

this extraordinary family continues to welcome vulnerable children including two foster girls, ages 7 and 9, into their hearts and home. This is a special family, and they deserve our admiration.

I believe their willingness to see the tragedy of abuse and neglect in their challenging work as paramedics and their decision to make a personal difference by opening their own home and family to vulnerable children is a remarkable, inspiring story that has earned them the distinction of Angels in Adoption.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION ACT

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss my strong support for the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act that the Finance Committee approved yesterday. This is an important bipartisan and bicameral bill that deserves to pass and become law. I am proud to be a cosponsor and I congratulate Chairman BAUCUS and Ranking Member HATCH for their leadership on the important issue of adoption and prevention services for vulnerable children.

Over the years, I have been proud of the Finance Committee's bipartisan work to encourage adoption and improve child welfare services for our most vulnerable children, those who are at risk of abuse and neglect in their own homes. It is inspiring to know that, even now, members can come together to work on such critical issues. Bipartisan bills like this one may not attract headlines, but the policies and programs can change the lives of children and families.

This package continues previous investments in children and families, and it makes improvements on what lessons have been learned over the past 5 years. I am proud that the legislation continues to invest in the court improvement program that is making such a difference in West Virginia, and the country. Our judges are an essential partnership in the child welfare system because they decide when a child can return home safely or if adoption is the better permanency plan for a child. It is a difficult decision to make. Judges deserve specialized training in child development and trauma to help in their decision because this is not always provided at law school, but it is a critical factor in such cases. I am proud of our State training on trauma. The bill also continues the competitive grant program to combat substance abuse and to evaluate the grants so we make wise investments in the future. The bill invests in caseworker visits because such visits are the basics of good practice and essential for child safety and care.

As a former Governor, I support providing waiver authority for states to continue to try innovative programs. Under previous waivers, it became clear that kinship care was a good op-

tion for many children in the foster care system. I hope that our States will be creative in using this new opportunity to provide guidance for additional child welfare reform that is truly needed.

RECOGNIZING OHIO'S GLENN RESEARCH CENTER

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the men and women of NASA Glenn Research Center in my home State of Ohio for their achievements in the design, build, and test of the new space environmental test capability for the Space Power Facility at Plum Brook Station. These new capabilities will advance the human exploration of space, ensure the safety of our astronauts, drive scientific advances and technology development, and enrich the lives of all people and inspire our next generation of explorers throughout the United States and the world.

Seventy years ago, during World War II, the United States sought sites for ordnance facilities to help defeat totalitarianism. In quiet Erie County, OH, between major highways and acres of farmland, the Army Corps of Engineers created Plum Brook, a facility that would first be home to a munitions factory, and for the last 50 years, Plum Brook Station has continued to serve our Nation as a one-of-a-kind facility that has ensured the success of our Nation's space program.

Throughout its history, Plum Brook remained vital to our Nation's security and our Nation's exploration of space. The National Advisory Council for Aeronautics, NACA, the predecessor to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, built a facility to test the nuclear power sources for airplanes and spacecraft that would be designed at Lewis Field—later to be NASA Glenn Research Center—in Cleveland, OH.

When President John F. Kennedy announced that the United States would push the boundaries of science and innovation to explore the heavens, Plum Brook Station became a world-class test site for the new spacecraft. A thermal vacuum chamber, called the Space Power Facility, was built to simulate the harsh space environment. At 100 feet wide and 122 feet high, it remains the largest thermal vacuum chamber in the world.

In 2007, as NASA began to develop a new path for human space exploration, the men and women of NASA Glenn at Lewis Field and Plum Brook Station rose to the challenge to develop a test capability that would push the boundaries of spacecraft testing. The new spacecraft will continue the United States' legacy of carrying American pioneers beyond Earth's orbit, but will experience launch and space environments that never before have been experienced. The Space Environmental Test Facility will allow NASA to test its new spacecraft to these new ex-

tremes—ensuring the safety of our Nation's astronauts and the success of our space exploration mission.

