

costume, and the burial of a time capsule. This event will enable people to gain insight into the lives of our historic forebears. I commend area leaders for initiating such a celebration and look forward to the upcoming festivities.

I am therefore pleased to celebrate the 300th anniversary of St. David's Church and St. Peter's Church. To honor this event, I put forward the following proclamation:

Whereas, 300 years ago, St. David's Church and St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley were founded as missions of the historic Christ Church, Philadelphia;

Whereas, the congregations of St. David's Church and St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley played a vital role in the early growth of historic Chester County, Pennsylvania;

Whereas, St. David's Church was the home parish and eventual burial site for General Anthony Wayne, a hero of the American Revolution;

Whereas, St. David's Church and its graveyard are registered as a National Historic Landmark;

Whereas, St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley is a registered National Historic Landmark which served recently as the site selected by the Governor of Pennsylvania for the signing of the "Growing Greener" land conservation bill;

Whereas, St. David's Church and St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley have sent their parishioners out into the larger community as public servants throughout their history;

Whereas, St. David's Church and St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley continue to serve their communities, their State and the Nation as strong civic partners in numerous programs to provide food, shelter, clothing, education, health care, and other forms of nurture to those in need;

Now therefore be it resolved by the United States Senate That St. David's Church and St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley be officially recognized and commended on the occasion of their 300th anniversary of worship, September 2, 2000.●

#### IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM HERNANDEZ

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise to recognize William Hernandez for his efforts as president of the Hispanic State Parade of New Jersey. His work has done a great deal for Hispanic-Americans, and it is an honor to acknowledge him today.

As president of the Hispanic State Parade of New Jersey, Mr. Hernandez has been able to honor the accomplishments of many prominent Hispanic-Americans. For the last three years he has also served as the president of DesFile Hispanoamericano of New Jersey. During that time, he has worked to arrange the first international cultural and health fair, and create unity and cultural pride among Hispanic-Americans.

Mr. Hernandez is an extremely talented and energetic individual. His work on behalf of Hispanic-Americans has been truly beneficial, and I am confident he will continue to work tirelessly for all Americans of Hispanic descent as well as all of society.●

#### CONGRATULATING MOUNT SAINT CHARLES ACADEMY

● Mr. L. CHAFEE. Mr. President, this past weekend, Mount Saint Charles Academy of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, was honored at a ceremony recognizing it as a Blue Ribbon School. I would like to commend them on this outstanding achievement.

"Mount," as it is called in Rhode Island has long been recognized nationally for its elite hockey program. In fact, the Mounties hockey team is so good that they have won the last 23 Rhode Island State Championships—a record—and during that stretch they skated their way to ten straight High School National Championships.

But in Rhode Island, Mount Saint Charles is best known for its excellent academic reputation. It is great to see "Mount" recognized nationally for its academic excellence, not just its hockey.

The Blue Ribbon School program rewards schools that excel in all areas of academic leadership, teaching and teacher development, and school curriculum. Schools are chosen through a competitive application process that rates each school on two areas. The first category, "Conditions of Effective Schooling," includes teaching environment, curriculum and instruction, parent and community support, and student environment. The second category, "Indicators of Success," includes student test performance, high attendance and graduation rates, as well as postgraduate pursuits.

I am proud to see a Rhode Island school recognized nationally for setting the bar high, and I applaud the teachers, principals, and students who have worked so hard to make Mount Saint Charles a Blue Ribbon School.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THE TURNER HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, it is with great personal joy and pride that I come before you today to commemorate an anniversary that is of particular importance to my family and me. One hundred years ago, on October 13, 1900, in a borrowed school building at the intersection of McDaniel and Rockland Roads, sixteen original members of the Turner Hill Baptist Church convened for the first time.

The group enjoyed being together and quickly became a strong extended family. In fact, within months of their first meeting at the Old County Line School, the members decided to cement their closeness by constructing a permanent church building of their own. On land donated by E.L. Turner and as a result of its members' ingenuity and hard work, the beginning of 1901 marked the opening of Turner Hill Baptist Church, a wooden structure heated by one wood stove and lit by kerosene lamps.

