

and Education Trust; member, Pennsylvania State Finance Committee; served as chairman for the Purple Aster Awards Ball souvenir program book for 1995; member, national membership committee; member, national fund raiser committee; ex-officio delegate to the national convention; three-term past president, Ivy Lodge 251, of which he has served as vice president and as trustee.

Mr. President, I am extremely pleased to say that William Dante Bucci is a constituent of mine. Mr. Bucci has been, and will continue to be, a community leader and standard bearer for Italian Americans.●

THE OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to call attention to provisions in the recently approved omnibus appropriations bill dealing with electronic benefits transfer [EBT].

In the waning hours of the negotiations on the omnibus appropriations bill, legislative language was inserted—sections 664 and 665—providing for the delivery of EBT services by the Federal Government. In effect, the provision nullified an August 13, 1996, D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals decision involving the procurement process in an EBT initiative under the direction of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

While I supported passage of the omnibus appropriations bill, I have very serious concerns with the impact of the EBT language and, as a result of these provisions becoming law, remain concerned with the direction of EBT. The financial ramifications and impact associated with providing benefits through EBT are enormous. The fact these provisions were added to the bill and became law with virtually no congressional oversight is extremely troublesome. I am uncomfortable with Congress overturning court decisions and ultimately directing multimillion dollar contracts without review. These provisions on EBT have not been reviewed in detail by the committees of jurisdiction nor have they been subject to hearings.

Mr. President, throughout my service in Congress, I have focused considerable legislative effort in the area of social policy, and I'm very pleased to have played a role in the development and direction of the landmark welfare policies that became law earlier this year. The efficiencies associated with delivering social service benefits through EBT have been an integral part of welfare reform discussions over the past 5 years. And with the enactment of the landmark welfare reform law, the need to develop a comprehensive EBT policy becomes all the more important.

If Congress is to better manage the delivery of Federal services and benefits, we must start with EBT. Throughout the remainder of this year and into the next Congress, I intend to address

this issue, not only with the Secretary of the Treasury, but also with the leadership of the committees of jurisdiction. It is imperative that Congress develop a comprehensive EBT policy with comment and direction from the Banking, Agriculture, Finance, and Governmental Affairs Committees, all who have major interests in this area.

Mr. President, with the recent passage of the omnibus appropriations bill, I wanted to take a moment of Senate business to express my very serious concerns with the language on EBT and the impact that this will have on the future delivery of social service benefits. I appreciate the attention of my colleagues today and encourage your interest and involvement.●

HONORING THE LAWRENCES ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, families are the cornerstone of America. The data are undeniable: Individuals from strong families contribute to the society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death us do part" seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Sherlie and Beulah Lawrence of Maplewood, MO, who, on November 9, 1996, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I took forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. Sherlie and Beulah's commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized.●

HONORING THE MUNSONS ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, families are the cornerstone of America. The data are undeniable: Individuals from strong families contribute to the society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death us do part" seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Ed and Marty Munson of Marshfield, MO, who, on November 11, 1996, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. Ed and Marty's commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized.●

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

● Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, on Wednesday, September 25, 1996, one of my favorite Oregon institutions was honored by the President of the United States. Saturday Academy of Oregon received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring. The award was presented to Kathryn Gail Whitney, executive director of the academy since 1983, in a ceremony in the Indian Treaty Room of the Old Executive Office Building. I am pleased to add my congratulations to this deserving organization.

This award includes a \$10,000 grant and a Presidential commemorative certificate. It is given to individuals and institutions which have encouraged minorities, women, and persons with disabilities to earn degrees in science, mathematics, and engineering; 10 individuals and 6 institutions were honored this year, the first year in which these awards were presented.

Saturday Academy is a private, non-profit precollege educational program established in 1983, and based at the Oregon Graduate Institute of Science & Technology in the Portland, OR, metropolitan area. Four other Saturday Academy centers are located in Oregon. The academy enlists accomplished professionals from industry, higher education, and community agencies to create hands-on classes and apprenticeships for motivated 6th-through 12th-grade students. While the program focuses on science, math, and technology, instruction includes arts and humanities as well.

The academy began in 1983 with three classes: Materials science, electronics, and large computer systems. Even while growing rapidly, Saturday Academy has worked for inclusiveness. This is an important goal in science and math education—we need strategies to encourage greater participation of women and minorities. Saturday Academy has worked diligently to increase the enrollment of young women—it now has an even enrollment of both sexes.

Gail Whitney's arrival as executive director when the program was only months old, brought a change in recruitment strategy. Academy press releases began to stress the search for motivated students rather than gifted ones. The change has been significant. Experience shows that students who may not fit a school system's gifted criteria are designing electrical components or operating a business. A child who is quiet or reserved in the larger classroom may thrive in the hands-on environment of eight peers.

In 1983, the academy's roster listed 9 classes and 71 students. The following February, the figures increased to 19 classes and 200 students. The 10th anniversary year of the program, 1993, found 40 classes per term being offered. During the 1995-96 school year there