make quality health care coverage more affordable and available. The bill focuses on three key populations: small business employees; pregnant women and children as well as working individuals. In addition, it supports programs targeted at providing these populations greater access to affordable coverage. Let me explain in greater detail.

The Access to Affordable Health Care Act establishes a tax credit for small businesses to help meet the company's cost of providing health insurance. In addition, it provides grants to help states develop health insurance cooperatives for small companies.

The Access to Affordable Health Care Act gives states the option to expand the Children's Health Insurance Program for pregnant women and eligible children. Because of statewide efforts under LACHIP, more than 100,000 Louisiana children now have health insurance.

The Access to Affordable Health Care Act provides a refundable tax credit for low and middle income workers who don't have employer-provided coverage. It also improves the welfare-to-work transition by bridging the gap when newly employed workers lose their Medicaid coverage.

Providing access to insurance is not only the right thing to do it is the smart thing to do. Uninsured patients are 3 times more likely to require hospitalization for avoidable conditions. The uninsured have a greater chance of being diagnosed with late stage cancer. They are 2 times as likely to die of breast cancer. Because they are often unable to avail themselves on preventive care, the majority of medical attention they receive is catastrophic and delivered by an emergency room. What these statistics show is that when we provide greater access to health insurance we not only save lives, but we also save millions of dollars in long term health care costs.

Again, I want to thank my colleague from Maine for her efforts in producing this important legislation. I look forward to working with her and other like minded colleagues towards reaching the day when all Americans are insured.●

THE LATE HERMAN EUGENE TALMADGE

● Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recall the memory of my devoted cousin and loyal friend. It is with great sadness that I remember my former colleague here in the United States Senate, the late Herman Talmadge, who shared this floor with me for many years. He passed away yesterday at his home in Hampton, GA.

Herman Eugene Talmadge was born in 1913 to Eugene and Mattie Thurmond Talmadge in McRae, GA. He graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1936 and then went on to practice law in Atlanta with his father. He continued to practice law until he felt a patriotic duty to volunteer for World War II. He entered the United States Navy in 1941 as an ensign. He was discharged from the Navy as a lieutenant commander in 1945. Senator Talmadge was also the capable Governor of the fine State of Georgia from 1948 to 1955. As Governor, Senator Talmadge focused his efforts on the farmers and rural areas of Georgia.

Senator Talmadge distinguished himself in the United States Senate. During his tenure, he served as chairman of the Agriculture Committee, vice chairman of the Finance Committee, and on the Watergate committee hearings. Senator Talmadge continued to support rural areas and the farming community in the United States Senate when he helped pass the Rural Development Act of 1972. This act promoted the development of jobs and infrastructure in rural areas. He gained much of his national recognition during the year long Watergate committee hearings.

Senator Talmadge may have best been known for the outstanding services that he provided to the good people of Georgia. He tried to provide the best possible service to everyone that he possibly could. He never forgot those who voted for him, and he was always willing to help his constituents. It was a combination of this constituent support and his strong work ethic that made him so hard to beat in an election.

Senator Talmadge was a public spirited, patriotic citizen. He will long be remembered for all his great works in the United States Senate, and for his unwavering commitment and support to the people of the Peach State. He was not only a statesman, but also a true southern gentleman, and he will undoubtedly be missed by a large circle of family and friends.

My heartfelt thoughts and Prayers go out to the entire Talmadge Family. May God's richest blessings rest on them and sustain them in this time of sorrow and grief.●

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2002

● Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, on the occasion of women's history month, I am proud to honor the long tradition of New York women who made history. And there is no more appropriate place to begin than with three women heroes who gave their lives to save others at the World Trade Center. Officer Kathy Mazza, Emergency Medical Technician Yamel Merino, and Officer Moira Smith were recently named Women of Distinction for their heroic acts on September 11, and for their history of service to the people of New York.

Kathy Mazza served as the first female commandant of the Port Authority Police Training Academy. Yamel Merino was recognized as New York's emergency medical technician of the year last year, and Moira Smith previously received the Distinguished Duty Medal for rescuing people after a subway crash.

On September 11 these three heroes brought the same commitment to their jobs that they showed every day, willing to put their lives on the line at a moment's notice for fellow New Yorkers who they did not know. We will never forget their selfless acts of courage and commitment to duty on that day, and how they worked side by side with their brothers to escort as many people as possible to safety. Our thoughts remain with their families who have suffered an immeasurable loss during this tragedy, and who are comforted by the knowledge that their loved ones acted with honor and bravery.

Years from now their stories will be told alongside the stories of so many courageous New York women who devoted their lives to others and shaped history through their actions. After all, New York was the birthplace of one of the largest social movements of this country's history. In Seneca Falls in 1848, women came together to issue the Declaration of Sentiments that served as a launching point for the women's rights movement.

