

in research on urban health issues such as HIV, health care shortages, criminal justice, social work and nutrition.

Georgia State's College of Arts and Sciences hosts one of only two bio-safety level 4 labs, which will move shortly into a new Science Park that this Congress has seen fit to support. The new Science Park promises to bring cutting-edge research in the bio and neurosciences and will facilitate the growth of bio-technology in Atlanta and beyond.

Finally, the College of Education is hard at work partnering with urban schools to provide a clinical, supervised method for training our future teachers to ensure the success and longevity of these new teacher careers and, most importantly, the long-term success of our children who live within our major urban centers.

Dr. Patton has lived his life in the way he hopes his students live theirs, tirelessly volunteering for service in his community through organizations such as Central Atlanta Progress, the Rotary and the Grady Memorial Hospital Corporation. However, his example and his hard work will not stop at retirement, as he plans to continue to live downtown and assist Georgia State in its future endeavors to raise capital and to expand its student body to tackle the tough issues of our times.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure and it is a privilege to recognize on the Senate floor the contributions of Dr. Carl V. Patton to higher education in Georgia. He has served Georgia State University, the city of Atlanta, the State of Georgia and the United States of America very well. Dr. Patton has earned the many happy years of retirement ahead of him.●

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I wish today to congratulate Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church and School in Beech Grove, IN, currently celebrating the centennial year of the founding of the parish. On the weekend of June 27–29, 2008, the clergy, students, and parishioners who are part of the Holy Name community will honor this signal event. I am confident it will be a time of joy, worship, and fellowship that members will cherish well into the future.

Holy Name was founded in 1908 by the Rt. Rev. Silas Chatard, the first Bishop of Indianapolis. In its inaugural decade the parish grew steadily, and the years that followed brought about exciting changes and expansions to the facilities and ministries provided by the church. In the early 1920s, the Holy Name School was built; its first class graduated in 1923; and to date, the school has graduated over 4,200 students from prekindergarten to eighth grade.

I applaud Holy Name and its many members for the laudable service they

provide local communities in the greater Indianapolis area and beyond, and I am hopeful that these festivities will be an opportunity for celebrants to not only honor the past achievements of their parish, but the blessings of another 100 years as well.●

OSWEGO ELKS

● Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask that the following statement be printed in the RECORD.

The statement follows.

[From the Elks Magazine, Apr. 2008]

ALL-AMERICAN LODGE—OSWEGO ELKS SHINING FORTH IN NEW YORK STATE

(By Mark Hagland)

Just because something is old doesn't mean it's tired. In fact, in the case of Elks Lodge No. 271, in Oswego, New York, the opposite is, most vigorously, true. The Oswego Lodge, with over eleven hundred members and a very large contingent of core active members, has been for years a leader lodge in its region, its state, and the nation. Showered with awards for outstanding achievement in such key areas as youth programs, veterans activities, and ritual ceremony, the Oswego Lodge was designated an All-American Lodge in 2006–2007 by the GL Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee.

In fact, in the key area of youth programs, the Oswego Lodge has won first or second place in the state of New York every year for more than twenty years, confirms John Rinaldo, Oswego's exalted ruler. "We're absolutely committed to the youth of this community," Rinaldo says, and all the awards are evidence of the lodge's long-term commitment, a commitment that actually goes back nearly to the beginning of the lodge's history, he notes.

That history is a long and storied one. The Oswego Lodge was inaugurated on June 24, 1894, at a time when Grover Cleveland was in his second term as president, during the nationwide depression of 1893 to 1896.

That the Oswego Lodge should have come into being during a time of community—and nationwide—need should surprise no one who understands and upholds Elks' values. For the 114 years of its existence, the lodge has been deeply involved in supporting its community through a wide range of programs and activities. Because of all the hard work and constant participation of its active members, the Oswego Lodge exemplifies the motto Elks Care—Elks Share.

Just ask some of those who have benefited from lodge members' volunteerism.

Sheri Valle, Voluntary Service Program Assistant at the nearby Syracuse VA Medical Center, for example, points out that "local Elks lodges have donated the equivalent of more than \$18,000 just this year in activities, items, and cash donations, and this particular lodge has donated more than \$5,000 in items, time, and cash donations."

