

willing to fight to ensure that the most basic guarantee of our Constitution—equal protection under the law—is secure, there are role models for others to follow, from which others might take the torch and lead. I wanted to publicly salute them today here in the Senate, and thank them for their tireless efforts on behalf of their daughter, and on behalf of gay and lesbian people in my State and throughout the Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO LORI MOONEY, RETIRING CLERK OF ATLANTIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

● Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the public career of a very special woman. The Honorable Lori Mooney will this month retire from public service having completed 19 years of faithful and distinguished service as the first publicly elected clerk of Atlantic County.

Having been elected in 1977 as the first woman to serve in the position of county clerk, Lori Mooney made one promise at that time to the people of the county—to bring the operations of the office of the clerk into the 20th Century. To that end, she can take great pride in her achievements. She has managed, with the help of a highly professional, service-oriented staff, to raise the professional standards of the office from hand-written entries to the complete computerization of all records. She has consistently worked to meet the growing and changing needs of her county by recognizing the importance of easy, accessible service to the general public. From being the first to provide a satellite office in Atlantic City to her forward-looking efforts today in establishing a World Wide Web site and a "County Connection" at the Hamilton Mall, Lori has instinctively understood the dynamic of citizen contact and public outreach. She has truly incorporated and made real her own motto, "Always At Your Service."

Mr. President, as important as her work as county clerk has been, so too has Lori distinguished herself as a professional businesswoman having been the first woman appointed to the National Small Business Council for New Jersey by President Lyndon Johnson in 1966. And finally, her love and her energy on behalf of Democratic candidates both local and national make her one of the very few Democrats in the State to have been a delegate to the party's national convention six times.

Mr. President, I offer my warmest and most sincere congratulations to one of New Jersey's most beloved public servants whose public career should stand as an inspiration to all who respect honesty, unquestioned integrity and sound judgement in public office.●

THE JAPAN-AMERICA STUDENT CONFERENCE

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today I would like to salute the efforts of a distinguished student organization that has been at the forefront of enhanced United States-Japanese cultural dialogue and understanding since 1934. I refer to the Japan-America Student Conference [JASC], which was founded 63 years ago by a group of conscientious Japanese and American students concerned about the cultural misunderstanding plaguing their countries' relations. The JASC continues to play a significant role in facilitating exchanges between American and Japanese university students.

Over the years, the annual JASC student exchanges have produced a remarkable collection of American and Japanese leaders in business, government, journalism, and academia, leaders whose familiarity with their counterparts' culture has been instrumental to their professional success. This year, as we celebrate the 63rd anniversary of student exchanges under the auspices of the Japan-America Student Conference, I commend its leadership and all its participants for their dedication to the cause of cultural enlightenment and enrichment in United States-Japanese relations.

As a completely student-designed and student-implemented program, JASC organizes an annual conference to promote its mission of "Pursuing World Peace through Education, Cooperation, and Personal Commitment." Conference locations alternate between Japan and America and typically involve 30 to 40 university students from each country who come together for a full month to live, travel, work, debate, study, and socialize in the host country. Intensive round-table discussions on topics of fundamental importance to Japanese-American relations complement field studies in which delegates meet with government officials, educators, business executives, journalists, and other prominent citizens of the host country. Homestays with local families allow visiting students insight into the customs of the host country, while Japanese-American sharing of rooms in dormitories ensures intimate cross-cultural links.

Following its tradition of consistently hosting outstanding Japanese and American students, this year's conference will focus on "Exploring Our Roles in the Emerging Asia-Pacific Community." Students will explore issues in culture, trade, philosophy, science, diplomacy, history, and politics in an attempt to understand the fundamental changes forming Japanese-American relations on the verge of the 21st century. Because 1996's Conference took place in the United States, the Japanese cities of Tokyo and Kyoto will host next year's JASC from July 20 to August 19.

In accordance with JASC's standard practice, this year's participants were chosen by the organization's American

and Japanese student executive committees consisting of students from each country elected by their peers. Although the respective Japanese and American Executive Committees receive guidance and financial assistance from the Boards of Directors of JASC in Washington and the International Education Center in Tokyo, students in the two committees independently plan and manage the conferences.

Mr. President, JASC represents an effective and efficient means to address the intellectual deficit in Japan-United States relations. Although roughly 43,000 Japanese students are currently enrolled in American universities, less than 2,000 Americans are studying at institutions of higher learning in Japan. This gap must be reduced because we have as much to learn from the Japanese as they do from us. Therefore, I want to commend the Japan-America Student Conference for long dedication to improving ties between Japan and the United States.●

RETIREMENT OF LINDA COLLINS HERTZ

● Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, it is my privilege today to recognize the retirement of Linda Collins Hertz, a Federal prosecutor from Florida and a native of Georgia.

A graduate of Shorter College in Rome, GA, Ms. Hertz received her law degree from the University of Miami cum laude in 1973. After 6 years as an assistant attorney general for the State of Florida, she joined the U.S. attorney's office in the Southern District of Florida. In her 15-year tenure as the chief of the appellate division in that U.S. Attorney's Office, Ms. Hertz has overseen the filing of in excess of 3,000 briefs in the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. I have been told by her former colleagues that the judges of that court frequently comment that the briefs filed under Ms. Hertz' supervision can be counted upon to reflect the highest standards of appellate advocacy, and bear the mark of her commitment to candor, forthrightness and vigorous, but always fair, argument. Ms. Hertz' efforts to ensure that the positions of the United States are argued in a manner consistent with the highest ethical standards serve as a testament to her own high standards. Her coworkers further advise me that Ms. Hertz has consistently provided support to other assistant U.S. attorneys in south Florida and elsewhere, and her counsel is regularly sought on matters of great import and complexity. Ms. Hertz has been recognized by her colleagues and the Department of Justice for her extraordinary work through numerous awards like the Justice Department's John Marshall Award for the Handling of Appeals, and the U.S. Attorney's Vince Antle Award.

In sum, Mr. President, based on the record and based on the testimony of those who know her best I believe Linda Collins Hertz of Rome, GA, and