

The first of these ranches was established on the banks of Florida's historic Suwannee River under the direction of the Florida Sheriffs Association.

For four decades, this ranch and the many others established in its wake have provided a home for neglected, troubled, and abused boys and girls. They offer in-home counseling and parent effectiveness training to hundreds of families throughout Florida each year. The programs for youth include residential care, camping, foster care, adoption, after-care, and individual and family counseling.

Through these youth ranches, the Florida Sheriffs Association and our State's individual sheriffs, deputies, and office staffs have made a vital contribution in the fight against juvenile delinquency and the breakdown of the American family.

Mr. President, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches are a shining example of law enforcement working with communities to help troubled youth and their families. I offer my sincerest congratulations and thanks for their four decades of service to the people of Florida, and wish all of the individuals involved the best of luck for the next 40 years and beyond.●

GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY

●Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, October 6 is German-American Day, and it is my pleasure to recognize the more than 57 million Americans who trace part of their ancestry to Germany.

Since the arrival of the first German immigrants in Philadelphia in 1683, German-Americans have distinguished themselves through their cultural, economic, and political contributions to life in the United States. Through their participation in American society, German-Americans have demonstrated their loyalty to their new homeland and their strong support of our Nation's democratic principles.

The German-American Friendship Garden in Washington, DC stands as a symbol of the positive and cooperative relations between the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany. I urge every American to acknowledge and honor the contributions to our Nation made by German-Americans, and to celebrate October 6 as German-American Day.●

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

●Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I join my colleagues in recognizing September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month. It is important that we reflect on the great contributions that Hispanic-Americans have made to our Nation.

Hispanic-Americans embrace the American society and culture, while at the same time perpetuating a unique cultural heritage of their own. In so

doing, they are contributing to our Nation's diversity—a quality Americans take great and justifiable pride in maintaining.

As one of the fastest growing segments of our society, Hispanic-Americans are an increasingly vital part of our economy. Hispanic-owned firms contribute significantly to our economic growth, and their ranks are increasing every day. In my own State of Georgia, which once served as the boundary between Spanish and English America, the number of Hispanic-owned businesses has risen 184.9 percent over the past 10 years.

But the contributions of Hispanic-Americans go well beyond the economic arena. Their strong commitment to family, community, and country sets an example for all our people. For example, many have demonstrated their commitment to our Nation through dedicated military service. And Hispanic culture continues to enrich American art, music, and literature.

Hispanic Heritage Month seeks to increase national awareness and understanding of and respect for Hispanics and their tradition of achievement in this country. Across the Nation, events are taking place which demonstrate our rich Hispanic heritage. Through these festivities, every American will be given the chance to experience Hispanic culture. I urge every citizen to do so. You will be educating yourself and giving the Hispanic-American community in your area the recognition it deserves.●

TRIBUTE IN COMMEMORATION OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES [USUHS]

●Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences [USUHS] as it celebrates 25 years of service to our country. It was on September 21, 1972 that Public Law 92-426 established USUHS to provide a corps of uniformed medical officers who would provide continuity and leadership for uniformed medicine in the United States. For 25 years, USUHS had remained our Nation's only military medical school, ensuring top-quality medical care to the men and women of our armed services. This institution has consistently produced first-rate career medical officers who excel in meeting the needs of military medicine and military readiness.

USUHS provides a unique curriculum that contributes greatly to our military preparedness by providing knowledge that is vastly different from that taught in civilian medical schools. In fact, the American Medical Association [AMA] has recognized that training in military medicine mandates special course work and instruction not necessary in the civilian sector, and calls the existence of USUHS vital to the

continued strength, morale and operational readiness of the military services. This specialized training includes trauma, mass casualties, combat surgery, medical logistics, nuclear medicine, tropical infectious diseases, and medical responses to terrorism.

Following 18 graduations at the University, the total of USUHS School of Medicine [SOM] graduates is 2,470; the 2,276 active duty USUHS physicians represent 17 percent of the current physician force in the military medical system. Over the years, the university's graduates have consistently demonstrated a high level of performance during their various deployments in combat areas and in support missions, including Desert Storm and Somalia. This performance based upon their extensive military training has been validated by three Surgeons General, the American Medical Association and the Military Coalition, the Retired Officers Association, the National Association for Uniformed Services, and the American Legion, among others.

It is also important to underscore the long-term commitment made by USUHS graduates to our armed services. Although USUHS graduates are required to serve 7 years of active duty beyond the time they devote to internships and residencies, the average time served is actually 18.5 years. Indeed, 85 percent of those graduates who have completed their initial service obligations and could leave active duty for the private sector remain on active duty in the Armed Forces where they often hold significant leadership and operational positions. For example, four USUHS-SOM graduates currently work directly for the President of the United States in medical support positions. That so many USUHS graduates have made a career of military medicine provides the continuity that is so critical to our military medical services.

In addition to its original mandate, USUHS has further expanded its mission to meet the changing needs of the armed services. Additional programs provided by USUHS include the Graduate School of Nursing, recently granted full accreditation by the National League for Nursing, which prepares advanced practice nurses to deliver primary care and services to all eligible beneficiaries; the Graduate Medical Education Programs, established in 1986 to provide DOD-wide consultation on internships, residency, and fellowship training for physicians; the Graduate Education Program which has provided 444 students with graduate degrees in the basic medical sciences; and the Continuing Education for Health Professionals Program which facilitates the continued professional growth of health care professionals in the uniformed services and reduces DOD travel and other expenses by bringing medical training directly to the health care professional.

For 25 years, this institution has consistently produced first-rate career