facility that consists of a snowmobile business, the River Drivers restaurant, and a white water rafting enterprise. The Outdoors Center provides a gateway to Baxter State Park and the spectacular Mount Katahdin, the Appalachian Trail's northern terminus. The Center has won numerous commendations throughout its decades of operation, including a Maine Tourism award. It is a member of the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce, the Maine Tourism Association, the Maine Snowmobile Association, and many other groups. Matt Polstein and the New England Outdoors Center's endeavors greatly benefit the local economy, which has recently been suffering due to a slump in visitors to Baxter State Park.

In light of this decline in tourism, Matt Polstein's vision of building the new Ktaadn Resorts on Hammond Ridge is particularly critical in bringing people back to the Katahdin region and to all of Maine. Mr. Polstein's \$65 million proposal evidences his commitment and determination to create new jobs for Mainers and to contribute to the growth of Millinocket's regional economy. The plan has garnered the support of the Millinocket community

and its leaders, as well as the unanimous endorsement of Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission, which oversees the state's planning and zoning for plantations, townships, and unorganized areas without local governance. This forward-thinking proposal for a new resort is one of the largest resort proposals in Maine's Unorganized Territory history—a true victory for all involved. Conscious of the environment, Mr. Polstein is seeking to grow crops and livestock for use at the resort and in the community. The new Ktaadn Resorts will be an extraordinary feat when finished, complete with a state-of-the-art conference center, a lodge, rental cabins, and restaurants. The Resort is expected to create at least 100 new jobs and to shed light on Millinocket as a hub of tourism in Maine and New England.

It is vital that we respect our natural surroundings, and Matt Polstein's proposal does just that. It is a bright example of the kind of intelligent planning that benefits Maine's economy while protecting the State's natural environment. Mount Katahdin is a shining example of what makes Maine beautiful, and Mr. Polstein's dedication to the improvement of his community exemplifies what makes Maine people so special. I commend Matt Polstein for his public service as a city councillor in Millinocket, his current business ventures that provide accommodations and services to tourists year-round, and for his smart and bright entrepreneurial savvy with the future Ktaadn Resorts. I wish Mr. Polstein and everyone at the New England Outdoors Center continued prosperity, and a successful completion to the Ktaadn Resorts.●

KEAN UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONS

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to the Kean University Cougars baseball team's dramatic victory in the 2007 NCAA Division III National Championships. Bringing joy to the more than 13,000 Kean University students and all of the Cougar fans in Union, NJ, Kean University capped off their impressive season with a thrilling 5-to-4 victory in the 10th inning of the championship game. The victory ushered in the Cougars' first baseball championship title and was the culmination of an inspiring undefeated run through the postseason.

Throughout the season the team played with courage and determination. Boasting a roster with 28 New Jerseyans, the Cougars finished in first place in the New Jersey Athletic Conference, NJAC, with an impressive record of 15 wins and only 3 losses, best in the conference. Although the Cougars fell to the College of New Jersey in the conference championships, the team recovered quickly and finished the season with an overall record of 43 wins and 8 losses and the national championship.

Championship baseball requires strong leadership, and under coach Neil

Ioviero, the Cougars played team baseball that allowed them to realize their full potential. With the help of assistant coaches Jamie Ioviero, Lewis France, Jack Nagy, Francisco Romero, and Frank Beckhorn, the coaching staff created a winning environment and offered the guidance that allowed the Cougars to excel on the field.

The entire Cougars squad played with heart and the championship was truly a team effort. I would like to congratulate and commend all of the players on the Kean University 2007 Division III Championship Team: Maikel De La Rosa, Ryan Clark, Joseph Augustine, Mike Shymanski, Keith Kwiatek, Aaron Richard, Joseph D'Andrea, Eric Ammirata, Perry Schatzow, Chris Carrano, Thomas Paglione, Brandon Aich, Mike Manganiello, Kevin O'Neill, Kyle Murphy, Andrew Cupido, Colin Feneis, Matt Donaghue, Derek Gianakas, Mark Blevins, Dan Mattonelli, Matt Grinkevich, Joe Rizzo, Tim Lowe, Daniel Zeffiro, Joe Bartlinski, Matt Merrigan, Nick Nolan and Nick Cesare.

