

health care reform. And, I know she would agree that we all must continue to fight to ensure that the needs of children remain central in our efforts to forge a more effective and equitable health care system.

I extend my sincere condolences to Polly's husband and children, and the entire Arango family.●

● Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the life—and mourn the loss—of one of New Mexico's finest public servants.

The Land of Enchantment suffered a tremendous loss last Saturday, when Polly Arango was involved in a fatal accident in Alamosa, CO. As a long-time resident of Algodones, NM, Polly was one of the most exemplary advocates for children living with disabilities our State has ever known. During her time with us, Polly taught us that regardless of socioeconomic status, culture, race, religion or health conditions, our children have inalienable rights that we must fight to protect.

Born in Green Bay, WI, Polly moved to our State in 1962 to attend University of New Mexico. After marrying John Arango, she began her career as an advocate placing Ecuadorian orphans with families in the United States while her husband served as Peace Corps director in Panama and Ecuador.

A turning point for Polly and John came with the adoption of their son Nicolas. As Polly learned that Nicolas had a severe developmental disability, she began her work securing full education and access to health care for children with chronic health conditions. Nicolas inspired Polly's work to open the eyes of school officials, policymakers, community leaders, friends and neighbors to the challenges facing children with disabilities. Her efforts were not only for Nicolas, but for thousands of other New Mexican families in need.

In 1992, Polly cofounded a national grassroots network called Family Voices. Today, Family Voices consists of more than 45,000 New Mexican families and friends working together to improve health care for children and youth with special needs. Polly served as the first executive director and most recently served on the board of directors. Polly also cofounded Parents Reaching Out, a statewide network of programs designed to meet the ever changing needs of New Mexican families. Based on her leadership, this organization continues to connect children and their families to resources that will improve their quality of life.

Polly represented families and family-centered care on many national boards, commissions and international forums. She was named to the New Mexico Medicaid Advisory Committee and served as a member of the New Mexico Supreme Court's Court Improvement Project on foster care. She also co-authored several books and many articles on health care, foster children, and families, and she was ex-

ecutive producer and writer of a PBS documentary about inclusion titled: "What Does Normal Mean?"

Through her work, Polly displayed a noble commitment to fight for the health and civil rights of all children, especially disabled children, who often cannot fight for themselves. Polly actively demonstrated one of our greatest American values: that families can be the most important caregivers, and every child deserves a family.

She was survived by her husband, John; her four children—Carlos Arango, Francesca Wilson, Maria Arango and Nicolas Arango; her seven grandchildren—Sloan Wilson, Conor Arango, Gabby Arango, Kellen Wilson, Grace Arango, Lenor Arango and Isabel Arango; and seven of her eight brothers and sisters—Richard Egan, Kevin Egan, Martha Egan, Kathryn Stout, Patrick Egan, Michael Egan and Thomas Egan.

In her recent obituary, Polly's friends and family kindly thanked me for my role in health care reform and my support for rural health programs. While I appreciate these sentiments, I want to thank Polly. I want to thank her for her invaluable contributions as a mother, friend, and public servant on behalf of all she touched. Our State won't be the same without her. I am blessed to have known her. New Mexico will miss Polly Arango, but we know that her legacy will live on.

As Polly Arango is laid to rest this week, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable public servant.●

#### TRIBUTE TO PETE JOHNSON

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Pete Johnson of Clarksdale, MS, for his service as the Federal Co-Chairman of the Delta Regional Authority.

The authority was formed in 2001 as a Federal-State partnership to enhance the quality of life of the people of the Mississippi River Delta region. Since its inception, Pete Johnson has led the Delta Regional Authority as the Federal cochairman in its efforts to advance the economic opportunities of the residents of 252 counties and parishes in parts of 8 States, which make up the delta region.

Pete Johnson has served the 9.5 million residents of the region and the Governors of Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana, with distinction in his capacity as the Federal cochairman.

Under Chairman Johnson's leadership, the Delta Regional Authority has established successful Federal grant programs, as well as the Delta Leadership Institute, Healthy Delta, I-Delta, and the Delta Development Highway System, the Delta Doctors Program, and a multimodal system for the region.