And though the monetary amounts are gratifying, Valle immediately adds that "the biggest benefit to us is always the time the Elks spend with our veteran patients, especially in our nursing home care unit. Patients live there and really don't have a lot of opportunity to see people outside the medical center." The Oswego Lodge members, in addition to volunteering to transport patients and residents to various places, visit the nursing home residents virtually every day. Among numerous other activities, the lodge supports a playing card club in the nursing home; regularly hosts the distribution of T-shirts and golf hats to residents;

and makes sure to create special activities for the various holidays. "They've been wonderful during the holidays," Valle enthuses. "It's wonderful to see the faces of the veteran patients when the Elks are here. They're a lot happier, and they're asking, 'When are they coming next?'"

The same kinds of comments come from school officials in Oswego. "There doesn't appear to be anything that they've been asked to do that they've said no to, if it benefits kids," says Bill Foley, public relations director for the Oswego School District. "And," Foley adds immediately, "practically everyone asks them for help, but they're always more than willing to give."

Foley cites the smaller size of the Oswego community, and the interconnectedness of its residents, when describing the generosity of the Elks' giving and volunteerism there. "Almost all of them went through our schools," he notes. "So they're giving back to the community in which they've grown up, and that is just tremendous."

Among the recognitions and awards the Oswego Elks bestow in the local school system are Teen of the Month awards and annual scholarships for graduating seniors. In a smaller community like Oswego, which serves about forty-five hundred students, such awards and recognitions are by definition high-profile and resonate strongly. Indeed, Foley can speak of them with personal zeal, since his own son, Michael, was named Teen of the Month during the 1996–1997 school year. "Michael was very proud," Foley recalls. "He held his head so high when he achieved that; it meant so much to him to be recognized."

From such experiences, Foley says that it's clear that "students need to receive some recognition. Being named Teen of the Month or receiving a scholarship builds confidence, morale, and self-esteem. There's nothing but positive value in this, and the Elks are having a major impact on our youth through such programs."

A SPECIAL CULTURE

Because of all the activities that the Oswego Elks Lodge is involved in, there is always a buzz of volunteerism humming around the lodge itself. If there were a single word that would best describe the lodge's atmosphere, it might be "enthusiastic."

"It's all about an enthusiastic, community-focused outlook," says Rinaldo. "What you've heard from these folks," he explains, referring to community leaders like Bill Foley and Sheri Valle, "is what this lodge is all about. Everything has been geared toward the kids, toward the vets, toward the community. It all comes back to what the Elks are doing for the community. As far as the All-American Lodge Award goes, I think we've earned it. Everyone here is committed to this community."

"At the same time," says Daniel Capella, a past exalted ruler of the Oswego Lodge and a past president of the New York State Elks Association, "we have a lot of fun, and that's part of what makes it go nicely. We know how to laugh."

Still, Capella notes, a tremendous amount of work and energy go into all the lodge's activities, including the social activities that take place at the lodge itself: "From the first Friday in January through April, we serve three hundred or four hundred meals every Friday night here at the lodge. Volunteers show up at four or four-thirty in the afternoon, we start serving dinner at five, and it goes on well into the evening. And yet we're never short of volunteers to support the Friday dinners."

GOOD CITIZENSHIP MAGNIFIED

The Oswego Lodge demonstrates its Americanism and good citizenship in various ways,

including very strong support for local law enforcement and broad community efforts. Those efforts and that support are clearly recognized and appreciated by law enforcement and municipal officials. In a community of seventeen thousand, such good works are very much noticed.

"In a smaller city such as this, everybody seems to know what everybody else is doing," says Edward Geers, Oswego's fire chief. "And if there's a need in one family, everybody helps out. I visit other places, but love coming back here," he adds. "Everybody here is interested in the city as a whole and the community as a whole. If somebody's in need, whatever it is, the community pulls together; and the Elks have always been a big part of that."

The Elks' appreciation of the people and organizations that hold the town together is shown regularly through public recognition. For the lodge's annual public safety recognition event, called Lincoln Day in Oswego, Geers develops a profile of the personnel who might deserve the lodge's Firefighter of the Year Award, and then he "lets the firefighters decide who they feel is worthy. And when the Elks recognize that person, it means a lot." Geers continues, "I think everyone realizes that even though an individual wins an award, it's not just that one individual who's being recognized. It reflects on the entire department. We stand as one, and that perception is very important for us."

Geers, an active Elk for twenty-three years, adds: "I'm proud to say I'm a member of the Oswego Elks, because of the wonderful things they've done in the community. Other organizations do little things, but the Elks are trendsetters, who make sure everything's done right."

