

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.

Recognizing the enormous talent and potential in him, the Navy rewarded Captain Nowell with command at sea, entrusting him with the leadership of the guided-missile destroyer USS *Porter* and her crew from April 2002 to December 2003. During this time, Captain Nowell was called upon to lead his crew into combat, surge-deploying for Operation Iraqi Freedom into the Fifth and Sixth Fleet Areas of Responsibility where the *Porter* conducted Tomahawk strikes and Theater Ballistic Missile Defense. The crew of the USS *Porter* earned numerous accolades during Captain Nowell's command, including the coveted Battle "E" Award.

Captain Nowell's success as a war-time commander at sea ultimately led to command an entire Destroyer Squadron and to assume the role of the maritime force commander for Joint Task Force Lebanon. However, the most telling vote of confidence in his ability to lead would surely be his selection to command the inaugural Africa Partnership Station deployment, a multinational force of ships, submarines, aircraft, expeditionary partnership teams, and land-based forces charged with building partnership capacity throughout the African continent.

Today, we say goodbye to Captain Nowell after nearly 2 years of extraordinary service as the Navy's lead liaison to the U.S. Senate. During this time he led 15 congressional and staff delegations to 30 countries, often being requested by name to facilitate visits to combat zones and fleet locations for the most senior-ranking delegations. As he departs for his next challenging assignment as the head of surface warfare assignments at Naval Personnel Command, I honor him for his service to our country, his inspirational leadership, and his irrepressible drive. I call upon my colleagues to join me in wishing "fair winds and following seas" to Captain Nowell, his wife Jo, and his children Katherine, Stephen, and John III, who will be following his father's legacy as a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy.●

#### ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY AFFILIATED PLANS

● Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, a few months ago we completed debate on one of the most significant reforms of American health care in decades. As a result of that work we will see over 30 million Americans who haven't had access to health insurance gain that access. The law that we passed helps all Americans, but especially the most vulnerable, gain access to quality, affordable health insurance. Today I rise to recognize an organization that for 10 years has been similarly working to provide care for our Nation's most vulnerable citizens.

The Association for Community Affiliated Plans, ACAP, is a national trade organization representing 51 community-based health plans in 25

States, together covering over 7 million people. Its nonprofit Safety Net Health Plan members provide health coverage through public insurance programs, primarily Medicaid, Medicare, and the Children's Health Insurance Program, CHIP, delivering desperately needed health services to low-income and vulnerable Americans who would otherwise be uninsured. Coordinating with State and local governments, community groups and health care providers, ACAP plans, by delivering the services made possible by Medicaid, Medicare and CHIP, serve as a safety net for those who fall through the gaps in a system that largely relies on employer-provided or privately purchased coverage.

In 2000, 17 safety net plans, often started by community health centers who were serving uninsured and Medicaid patients, came together to form ACAP. In the ensuing decade ACAP plans have grown from covering 1 million people in 2000 to 7 million today. These plans, like Children's Mercy Family Health Partners in my home State of Missouri, remain deeply rooted in their communities, serving those who need help the most. Over 55,000 of my constituents receive their insurance from Children's Mercy Family Health Partners as they provide a critical safety net that makes a difference in Missouri.

I commend the Association for Community Affiliated Plans and its members for their service to our Nation's underserved populations, as well as congratulate them on their 10th anniversary of supporting the Nation's nonprofit Safety Net Health Plans.●

#### RECOGNIZING U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY CLASS OF 1970

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to express our deep gratitude for the inspirational leadership and outstanding service to our nation by the U.S. Naval Academy class of 1970. It has been an honor to support the Naval Academy in my capacity as a Senator from Maryland and as a member of the U.S. Naval Academy Board of Visitors for over 20 years. The Naval Academy has a proud history of developing excellence in education and personal character of our past and present, and continues to prepare and train the future leaders of our nation. I am so proud of the class of 1970 for exemplifying the high quality standards of the academy.

The Naval Academy class of 1970 started their journey as midshipmen in 1966, during the height of the Vietnam war. They volunteered for the job knowing that after graduation their roles as Navy and Marine Corps officers would be during difficult and demanding times for the U.S. military. That it was such a challenging time for our nation and our military did not deter them, it made them more determined. Their service and extraordinary spirit has enriched and sustained our Nation. I come to the floor today to ensure

that their sacrifice and patriotism is remembered and celebrated.

From their graduation day on, the class of 1970 set a very high standard. Their accomplishments and careers are impressive. Members of this class fought valiantly in the Vietnam war, the gulf war and other conflicts during the last 40 years. They served in the air, on land and at sea. Members of the class of 1970 have served at the very highest level of our military. They served as commanding officers of warships, combatant commanders, and as the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Twenty-four members of this class achieved flag or general officer rank.

Since their early years as midshipmen, they have given of themselves not just on the battlefield but also in their communities on the home front. Whether volunteering at the Boys Club and Big Brothers programs as midshipmen, teaching at our nation's military colleges or volunteering in their community they have generously contributed to the support of academics, ethics, character development, and leadership of our next generation.

Even more extraordinary than their time in uniform is the amount the members of this class have continued to give back since their military service ended. This remarkable class has continued to lead by example. They have worked to educate our children, support defense agencies, and to promote community services. Their accomplishments and achievements have reached the highest levels of government, industry, science, law, medicine, education, and religious vocations. Many have continued to fight for our freedom in their roles as leaders of corporations that are vital to our national defense. I admire the spirit of service and dedication to making our country and the world a better place.

The U.S. Naval Academy class of 1970 exemplifies the Navy ethos of "Honor, Courage, and Commitment." These values have defined their commitment and dedication to the United States. Like many others before and after them, they have sacrificed long deployments, separation from loved ones, tests and trials that most Americans can't imagine. Some even sacrificed their life doing their duty. I know that new generations of midshipmen and future Naval and Marine Corps officers will be inspired by the rich heritage of service they have passed down to them.

As the U.S. Naval Academy class of 1970 gathers to mark forty years of service to our nation and to the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Army, and Naval Academy, it is with great pleasure that I offer my gratitude for their service to our country.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MARY A. FRANCIS

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an Alaskan who has devoted most of her adult life to education in Alaska. Dr. Mary A.