Pete has proven himself to be an exemplary and proactive leader, and the far-reaching effects of his leadership

are evidenced by the numerous Delta Regional Authority contributions to the region over the years. The Delta Regional Authority has leveraged limited Federal resources with other Federal, State, and local investments, resulting in over \$434 million for 510 projects focused on economic development throughout the eight-state region. Over \$1.5 billion of private funds has also been invested in these projects.

In addition, the implementation of the Delta Regional Authority Federal Grant Program has created 5,472 jobs, trained 3,315 individuals for jobs, and improved the water and sewer systems for 11,860 families in the area.

In Mississippi, we are very grateful for the outstanding service of Pete Johnson and his wife Margaret and for the sacrifices they have made to improve the economy and the quality of life in the delta region.●

#### ELGIN, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. On June 17–20, 2010, the residents of Elgin gathered to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Elgin, a Northern Pacific Railroad town site, was first named Shanley but became Elgin in 1910. The residents were having difficulty agreeing on a new name, and Isadore Gintzler is said to have looked at his pocket watch to check the time at a very late hour and suggested its brand name, Elgin, as a compromise name for the town site. The post office was established August 11, 1910. Elgin was incorporated as a village in 1911.

Some of the present day businesses and accommodations that continue to thrive within the city of Elgin include the Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center and Clinics, Dakota Hill Housing, a dentist, an eye clinic, a cafe and bowling alley, a grocery store, a hardware store, gas stations, a bank, accounting offices, a drug store, insurance agencies, a newspaper, the post office, a lumber yard, a motel, a new public library, and grain elevators.

Citizens of Elgin organized numerous activities to celebrate their centennial. Some of the activities included an opening ceremony, historical Power Point presentation, historical bus tour, musical entertainment, an alumni football game, a magician show, and an antique parade.

I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Elgin, ND, and its residents on the first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Elgin 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 Elgin that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Elgin has a proud past and a bright future.●

#### WAKONDA, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of Wakonda, SD. The town calls itself "The Good Life Town" and I would have to agree. With a strong sense of community and a welcoming spirit, Wakonda is a wonderful place to call home.

Wakonda was founded when the North Western Railroad expanded its line in northwestern Clay County. Surveyors originally planned out the town, calling it Summit, but when negotiations on land price fell through, the town was moved southwest. The building crews stayed on local farms and completed their work by the end of the year. GEN William Beadle is credited with suggesting the name of Wakonda, a Santee Sioux word meaning "wonderful." The town quickly sprouted, with many new businesses popping up in the coming years.

To celebrate Wakonda's historical achievement, the town will join together for a weekend of activities. With a golf tournament, kids carnival, and artistic exhibits, this town is sure to have a great time celebrating. I am proud to recognize Wakonda on reaching this milestone and wish them all the best in their future.●

#### FIRST STATE BALLET THEATRE

● Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, it has been an honor to watch the arts blossom in the State of Delaware. One of the organizations leading this movement is the First State Ballet Theatre, which is celebrating 10 years of dedication and excellence in the art of dance.

The late choreographer Martha Graham once said:

We look at the dance to impart the sensation of living in an affirmation of life, to energize the spectator into keener awareness of the vigor, the mystery, the humor, the variety, and the wonder of life. This is the function of the American dance.

Since the founding of the First State Ballet Theatre in 1999 by Pasha and Kristina Kambalov, it has been devoted to exposing Delawareans to dance. Through providing dance training and conducting education outreach, its audiences have learned much about the history and relevance of the art of dance.

The company's impressive 10-year run has brought a host of classical ballets, including favorite classics such as "The Nutcracker" and "Swan Lake." The theatre has also been involved in vibrant productions such as "Carmen," showing the depth and amazing talent present within the troupe. The theatre hosts a cast of talented dancers, who come long distances to perform throughout our State. The ballet company currently has a troupe of 15 talented resident dancers who star in a variety of productions.