Mr. President, on behalf of the State of New Jersey I am honored to congratulate the Cougars for their NCAA Division III Championship season. They played hard and displayed an admirable commitment to competition and sportsmanship that instills a sense of pride in the students of Kean University, the team's fans, and the people of my State.●

TRIBUTE TO VIC ATIYEH

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, there is a word Senators traditionally use when referring to one of our male colleagues on the floor of the Senate. That word is "gentleman." It is a word that you don't hear often in today's society, as many consider it too old-fashioned. I disagree. Calling someone a gentleman is one of the highest compliments one can give.

I pay tribute to the career and accomplishments of a truly outstanding gentleman—the former Governor of Oregon Vic Atiyeh. Anyone involved in the Oregon political arena over the past several decades, Republican or Democrat, will tell you about Vic Atiyeh's kind and courteous nature, his personal integrity, and his civility in a business that is all too often uncivil.

On Wednesday, July 18, 2007, Oregonians will gather at the Portland International Airport to officially dedicate the international concourse as the "Governor Victor G. Atiyeh International Concourse." This is an outstanding and truly fitting honor. During his eight years as Oregon's Governor, Vic Atiyeh implemented policies that transformed Oregon into a hub for international commerce. Long before the term "global economy" was part of our lexicon, Vic understood the importance of opening Oregon's doors to international commerce, tourism, and cultural exchange programs.

Vic Atiyeh's leadership in transforming Oregon's economy was critical as his swearing-in came just as Oregon entered an economic nosedive the likes of which unseen since the Great Depression.

How bad was the situation? His first year in office, Governor Atiyeh called a special legislative session to deal with a \$242 million budgetary shortfall. Just as he and the legislature agreed on a package of budget cuts, they were presented with new estimates increasing the shortfall by nearly \$100 million. Several months later, the deficit jumped again by another \$100 million.

Tough and unpleasant decisions had to be made. Vic Atiyeh rolled up his sleeves and made them. One of Oregon's most respected journalists, Brent Walth, wrote:

Quietly, diligently, without whining or badgering or a single "I told you so," Atiyeh demonstrated how to manage a state through a crisis.

As a tribute to Vic's leadership, and the wisdom of Oregonians, in the darkest days of the recession he was re-elected Governor by one of the largest margins in our State's history.

I can't help but think that at the naming of the international concourse, Vic Atiyeh will be thinking of his parents. Both Vic's father and mother were immigrants from the Middle East. They made their way first to Ellis Island, and then on to Oregon where in 1900 they started a family-owned carpet business—a business that continues to thrive today. I also know that Vic will be thinking about his wonderful wife Delores, who from the beginning has helped Vic to remember his priorities as a public servant, dedicated father, and husband.

A few years ago I invited a small contingent of Oregon leaders to join me for a breakfast to discuss issues important to our State. Vic called to say he would like to attend, but had a prior engagement: attending his granddaughter's soccer game. I assured Vic that I agreed, he was making exactly the right decision.

Mr. President, I am proud to call Vic Atiyeh my friend, and I am delighted the International Concourse at Portland International Airport will soon bear his name. While I will be here in Washington at the Senate on July 18, my thoughts and best wishes will be with one of Oregon's truly great gentlemen—Governor Vic Atiyeh.●

ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE AUDREY

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, June 27, 2007, marks the 50th anniversary of Hurricane Audrey, which ravaged Cameron Parish in southwest Louisiana. It was the deadliest storm our Nation had ever experienced until Hurricane Katrina came ashore in 2005.

Hurricane Audrey was a hurricane like no one had ever seen before in south Louisiana. Some residents rode out the fierce category 4 storm in the

Cameron Parish Courthouse, where a memorial service was held today. More than 400 lives were lost—men, women and children.

Don Kingery describes the wrath of Hurricane Audrey in today's Lake Charles American Press:

Cameron Parish residents swam, clung, gasped and prayed. Those who reached cheniers—ridges slightly higher than the surrounding marshes found fear-crazed water moccasons and wild marsh animals snapping and striking at each other and at humans.

