

Currently, the MACAA serves individuals and families in Baltimore City and 23 counties throughout Maryland. Working with 1000 agencies nationwide, CAA's serve 98% of our Nation's cities and counties and are a primary source of support for the more than 38 million Americans living in poverty in rural and urban areas. Services provided by CAA's and their dedicated volunteers include employment training, adult and child educational services, senior assistance, income management, housing and rental assistance, emergency services and food and nutritional relief. Whether it is through the exchange of information on poverty issues, the provision of services and assistance, the development of funding resources, or the effort to influence public policy, the ultimate mission of these agencies and volunteers is to assist low-income citizens to achieve a higher level of self-sufficiency.

Mr. President, for more than 30 years, MACAA has sponsored this annual conference which brings together hundreds of individuals involved in the effort to eliminate poverty. Appropriately, this May has been designated National Community Action Month, and May 4-10 has been designated National Community Action week to publicize the achievements of CAA's and to emphasize their continuing importance in our communities. This is a most fitting occasion to celebrate a coalition such as MACAA, which is so integral to the health and well being of citizens throughout Maryland. I am pleased to congratulate the MACAA for thirty years of invaluable service, and for their efforts to, to borrow the CAA credo, provide a "hand up, not a hand out."•

TRIBUTE TO RITCHIE BERNARD, THE 1999 LONDONDERRY BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Ritchie Bernard of Londonderry, New Hampshire, for being named the "1999 Business Person of the Year" by the Londonderry Business Council. I congratulate him for his record of excellence in business and community development.

Ritchie owns the House of Samurai in Londonderry, New Hampshire. Dedicated to educating the youth of Londonderry in the martial arts, the House of Samurai is currently celebrating its 25th anniversary.

As a devoted contributor to the Londonderry business community, Ritchie has served on the Board of Directors of the Londonderry Rotary Club, the Londonderry Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Derry Boys and Girls Club. His activism extends far beyond the business realm and is evident by his participation in various community organizations and causes. Ritchie is highly regarded in the Londonderry community and across the state for his karate school programs, his support of

town programs, and his involvement in many volunteer organizations.

Small business is the backbone of our economy in the United States. I am proud to honor Ritchie for preserving and establishing a thriving business in New Hampshire. He has devoted himself to working toward the betterment of the community through his activism and his desire to educate the youth of New Hampshire in the martial arts.

Mr. President, as a former small business owner myself, I understand the demands of running a business. I commend Ritchie for his diligent work in his business as well as the devotion he has shown to the community. I wish to congratulate Ritchie on receiving this distinguished award, and it is an honor to represent him in the United States Senate.●

HONORING SENATOR JOE BIDEN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 10,000TH VOTE

• Mr. REID. Mr. President, two American soldiers have died in Kosovo, the first American casualties of a war to stop a genocide.

The contrast between what is unfolding in the Balkans, and what is happening here in Congress, could not be more clear.

A dictatorship, like the government of Slobodan Milosevic, imposes its will through force.

A democracy expresses its will through the act of voting.

Every vote that we cast in this body is an affirmation of the power of a democracy to solve its problems peacefully.

Today, my colleague and good friend JOE BIDEN cast his 10,000 vote in this body. That number reflects a record of public service matched by very few even in an institution like this one, through which so many great men and women have passed.

As Senators, we are all Members of a very exclusive club. We have been sent here on behalf of the good people of our respective States, to do their business.

With his 10,000th vote, JOE BIDEN has joined an even more exclusive club.

Over the history of this republic, thousands of men and women have served as Senators. But only a very few can say that they did such a good job—and kept doing a good job over such a long period of time—that they lasted long enough to vote as many times, on as many different issues, as JOE BIDEN.

But the thing that impresses me the most about JOE BIDEN's 27 years in the Senate isn't what he has done on the floor, or the number of votes he has cast—although his leadership, courage and dedication are well-known to those of us who are privileged to serve with him every day.

Instead, what impresses me most is his role as a husband to his wife Jill, and father to his sons Beau and Hunter and his daughter Ashley.

JOE BIDEN still lives in Delaware with his family and commutes every

day between Delaware and Washington on the train.

Those 10,000 votes represent thousands of hours spent alone on the train to Delaware so that JOE BIDEN could spend a few precious hours with his family each night before returning to Washington on the train the next morning.

I also want to talk about the courage that my friend JOE BIDEN has shown during his long tenure as a Senator. I want to do this so that people know just what that number—10,000 votes—really means.

Only one month after first being elected to the Senate in 1972, JOE's first wife Neilia died tragically in an automobile accident along with his one-year old daughter.

In 1988, JOE was almost killed by a brain aneurysm. He underwent two risky operations and returned to the Senate after only a few months.

Mr. President, I speak of these tragedies today because I know that it has not been easy for JOE. But he has never complained—just done his work. Senator BIDEN is a great orator, but an even Better father, husband and friend.

When you see what he has had to overcome, that gives a whole new meaning to that number 10,000.

Those of us who work with JOE BIDEN have long known of his dedication to the ideals of this body, and his devotion to his family.

With the attention that his 10,000th vote should bring, I hope that more people are able to see the qualities that we are privileged to see every day.●

RECOGNIZING NEVADAN JERRY CRUM

• Mr. BRYAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Nevadan for his exemplary volunteer service to the disabled community both in Northern Nevada and across the United States. Jerry Crum has become a recognized leader through his advocacy on behalf of people afflicted with Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome, CFIDS. Since being diagnosed with CFIDS himself in the mid 1980's, Jerry has worked to increase awareness of this often misunderstood disease, and to improve the lives of those who suffer from it.

Jerry was incapacitated through much of the 1980's. After several years in and out of hospitals, however, he made a strong, though not complete recovery. As his strength increased, so did his efforts to help others with this debilitating condition. At the same time, he also saw that people with other disabilities and chronic illnesses had encountered many of the obstacles he had. He then sought to share his story with others, and to teach others with disabilities how to be effective advocates for themselves.

In 1990, Jerry became a charter member of the CFIDS lobbying organization called CACTUS. In 1992, he helped start the CFIDS Association of America's