The theatre has also attracted an outstanding group of master choreographers, who have created a diverse range of shows. They are led by artistic director Pasha Kambalov, school director Kristina Kambalov, and assistant artistic director Lev Assaouliak. Between them, these three have many years of experience in the art of dance and countless achievements, including performing in many impressive repertoires, and they were trained professionally in renowned schools of ballet. In 2006, the Kambalovs were honored with the Wilmington and Wilmingtonian Awards for their outstanding work improving the quality of life in the community.

As Delaware's only professional dance company, the First State Ballet Theatre has strived to help the arts flourish, and by doing so it has drawn both in-State and out-of-State audiences to its performances. By offering enticing productions that appeal to various sections of the population at affordable prices, the First State Ballet Theatre has inspired a whole new generation to become a part of the theatre's family. The theatre has also taught over 7,000 children about dance with the help of its talented and caring staff.

For 10 years, the First State Ballet Theatre has stood for excellence in the arts, and has treated its audiences to breathtaking and vibrant productions that have inspired the people of Delaware. The First State Ballet Theatre has been a great asset to my home State, and its accomplishments will inevitably continue to bring it success for years to come. Once again, I would like to congratulate the theatre on reaching this 10-year milestone.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ARKANSAS PROFESSIONALS

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize three Arkansans who have been recognized as leaders in their professions. These individuals represent the best of their fields, and I am proud of their accomplishments on behalf of our State.

Bobby J. Brooks has been named the 2009 Driver of the Year by the Arkansas Truckers Association.

Kevin McDaniel, vice president of production at O.K. Farms Inc. in Fort Smith, received the Poultry Federation's 2010 Industry Leader of the Year Award.

Kathy Manis Findley was named as the Nonprofit Executive of the Year for her work at Safe Places in Little Rock.

I commend these individuals for their hard work and dedication, as well as the work of all Arkansas professionals who strive to make our State better each and every day.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BASS REEVES

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an American hero, Arkansas native Bass Reeves, one of the

first African-American U.S. Deputy Marshals west of the Mississippi River. He was one of the most respected lawmen who served the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas, which had criminal jurisdiction in the Indian Territory, the present State of Oklahoma. He captured more than 3,000 fugitives in his legendary career. Many scholars consider Bass Reeves to be one of the greatest frontier heroes in U.S. history.

Born into slavery in 1838 in Crawford County, AR, and then moved to Texas, Bass fled to Indian Territory during the Civil War and lived with the Seminole and Muscogee (Creek) Indians. Following emancipation, he settled near Van Buren, AR, to raise horses and start a family. He and his wife Nellie Jennie had 10 children: 5 boys and 5 girls.

In 1875, Isaac Parker was appointed U.S. district judge for the Western District of Arkansas, and Bass was recruited to serve as a Deputy U.S. Marshal. He stood 6'2", weighed 180 pounds, and could shoot a pistol or rifle accurately with either hand. He was known for his toughness, intelligence, and detective skills, even though he could neither read nor write.

He arrested some of the most dangerous criminals of the time, repeatedly demonstrating honor and integrity. He had to stand trial himself and was imprisoned for 5 months on a false accusation of murder. Following acquittal, he returned to tracking down and arresting criminals.

Bass served the Federal courts in the Indian Territory for 32 years, from 1875 until 1907 when Oklahoma became a State. At age 68, he became a member of the Muskogee, OK, police department and served until his death from Bright's disease on January 12, 1910.

Mr. President, I recognize Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves as a real American hero.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JOHN B. NOWELL, JR.

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Captain John B. Nowell, Jr., U.S. Navy, to our Nation. Captain Nowell has served with exceptional distinction as the director, Navy Senate Liaison, a position of great responsibility, from August 2008 to June 2010.

Captain Nowell's service to our country began with his induction into the U.S. Naval Academy in the summer of 1980. Upon his graduation and commissioning in 1984, he started out on what would become a distinguished career as a talented and respected surface warfare officer—a career that continues today. His naval service has literally taken him around the world, as he has served on ships from the east coast to the west coast, from Africa to Japan, and all of the oceans and seas in between.