

critical work of Hispanic-serving Institutions across the United States.

These resolutions celebrate the immense contributions of Hispanic Americans to our great Nation and pay tribute to over 300 nonprofit Hispanic-serving Institutions for their important role in educating and empowering Hispanic youth.

Latinos have a long and decorated history in the United States, full of extraordinary contributions to America's past, present, and future. Latinos have proudly served, helped build, and defended our country and have done so for hundreds of years, honorably serving in every action since before the founding of the Nation.

Hispanics fought alongside patriots in the American Revolution and rallied in the Civil War, serving bravely in both the Union and Confederate armies. Latinos rode in Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War, received Congressional Medals of Honor in both world wars, and made the ultimate sacrifice for our country in Korea and Vietnam. As of July 2012, over 143,000 Hispanic Americans were actively serving with distinction in the U.S. Armed Forces, including 19,752 Hispanics serving in Afghanistan.

Just as Hispanics have defended our Nation, we have also helped shape and build it. That is why I also want to honor the exemplary institutions that are making vital investments in the next generation of Latino leaders.

Hispanic-serving Institutions are colleges or universities where total Hispanic enrollment constitutes a minimum of 25 percent of the student body, and they serve over half of all Hispanic students in the United States. As a product of a Hispanic-serving Institution in my home State of New Jersey, my experience is a living testimony of the important role that HSIs play in providing opportunities to Hispanic students in States such as Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

With these resolutions, we celebrate the contributions of all Latinos and the institutions that serve the Hispanic community in the United States. This month, let us celebrate not only Hispanic Heritage, but Hispanic-serving Institutions as well.

I am pleased with the overwhelming support these important resolutions have from my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, particularly Leader REID and Senator CORNYN. This outpouring of bipartisan support is a strong indication of how far our community has come and how important our contributions are to this country. I look forward to celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos and our valuable contributions to this Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CORTNEY JORDAN

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Nevada's own Cortney Jordan for her outstanding performance in the 2012 London Paralympic Games.

Cortney participated in six events: the 50 freestyle, 100 freestyle, 400 freestyle, 100 backstroke, 100 breaststroke, and 200 individual medley. She brought home four medals for Team USA; three silver (50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 400m freestyle) and one bronze (100m backstroke).

Cortney had her first taste of Paralympic medal glory at the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing, where she was awarded four medals; one gold—50m free, two silver—400m freestyle, 100m freestyle, and one bronze—200m IM.

This 21-year-old Paralympic medalist is not only a remarkable athlete, but a talented student and an aspiring elementary school teacher. Recognized for her commitment to school and community involvement, Cortney is a Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association Top Ten Scholar Athlete and an Academic All-American. Serving as a role model for all Nevadans, I wish Cortney continued success on her future endeavors.

On behalf of the residents of the Silver State, I am proud to recognize Cortney's accomplishments. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating a talented Nevadan as we show our pride and support for the entire U.S. Paralympics Team.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise today, September 20, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Denver, CO chapter of The Links, Incorporated, and to honor dedicated women actively working to build a stronger community in the greater Denver area. As the father of three daughters, these women exemplify role models and are leaders in our community in the areas of business, civic duties, mentorship, activism, and volunteer work.

Founded in 1946, The Links is one of the oldest and largest volunteer service organizations committed to enriching, sustaining, and ensuring the culture and economic survival of people of African descent. Their membership consists of over 12,000 professional women of color in 276 chapters located in 42 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

The Links focus on our five major facets: national trends and services, the arts, services to youth, international trends and services, and health and human services. The combined 276 chapters contribute more than 500,000 documented hours of community service.

For over 50 years, the Denver chapter has sponsored numerous projects in-

cluding support to Stovall Care Center nursing home; Cleo Parker Robinson Dance; the George Washington Carver Day Care Center; the East High School Community Forum; and the Marcus Garvey Center at the University of Northern Colorado. Internationally, this chapter has also helped to increase access to basic necessities such as water by building water wells in African countries.