Although the congregation moved to a new brick structure in 1954, the origi-

nal wooden building and the work that went into its creation continue to embody the values of all those associated with the church. Despite the absence of Turner Hill's original sixteen members at today's centennial celebration, many of their descendants are delighted to take part. By the same token, some of the original nine families, including my own, who were present as the church opened in 1901 continue to attend regular services: Turner Hill has both fifth and sixth generation members. I am also proud to be related to both the church's current youngest and oldest members. While my father, Mr. Joseph Hugh Cleland, and Aunt, Mrs. Georgia Mae Cleland Johnston, are Turner Hill's most senior members, my cousin, Miss Jessica Wages is the newest addition to the 151 member congregation.

Over the years, the church itself and the faces in the pews have changed, but one thing has remained a constant—community. My friends and family at Turner Hill have pulled together in times of crisis and joined each other in celebration throughout the years. Behind the leadership of Reverend Farrell Wilkins and with God and family at the center of their lives, the members of my church today commemorate an historic anniversary. May their next hundred years be as prosperous as their first.●

#### IN RECOGNITION OF FATHER ALBERT R. CUTIE

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Father Albert R. Cutie, to whom the 25th Hispanic-American Parade of New Jersey Annual Banquet is being dedicated. This tremendous honor is being bestowed upon an individual who is a true example of the possibilities that are available to all in our great nation.

Father Albert's parents were forced, like many others, to flee from Cuba to Spain due to the atheist-communist dictatorship that took over their homeland. Fortunately, his family was reunited a few years later in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and was able to emigrate to the United States when he was seven years old. Here he has been able to pursue a life that would not have been possible in communist Cuba.

Father Albert has always been a talented and industrious soul. From a young age, he showed vibrant entrepreneurial skills by turning his love for music into his own business. During his High School years his experience in parish youth groups and spiritual retreats began to foster his great love for the Church and its mission. Hearing his calling, Father Albert entered the Seminary in 1987 and was ordained on May 13, 1995.

Since his ordination, countless individuals have benefitted from Father Albert's love and guidance. Not only does he continue to reach out to individuals, families, the sick, and those in need, but he works diligently to give

the youth of our society a better future.

We are truly fortunate to have an individual such as Father Albert as a member of our society. I am confident that our future is much brighter thanks to the efforts of Father Albert and other young Americans like him.●

RECOGNITION OF OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN CLARKSVILLE, INDIANA, WINNER OF THE PRESTIGIOUS BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise proudly today to congratulate Our Lady of Providence Junior/Senior High School in Clarksville, Indiana for its selection by the U.S. Secretary of Education as one of the Nation's outstanding Blue Ribbon Schools. Our Lady of Providence is one of only two Indiana schools, and of only 198 schools across the country, to be awarded this prestigious recognition.

In order to be recognized as a Blue Ribbon School, Our Lady of Providence met rigorous criteria for overall excellence. The teachers and administration officials demonstrated to the Secretary of Education the qualities necessary to prepare successfully our young people for the challenges of the new century, and proved that the students here effectively met local, state and national goals.

Hoosiers can be very proud of our Blue Ribbon schools. The students and faculty of Our Lady of Providence have shown a consistent commitment to academic excellence and community leadership. Our Lady of Providence has raised the bar for educating our children and for nurturing strong values. This Hoosier school provides a clear example as we work to improve the quality of education in Indiana and across the Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO JAN GORDON

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, as the Senate nears adjournment I want to pay a special tribute to a special member of the Armed Services Committee's Minority staff. After a long and successful career in both the Executive and Legislative Branch, but mostly here in the United States Senate, Jan Gordon will be leaving our staff on November 30. Speaking not only for myself, but on behalf of the entire Committee and our staff, I can tell you that Jan will be sorely missed.

A native North Carolinian, in 1972 Jan Gordon was recruited by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to come to Washington, D.C. to work as an executive secretary in their Intelligence Division. While her heart always remained in North Carolina, her feet became firmly planted in Washington.