To keep our crews safe, the test capabilities of Plum Brook Station were expanded beyond that of the largest thermal vacuum chamber in the world. These include: a state-of-the-art sine-vibration table that has the largest capacity for payload size and weight in the world, the largest electromagnetic reverberant chamber in the world, and the most powerful acoustic facility in the world capable of simulating launch environments for developmental spacecraft. This facility is now the crown jewel of NASA's test capabilities.

I have had the privilege to meet many of the scientists, engineers, and technicians who made this achievement possible. They are dedicated and compassionate, and guided by the scientific patriotism that displays a Nation's pursuit in understanding the world in which we all live.

These pioneers of NASA Glenn will continue to push the boundaries of spaceflight—fueling technology advancements and inspiring our children to follow in the footsteps of great Ohioans like Neil Armstrong and John Glenn. The scientists and engineers of NASA Glenn will ensure the success of the next generation of pioneers.

Our Nation is defined by the spirit of discovery, the pioneers who pushed westward on land, navigated the oceans, and are now sending humankind into what was once a mere vision seen only through Galileo's eye. We are a nation of pioneers. And we all have a responsibility to safeguard that defining American spirit and to inspire a new generation of American explorers.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING ERNEST HOUSE, SR.

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I honor the life and memory of a prominent tribal leader and dedicated public servant in my home State of Colorado. The Honorable Ernest House Sr. served more than 30 years in tribal leadership, including four terms as tribal chairman of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in southwest Colorado. He was first elected to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council in 1979 and elected chairman in 1982. Throughout his long tenure as a tribal council member and chairman, he actively and effectively worked for the betterment of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

Mr. House Sr. was an unassuming, yet forceful leader on many issues important to the people of his tribe, including natural resources development, law enforcement and support for tribal business enterprises. His leadership on water issues helped to complete the critical Dolores and Animas-La Plata water projects in southwest Colorado that benefited not only his tribe, but also the entire region. He was a strong

advocate for keeping the Ute Mountain Tribal Park in pristine and undeveloped condition.

As the grandson of Chief Jack House, the last traditional chief of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ernest House Sr. was raised from a young age to be a leader of his tribe. And he proved himself equal to the task. In his years of leadership, he was widely respected for his ability to bring people together and get results for his tribe and the greater Four Corners community. Ernest House Sr. worked his entire life to move his tribe forward while still maintaining its traditional tribal identity and heritage. He urged young Native people to be proud of their tribal heritage.

Mr. House Sr. also served his country in the Army National Guard, the Signal Corps, and the Special Forces.

I ask you to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Mr. Ernest House Sr., a visionary leader who was dedicated to serving his tribe, his community, Indian country, the State of Colorado, and our country. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and the entire Ute Mountain Ute Tribe at this time of loss.●

LITTLE ROCK 2011 RODEO TEAMS

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the 314th Airlift Wing Air Mobility RODEO 2011 members who were awarded for excellence in their field at the Air Mobility Command RODEO 2011 at McChord Air Field.

In addition to winning the Moore Trophy for Best Air Mobility Wing, the team was recognized as the Best Airdrop Wing and maintainers and flyers also earned top honors for their maintenance skills, earning the Maintenance Skills Competition Award—C-130 maintenance and the Maintenance Skills Competition Award—overall winner. The C-130E team snagged the Best Overall Maintenance Team award, Best Team Overall—Maintenance and Operations—Best Overall Aircrew Team.

This outstanding crew, led by COL Mark Czelusta, excelled during the international air rodeo competition which draws the “Best of the Best” from air forces around the world. More than 40 teams and 2,500 people from the U.S. Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, and selected foreign countries participated in this competition.

The group put in hours of hard work and deservedly earned these awards. In true Arkansas spirit of teamwork COL Czelusta acknowledges this couldn't have been done without the help of the 19th Airlift Wing and the community.

The 19th Airlift Wing also took home accolades. Members of the team were recognized as the Best C-130 Airdrop Aircrew.

What is even more amazing is that these crews accomplished this after having a major destruction to the Little Rock Air Force base in late April

when a tornado damaged three C-130 planes and blew roofs off and damaged buildings in the base's flight line area.

I am proud to represent the 314th Airlift Wing Air Mobility RODEO 2011 team and the 19th Airlift Wing for all of their accomplishments. We are grateful for their service and thank them for their dedication to success and the sacrifice they make to protect our freedoms.●

TRIBUTE TO KEITH OLSEN

● Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, today I recognize Keith Olsen for the dedicated leadership he has provided for Nebraska agriculture.