This chapter has honored and awarded scholarships to high school and college students. Our current mayor, the Honorable Michael B. Hancock, received one of these scholarships to help him attend Hastings College in Nebraska.

Since 2009, the Denver chapter has made a tradition of targeting programs that aim to close the achievement gap of middle school students at Hallett Fundamental Elementary School in Denver. In response to the academic needs of youth at Hallett, they have tutored, mentored, donated computers, and coordinated cultural, career, health, and violence prevention programs.

As the former superintendent of Denver Public Schools and a person devoted to enhancing volunteerism and commitment to community service among Americans of all ages, I am proud to honor the Denver chapter of The Links, Incorporated.

Mr. President, our Nation is profoundly affected by the service of volunteers. Generations of individuals from different backgrounds have served each other and have focused on making our communities a better place for all. Please join me in celebrating the 60th anniversary of Denver's chapter of The Links, Incorporated, and their commitment to purposeful service and transformational programs to enrich the quality of life for local, national, and global communities everywhere.●

REMEMBERING KENYON MARC YOUNGSTROM

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Kenyon Marc Youngstrom, a dedicated husband, proud father, loving son, devoted friend, and respected law enforcement official. Officer Youngstrom lost his life serving the California Highway Patrol on September 5, 2012. He was 37 years old.

Kenyon Youngstrom was born in Pasadena, CA and raised in Riverside. He served as a U.S. Army Reservist from 1994 to 2000, attaining the rank of Specialist. He graduated from the California Highway Patrol Academy in February 2006 and served at both CHP Headquarters and CHP's Contra Costa Area Office.

Officer Youngstrom served his community with a heroism that extended beyond his own life. As the Vallejo Times Herald wrote, Officer Youngstrom "wanted his organs donated so that if something did ever happen to him in the line of duty, others might live even if he would not."

Officer Kenyon Youngstrom, like all those who serve in law enforcement across California, put his life on the line to protect his community. He is survived by his loving wife Karen and four children: Alexander, Madison, Andrew, and Kennedy. My heart goes out to his family and loved ones, and my thoughts and prayers are with them. We are forever indebted to him for his courage, service, and sacrifice.●

TRIBUTE TO ALVIN ROHRS

● Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I am on the Senate floor today to honor Alvin Rohrs for his 30 years of leadership and dedication to SIFE, Students in Free Enterprise. SIFE brings together today's business leaders and thinkers with enterprising college students on every continent who develop small businesses to solve local problems and create wealth and hope where there was little of either. SIFE is a hands-on business leadership opportunity, and Rohrs directs this unique business gospel toward those who want to live a financially, personally, and environmentally sustainable life.

While Rohrs has carried the title of president and CEO of SIFE, he has also been known as the enabler, chief cheerleader, and director of SIFE over these many years. Alvin Rohrs is an educator, motivator, guidance counselor, spiritual leader and the wizard behind the curtain at SIFE, working with other captains of business and industry to bring new opportunities to campuses around the globe. The list of American and international corporate titans that have brought their energy, insight and resources to SIFE is extraordinary. Even the United States State Department recognizes the value of SIFE in developing "more effective, socially responsible business leaders."

SIFE has been a key sponsor of sustainable business practices on every continent for three decades. SIFE educates students about the virtues of the risk-reward system known as free enterprise. SIFE applies free enterprise principles to lift people out of poverty and give them new opportunities for personal enrichment and service to their neighborhoods and communities. Among many examples, SIFE teams have shown poor single mothers how to start their own small businesses that boost their incomes and provide for their families. Farmers and small business people are given instruction about turning their ideas into companies that solve problems and provide jobs in disadvantaged neighborhoods. It is the free market system at its best. It is SIFE. It is Alvin Rohrs.

Rohrs heads a staff of more than 60 professionals at the headquarters in my hometown of Springfield, MO. Dozens of staffers help with SIFE's efforts to spread the positive word about business development and how it can influence initiatives through which scores of students develop projects to lift others out of despair. More than 1,600

teams on college campuses—more than 57,000 students—are active in 39 countries, including China and Russia, demonstrating the power of local business to solve local problems and create wealth. SIFE is a powerful force for enlightenment and good works.