After four years at the FBI, Jan began her Senate career, working first on the staff of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee, and then nine and a

half years for the Secretary of the Senate in the Office of National Security Information, which later became what is now the Office of Senate Security. Countless numbers of my colleagues and staff who attended classified briefings or conferences up in S-407 of the Capitol during that period have first hand knowledge of Jan Gordon's superior administrative abilities and organizational skills.

In 1987, Chairman Sam Nunn of the Armed Service Committee appointed Jan Gordon as a staff assistant, and she was charged with the very demanding task supporting the staff and work of the Strategic Subcommittee. Not surprisingly, Jan rose to the occasion. She met all of the needs of the Subcommittee, while at the same time she had sole responsibility for the processing and printing of typically 20-25 hearing transcripts per year, many of which were classified. Because her work was so excellent, Jan Gordon was the person Committee's Chief Clerk turned to when new staff assistants needed to be taught "how to do things the right way."

When I became Ranking Minority Member of the Committee in 1997 following Senator San Nunn's retirement from the Senate, one of the quickest and easiest decisions I made was to ask Jan to continue working for me and the rest of the Committee's Minority Members and staff. I was delighted that she accepted my offer, because Jan is a valuable and key member of the Minority Staff of the Armed Services Committee.

Jan Gordon's service on the staff of the Armed Services Committee has been remarkable. She has an uncompromising work ethic and a strong dedication to duty. Of the over 5,000 days she will have worked for the Armed Services Committee when she retires, she has only had seven sick days. Being late to work, cutting any corner for the sake of moving a project forward, or not being totally cooperative and responsive are foreign and unacceptable concepts to Jan. Her steadfast attention to detail is legendary around the Committee, as is her commitment to meeting the highest standards in everything she does.

Jan Gordon has always given completely of herself each and every day of the nearly fourteen years she has served on the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee. When she departs the Committee staff, all of us will remember her for her professionalism, her enthusiasm, and the consistently high standard she set for herself. We are grateful for her service to the Senate and the Nation, and we wish her many years of health and happiness in the future.●

GEORGIA EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVE

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, with a focus on the horizon and a knowledge of where we've been, I come before you

today to laud a group that has dedicated its time and resources to Georgia's youth in attempts to secure a brighter future for us all. Throughout its existence, The Georgia Early Learning Initiative, a collaboration of business and labor leaders, health and human service providers, educators, and legislators, has sought to increase access to, and funding for, early education throughout our state.

As a reflection of today's fast-paced society, households increasingly boast two working parents who can neither afford to miss work nor pay the often exorbitant cost of childcare in our country. In fact, while only forty percent of children are cared for by a parent all day, sixty-seven percent of Georgia mothers with children under age six are in the workforce. Increasingly, many parents want to stay home, yet have no choice but to work. However, it takes a dedicated and selfless group of people to bring about results; there is no greater champion of Georgia's children and investment in the future than The Georgia Early Learning Initiative.

A child's pre-school years are more important than we have previously acknowledged. With 554,430 Georgia children currently enrolled in preschool, and the knowledge that ninety percent of human brain functions develop during the first three years of life, early learning and improved childcare are perhaps more important than ever before. It is our responsibility as a nation and leaders to support activists who are willing to fight for worthy causes, especially when those causes will benefit generations to come. We owe it to our children to provide equal access to early learning options which will place them on a secure footing and will allow them to excel in life. It is the mission of the dedicated men and women who comprise the Georgia Early Learning Initiative to increase childcare choices for parents and to extend the opportunity to succeed to all of America's children, no matter what their family's station in life. In the future, we will only be as strong as our children. As Pearl Buck said, "If our American way of life fails the child, it fails us all."

As I think back to where we have been and once again focus on the glorious horizon, I cannot help but feel optimistic about our future knowing that men and women like those working with the Georgia Early Learning Initiative continue to fight for a better tomorrow for all of our children.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE JUDGE JULIO FUENTES

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize one of New Jersey's extremely talented and humble public servants, the Honorable Judge Julio Fuentes. This distinguished member of my State is being honored with the dedication of the 25th Hispanic-American Parade of New Jersey Annual Banquet in his name, and it