

greeted by a nine-foot granite polar bear sculpture. From there, visitors will travel through an Inuit village as it appeared in the early 1900's. The exhibit also includes a display of a tundra area containing colorful grasses, wildflowers and other arctic plants. This area will also be home to snowy owls and arctic fox, two of the most common arctic animals. Visitors will then enter into the Nunavut Gallery, an indoor room containing Inuit art as well as interpretive graphics.

Beyond the gallery is the most unique part of the exhibit: a spectacular 70-foot-long passage that allows visitors to wind through a 300,000 gallon marine environment. The first of its kind in the world, the tunnel will take visitors beneath both the polar bear and seal areas. Those visitors lucky enough to be in the tunnel when the bears are in the water are able to look around and marvel at the grace of the largest land predator swimming effortlessly in the water.

After exiting the tunnel, visitors follow the edge of the glacier to the "Exploration Station." Maintaining the exhibit's goal of educating while entertaining, children and adults can have a first hand experience with the tools of the arctic scientist while at the station. The equipment in the building includes a thermal imaging station which children can use to see how heat is escaping the body, and a remote video camera which can be used to survey the exhibit. Following one last spectacular overview of the whole exhibit, visitors exit with a new and enhanced understanding of the fragile arctic region and its importance for the world.

The Zoological Institute is one of Detroit's most important cultural centers. Nevertheless, the zoo, like the city itself, has gone through periods of difficulty and turmoil. However, thanks to the dedicated work and contributions of thousands, the Detroit Zoo has prevailed. Beginning with the completion of the Great Apes of Harambee in the late 1980's, the Detroit Zoo has renovated or opened many new exhibits in the past two decades. While the Detroit Zoological Institute has long been one of the best zoos in the country, it is now undisputably one of the best in the world.

As a lifelong resident of Detroit, I am heartened to see the renovations done to the Detroit Zoo and the opening of this new exhibit. The Detroit Zoological Institute is an important cultural institution for not only the city of Detroit, but the entire State of Michigan. I trust that my Senate colleagues will join me in congratulating the Detroit Zoo on its growth and wishing it the best in the coming years.●

TRIBUTE TO FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION OF HAZARD, KENTUCKY

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to applaud the extraordinary and

selfless efforts of the First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Hazard, Kentucky in furthering the educational development of Hazard Community College and the surrounding area of Eastern Kentucky.

In the aftermath of the attacks perpetrated on September 11, Hazard Community College found themselves at a loss for adequate funding for their newly planned building when a major philanthropist had to withdraw previously committed funds. The building was projected to be the campus' main building with plans to include a student center, bookstore, cafeteria, meeting area, economic development center for Eastern Kentucky, and a community center. Without proper funding, the project appeared to be heading for failure. However, in a Herculean display of courage and character, First Federal Savings & Loan Association, led by President and CEO Tony Whitaker, stepped in and played the heroic role.

By locally rising \$3 to \$4 million through an eleventh-hour fundraising campaign to match state and federal funds and also graciously providing a half million dollars directly from the bank, First Federal Savings & Loan was able to secure appropriate funding for the project to continue as planned.

In trying times such as these, we all can learn from the example set by Mr. Whitaker and the First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Hazard with their commitment to education and the community.●

CONGRATULATIONS DAN WENK, SUPERINTENDENT OF MT. RUSHMORE

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Dan Wenk, former Superintendent of Mt. Rushmore National Memorial. Dan was recently promoted and is currently serving the National Park Service as the director of the Denver Service Center.

Dan started serving as Superintendent of Mt. Rushmore 16 years ago. Over the past 16 years, Dan has had oversight over numerous big events, including the 50th anniversary observance in 1991, which was a national observance that highlighted the memorial's significance as this country's 'Shrine of Democracy'. President George Bush, actor Jimmy Stewart and many other national and statewide celebrities took part in the event.

In recent years, Mount Rushmore has also been placed on the national stage with its awesome and impressive Independence Day fireworks celebration. Thousands of people descend upon the monument around the July 4th holiday to listen to patriotic music, witness one of the Nation's best fireworks displays and unite in a patriotic spirit.

During his tenure, Wenk helped showcase Mount Rushmore National Memorial to a worldwide audience, numbering in excess of two million visitors annually. These visitors have

included presidents, cabinet members, members of Congress, and national celebrities. But I know Dan's biggest reward came in visiting with the general public and answering countless questions from inquiring folks of all ages.

In recent years, Dan shepherded a massive \$30 million renovation project to redesign outdated facilities and expand the visitor experience at the memorial. The expanded amphitheater, the Lincoln Borglum Museum and the Presidential Trail are just a few of the renovations that marked this project. Expanded and renovated parking, dining and gift shop facilities greet today's visitors to Mount Rushmore.

Over the years, Dan has not been afraid to tackle challenging issues affecting Mount Rushmore. He has dealt with the occasional protester and anthrax threat. As the renovation took several years to complete, Dan recognized the importance of continued leadership to oversee the project. It was very important to communicate the status of the project and the intricacies of the rebuilding phases to the local citizenry, many of whom were skeptical of any changes made to the memorial. At times, during the renovation and parking fee debates, Dan tackled the challenge of keeping the local public informed, addressed opponents' questions and letters to the editor, and even answered the occasional congressional inquiry—all with calmness, all with a professional attitude and all with a dedication to the final goal, which was completion of a massive renovation to one of this nation's most prized symbols. As if overseeing the political wrangling was not enough, Dan would sometimes get away from it all and come down from the mountain to don a striped shirt and officiate local basketball games. I do not know which was the bigger challenge: dealing with intricate construction details and the occasional verbal or written jab, or whistling a foul in the final seconds of a tightly-contested high school basketball game between city rivals.

Dan's responsibilities for his new position will include the oversight of planning, design and construction in national parks throughout the United States. Although this is a big loss for Mt. Rushmore and South Dakota, I know his experience and leadership will benefit the entire country. Dan and I started roughly at the same time. I was first elected to Congress in 1986 and Dan started at Mt. Rushmore in 1985. It has been an honor for me and my staff to work with Dan and his staff, and he will be sorely missed. I have appreciated Dan's insight, honesty and professional attitude over the years. I look forward to continuing my relationship with Dan in his new position and I know that he will show the same professionalism in Denver that he showed in South Dakota.

Congratulations Dan and I wish you and your family the best of luck in Denver and in your new position.●