Rohrs has led SIFE's development into a megaphone for the positive power of business in the world community. This year he reaches a milestone—30 years at the helm. He has earned many awards and accolades for his works in the charity community and in the business world. He has an unwavering belief in the work of SIFE and the message it carries into energizing entrepreneurs and creating new wealth.

I congratulate Alvin Rohrs and SIFE on their growth, accomplishments and good work providing the world community with personal understanding of free enterprise and the rewards it offers to people in all walks of life and all economic ranks. My hope is that SIFE and Alvin Rohrs continue this critical work for many years to come.●

REMEMBERING JOHN FRANCIS DIGNAM

● Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary Bay State resident and patriot, John Francis Dignam, who passed away on March 18, 2012, at the age of 78.

John Francis Dignam's life story is truly an American story. Born in Lawrence, MA, John attended St. Mary's Grammar School and graduated from Central Catholic High School at the age of 16, in 1950. He attended Tilton Prep School and Holy Cross, before enlisting in the Army in 1953, where he received numerous commendations. Upon his discharge from the Army, John attended Northeastern University in Boston, and earned a degree in physics and Applied Science in 1962. He returned to Northeastern many years later, and earned a degree from the executive MBA program.

John is best known for his work as a civil servant at the Watertown Arsenal from 1966-1996, where he served with and led a core team of national experts focused on the development of advanced materials and structures to meet the highly challenging requirements of United States ground and space-based defense systems. At the time of his retirement, he served as the Chief of the Ballistic Missile Defense Materials Program Office; Physical Science Administrator in the Materials Directorate; and Director of the Hardened Materials Program.

Following the closure of Watertown Arsenal in 1996, John retired from government service and founded a small company named Mentis Sciences. At Mentis Sciences, John and his team have conducted cutting-edge materials research, engineering and manufacturing support for the Department of Defense on many high priority tactical and strategic missile defense programs.

John Francis Dignam loved our great country, and his record of academic and professional achievement is both substantial and impressive. But it tells only part of the story. Alongside of his beloved wife of 49 years, Rita, he was a life-long resident of Massachusetts who was active in his community and his church. Throughout his decades of service to the country, John never lost sight of his Massachusetts roots, and he always made time to support his community and his church. He led others through his example. And today he lays at rest along the hillside at the Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Lawrence.

I am proud to rise today to honor his service to the Nation, and to recognize his profound contributions to Massachusetts, the greater Lawrence community, and his family.●

TRIBUTE TO MOIRA MCCARTHY STANFORD

● Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Ms. Moira McCarthy Stanford, who has contributed enormously and tirelessly to the cause of fighting diabetes.

Moira's support for diabetes research stems from her personal journey learning about diabetes. Her daughter, Lauren, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes shortly after her sixth birthday. Type 1 diabetes is a chronic disorder that occurs when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin to properly control the body's sugar levels. We can all agree that navigating through diabetes management for both parents and children is extremely difficult, and with no cure for this disease, Moira's advocacy for research is essential.

Now, you may be familiar with the ongoing clinical trials for an artificial pancreas, which will dramatically improve the quality of life for individuals living with diabetes. This device has the potential to improve diabetes control by automatically providing the amount of insulin an individual needs to maintain healthy glucose levels. I am encouraged by these developments, which Moira has strongly supported. Her daughter Lauren will participate in these trials, and I am impressed that she is following in her mother's footsteps to help others living with diabetes.

I would also like to mention that Moira will be riding in this year's Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's Ride to Cure Diabetes. She will be bicycling 105 miles through Death Valley to raise money for the foundation. An avid cyclist myself, I understand the dedication required to train for this type event. I am also impressed that she is the second highest fundraiser in the Nation for this race. Moira has worked tirelessly for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, JDRF. She has served as president of the JDRF and was named JDRF International Volunteer of the Year in 2007.

I would like to thank Moira McCarthy Stanford for her tremendous work