Oswego's chief of police, Michael Dehms Jr., agrees that receiving the Oswego Lodge's public safety award is a distinct honor. "It's good to be recognized, but when you're recognized by an organization like the Oswego Elks, it means a lot." Dehms notes that the Elks also have made numerous important contributions directly to public safety. For example, in the 1980s, the Oswego Lodge purchased a working police canine for the department's canine unit. What's more, Dehms points out, every year during the community's biggest social event, called Harborfest, the Elks "supply meals for our officers and state police, for the officers who have to work through it and can't go home for dinner. Anything we've ever asked for, they've always helped us," he adds.

According to Dehms, the Elks "definitely set an example of community involvement." One of the Elks' programs, for example, honors the memory of a deceased police officer by maintaining an ongoing memorial fund in his name that provides college scholarships.

Mayor Randolph Bateman easily summarizes the Oswego Elks' exceptional volunteerism by saying that "the Elks' contribution to the community is great. They're involved in various activities, including youth activities. And last year, they hosted the New York Elks' bowling tournament, which brought significant income into the city."

Another example of the Oswego Elks' civic involvement that Mayor Bateman cites is the Youth Community Day that the lodge sponsors every year in May. Youth Community Day includes an Elks-sponsored luncheon for students and local government officials. At the luncheon, the mayor and various city department heads speak to the students, explaining some of the functions of city government, and give the students the opportunity to meet public officials directly. Such events, Bateman says, are extremely important in helping reinforce the natural

cohesiveness that already exists in a community like Oswego.

As the school district's Bill Foley sees it, a smaller community like Oswego brings out the best in people, and the Elks of Oswego help to encourage that. "We look like a sleepy little town on the lake," he says, "but what amazes me is the way this town always pulls together, whether during the ice storm of a few years ago, or during Harborfest. This is a caring community," he emphasizes. "It's almost like a community of the past. We joke about Oswego maybe being a few years behind other places, but we care about each other and pull for each other. And to have folks like the Elks be so involved, it's tremendous."•

TRIBUTE TO VESTAVIA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to make some remarks today about Alabama's State champion and national finalist in the "We the People" competition. Vestavia Hills High School placed fourth in the national We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution national finals, held in Washington, DC. This impressive competition, headed by the Center for Civic Education, engaged young people in the fundamental ideals and values of American constitutional government.

Members of this remarkable team from Vestavia Hills included Diana Chen, Colleen Cusick, William Desmond, Felipe Goncalves, Lauren Hammonds, Pei-Ann Lin, Tyler Martin, Robert Nuttall, Shannon O'Sheal, Thomas Oliver, Sean Sapp, Curry Stevenson, Andrew Swindle, Wesley Vaughn, Jay Watson, Ylia Wilson, Shin Xu, and Zaka Yazdi.

I would like to congratulate Amy Maddox, the teacher who led this fine team. Teachers shape the future, and I appreciate Ms. Maddox's investment in these students. As a former educator and the father of three children, I have a great admiration for educators, and I am grateful that educators like Ms. Maddox are making a difference.

I would also like to thank Janice Cowin, the executive director of the Alabama Center for Law and Civic Education.

I applaud the efforts of students, teachers, and community leaders who made this accomplishment possible. Vestavia Hills High School is an exceptional school and has represented Alabama well. I encourage these students to continue pursuing a deep understanding of the Constitution and our Government. It is important that we raise up quality leaders that will serve our country in years to come. •

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:14 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4040) to establish consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements for children's

products and to reauthorize and modernize the Consumer Product Safety Commission; it agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. DINGELL, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky, and Mr. STEARNS as managers of the conference on the part of the House.

At 5:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2642) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 5:32 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 6022. An act to suspend the acquisition of petroleum for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6051. An act to amend Public Law 110-196 to provide for a temporary extension of programs authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 beyond May 16, 2008.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6276. A communication from the Secretary of the Senate, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate for the period from October 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008; ordered to lie on the table.

EC-6277. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cyproconazole; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 8362-9) received on May 13, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6278. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Department of the Navy and has been assigned case number 07-06; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-6279. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment), transmitting, pursuant to law, notification of the Department's decision to conduct a streamlined competition of aircraft maintenance functions performed by personnel of the Fleet Logistics Support Squadrons at Andrews Air Force Base, MD; to the Committee on Armed Services.