But the people of Cameron Parish and southwest Louisiana are resilient. We rebuilt our homes, our schools, our churches, our communities.

In September 2005, Hurricane Rita, the third worst hurricane our nation has ever seen, struck this same coast. Once again, the people of Cameron have shown unbelievable resilience—again, returning to their homes and rebuilding, literally, from the ground up. The Cameron Courthouse again managed to survive a devastating hurricane and truly became a symbol of strength and hope for the Parish. Every Cameron resident who suffered through Rita is linked by family and community to Audrey's survivors and victims.

Today is an opportunity to look back and remember Audrey and the lives lost, but also to look forward to a better, more vibrant community in the years ahead. At the Cameron Courthouse today, survivors shared with the younger generation their many vivid stories. We will take these stories and lessons from Audrey, learn from them and grow from them.

Today, I want the Senate to recognize the National Guard, Civil Air Patrol and American Red Cross, all of which worked so bravely 50 years ago in the wake of Hurricane Audrey, helping to bring Cameron Parish back to its feet.

I would also like to recognize BG Robert LeBlanc, who spoke at the memorial service in Cameron today. He formed the first Louisiana National Guard unit in Abbeville. In the aftermath of Audrey, he helped command the evacuation. He is now the Vermillion Parish director of homeland security and emergency preparedness and was recently inducted into the Louisiana National Guard Hall of Fame.

For the record, I want to honor Cameron Parish President Darryl Farque and Sheriff Theos Duhon as well as their 1957 counterparts: Parish President Eraste Hebert and Sheriff O.B. Carter.

Nola Mae Ross and Cathy Post also deserve recognition today, as their books on Hurricane Audrey will ensure future generations will never forget that fateful June day in 1957.●

HONORING FRANCIS CREE

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to a friend and distinguished North Dakotan, Francis Cree, who passed away on June 15 at the age of 86.

Francis Cree was a highly respected Ojibwe elder of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa of North Dakota. He was the official pipe carrier for the tribe, a position of honor and leadership. He led the tribe as chairman in the 1960s and served several terms on tribal council. Francis spent countless hours teaching young people about Ojibwe culture and traditions. He was also a singer, a crafter and artist, a spiritual leader, a carver of pipes, and a keeper of the ceremonial drum for the Dunseith community. On November 8, 2001, we had the honor here in the Senate of being led in opening prayer by Francis. It was indeed a proud day for Francis and his family.

Francis was married to Rose Cree, herself a well-known artist who made beautiful willow baskets, several of which were featured at the Smithsonian's Festival of American Folk Life on The Mall here in our Nation's Capital. The Crees collaborated on these baskets. Both collected the materials, while Francis made the frames from ash, and Rose wove the willows. In 2002, Francis and Rose received the National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship, which recognizes the significant contributions of American folk artists.

Francis was a kind, humble, and generous man. He gave selflessly and never expected or wanted anything in return. Francis and Rose raised 14 children and opened their hearts and home to many more. They were also proud grandparents to more than 100 grandchildren and great-grandchildren and many, many great-great grandchildren. Each and every one of them is a reflection of Francis's caring and endearing spirit.

Mr. President, this is a tremendous loss for the Cree family, but it is also an incredible loss to North Dakota and the Nation. Francis's life and the legacy he leaves behind is truly an inspiration to us all.

HONORING J. CLEVELAND CADY

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the contributions of a New Yorker with North Dakota ties—J. Cleveland Cady.

A few weeks ago while reading the New York Times, I happened across an article that referenced Mr. Cady's contributions to Manhattan's architecture. Mr. Cady was a prominent architect in New York during the late 1800s. He designed the American Museum of Natural History as well as the original Metropolitan Opera House. He also designed a significant portion of a fairly notable institution we know today as Yale University.

This article caught my eye because of a special connection between Mr. Cady and the State of North Dakota.

Early in the last century, a young North Dakotan named William Langer was attending a concert during his time at Columbia University when he noticed a beautiful woman sitting below him on the orchestra level. According to the William Langer Papers