Through his involvement in various State and national organizations, Keith has brought a renewed focus on supporting youth in agriculture. He has taken an active role in ensuring that the views of farmers and ranchers are communicated to policymakers in both Lincoln and Washington, DC.

Keith has been integral in the development of a vision for the University of Nebraska, the State's land-grant university. And, he has taken a leadership role in educating the public about modern agriculture practices.

Internationally, Keith has represented Nebraska farmers on trade missions around the world. He has promoted our food and agriculture exports in a number of countries, including Japan, Russia, Turkey, and Brazil.

Keith Olsen was born in Imperial, NE and was raised on the family farm near Venango. In high school, Keith was involved in FFA, and his children have been involved in 4-H and FFA. He served as a 4-H leader for 30 years. He graduated from Grant High School and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where he majored in agricultural economics.

After college, Keith returned to Perkins County to farm with his father. He married his wife Doris in 1969, and, at the age of 24, Keith and Doris took over the family farm. The Olsens have three sons—Craig, Jeff and Curtis. They are also the proud grandparents of seven. Now in its fourth generation, the Olsen farm is a no-till, dryland operation raising certified seed wheat, wheat, dry peas, and corn.

Keith has served on the Nebraska Farm Bureau Board of Directors since 1992 and was elected to the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors in 2004. He was elected as first vice president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Board in 1997 and has served as president since 2002.

Keith has been widely recognized for his support of agriculture, including youth and young farmers and ranchers. He received the 2010 Agricultural Youth Institute Award of Merit, the 2011 Nebraska FFA Honorary State FFA degree, and in 2004, he was elected to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement.

As great of an ambassador as Keith has been for Nebraska agriculture, he

is an even better man. His principled approach coupled with his kindness and compassion for others has earned him the respect of many—including me. I congratulate Keith on completing a very successful tenure as Nebraska Farm Bureau president and wish him and his family the very best.●

TRIBUTE TO RICH WILSON

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, just a few days ago I received a special gift from a consummate mariner, Rich Wilson of Marblehead, MA, the skipper of the *Great American III*. The gift was a U.S. Yacht Ensign, the red, white and blue flag used to identify American licensed yachts since 1848. What made this particular Ensign so special is that Rich flew it aboard the *Great American III* on December 10, 2008, in the solo, nonstop, around-the-world sailing race known as the Vendee Globe.

Rich flew the Ensign on his 31st day at sea from France, just as he was entering the Indian Ocean bound for Cape Horn. Ninety days later, Rich and the 60-foot *Great American III* completed their 28,000-mile global trek from France to France, ninth among the 11 finishers of a race that began with 30 boats. Rich was the only American entry, the oldest skipper in the fleet at 58 years of age, and only the second American ever to finish the Vendee Globe in its six quadrennial runnings.

The Vendee Globe is widely regarded as the Mount Everest of the seas. But, in fact, it is even a greater challenge than climbing Mount Everest. Consider the fact that while 3,000 people have climbed Mount Everest, Rich was only the 46th person ever to sail alone around the world nonstop. Consider, too, the fact that some 500 astronauts have flown in space, and that further underscores just how rare and special Rich's accomplishment in the Vendee Globe truly is.

The Vendee Globe is like no other event on this earth. It is a grueling contest largely unsullied by hype and commerce, a competition of men and women against each other but mostly against the ceaselessly moving sea, sometimes playful, sometimes terrifying, an immense power inspiring admiration, caution and, above all, respect.

But in the hands of Rich Wilson, the Vendee Globe also became a learning experience for students and newspaper readers throughout the world. As with his earlier long-distance ocean voyages, Rich shared his Vendee Globe experience through the online company he founded, www.sitesalive.com, a non-profit that has produced 75 live, interactive, full-semester programs linking K-12 classrooms to adventures and expeditions worldwide. During the 2008-2009 Vendee Globe, sitesalive.com shared Rich's 15-part weekly series, written at sea from the *Great American*, with 250,000 students and 7 million readers.

Rich's goal was to excite students and engage students by connecting