So many of our foremothers whose contributions are now legendary called New York home. From the great abolitionist Harriet Tubman who provided safe passage to her sisters and brothers who sought freedom from slavery, to Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony who never gave up in the movement for women's suffrage, to the great labor leader Kate Mullany, New York women have always made a difference.

When celebrating this women's history month, we pause to salute the accomplishments of women who gave so much of themselves to this country. Children generations from now will come to understand our great loss on September 11 by learning the stories of Kathy Mazza, Yamel Merino, Moira Smith and all of the firefighters, police officers and first responders to whom we owe so much. Today and everyday we need to do our part to tell their stories and to honor their lives.●

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I wish to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred July 27, 1993 in Atlanta, GA. A gay man was abducted, beaten, robbed and thrown out of a moving car. The four assailants used anti-gay slurs while beating the victim.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them

against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.●

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN J. ANDERSON

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to recognize an outstanding Rhode Islander, Stephen J. Anderson. Steve has distinguished himself with a rewarding career as a public school teacher and as an accomplished State Representative in the Rhode Island General Assembly.

In 1972, Steve began his teaching career in the Exeter West Greenwich School System where he has taught Social Studies, History and Geography. Even as a young child, Steve dreamed of being a teacher, and his enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism over the past three decades has had a profound effect on our community and in the lives of generations of young people.

Steve is described as a hardworking and imaginative teacher who has a special gift for relating to his students. He is modest, friendly and witty and easily earns their respect and admiration. He has a deep belief that every student can learn and that each has contribution to make. Moreover, Steve has been a leader in the School Department and has chaired the school improvement team and coordinated its professional development plan. He can be credited with bringing standards-based training to the school and has worked to provide graduate course work in support of these efforts. In addition to his classroom duties, Steve also devotes his time and talents as the Coach of the Jr. High Soccer Team and the Cross Country Team.

In 2000, Steve Anderson was honored as the recipient of both the Charles B. Willard Achievement Award and the Alumni Service Award from his alma mater Rhode Island College. The Charles B. Willard Award is presented to graduates who have brought honor to the College by distinguished service in their field. Additionally, the Alumni Service Award honors those who have made a contribution to the College by unselfishly devoting their time, talents and resources or to an individual who has made a contribution to the state or nation which reflects ideals of service to the community. Indeed, Steve Anderson epitomizes the spirit of both these coveted awards.

In the General Assembly, Steve has been a leader on education issues and successfully sought funding for National Board Certification for Professional Teaching Standards in Rhode Island, for innovative reading programs for pre-school children and for the Rhode Island Geographic Alliance.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Stephen J. Anderson for his commitment to education and public service. He inspires us with his example of leadership, and I join with a grateful community in commending him for his efforts in the classroom, as a policy maker and as outstanding Rhode Island citizen.●

HONORING WOMEN 4 WOMEN, INC.

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I offer a proper salute to Women 4 Women, Inc. of Greater Louisville, KY for its significant social and economic contributions to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Women 4 Women, founded and currently chaired by Elaine Musselman in 1993, is a not-for-profit organization, which aims to bring about positive social change by addressing existing issues confronting women and bringing these particular issues to a proper level of awareness in the community. In order to accomplish this goal, Women 4 Women offer their various resources to chosen community organizations and assist them in building adequate channels of communication to enhance their capacity to solve social and economic problems affecting women. Women 4 Women has also achieved an extraordinary level of success with their fundraising efforts. They have developed one of the most respected charity events held in Kentucky with their annual women's golf tournament. Also included with the golf tournament is a kick-off luncheon featuring a national speaker, a 5K run/walk, a family festival and a music celebration. Over the years, Women 4 Women has amazingly donated more than $500,000 for various causes through their fund-raising capabilities. This group, made up of over one hundred women, is dedicated to their causes, diligent in their efforts, and determined to bring about change.

Women 4 Women deserves special attention for unveiling their Benchmark 2000 partnership program in Jefferson County, KY for which they won an Ogden Newell & Welch Inc. Award. Specifically, Benchmark 2000 aims to study the status of women and girls in Jefferson County through strong coalition building between citizens and government in order to improve the overall economic and social status of females. By combining existing data and information from citizens, government officials, and service providers, the diligent participants of this program hope to, over time, address the existing needs of females and bring about positive social change.

I would like to express my sincerest admiration to all members of Women 4 Women for their hard work in the area of women's rights and commitment to the greater good of the community. Organizations such as Women 4 Women deserve praise and recognition for their good deeds and progressive vision.●

IN MEMORIAM OF BUZZ FITZGERALD AND JOEL ABROMSON

● Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to two pillars of the Community of Maine, Buzz Fitzgerald and Joel Abromson. How can I describe what these two men meant to their beloved home State? These words of then President-elect John Fitzgerald Kennedy provide a start: ''And when, at some future date, the high court of history sits in judgment on each of us, recording whether in our brief span of service we fulfilled our responsibilities to the state, our success or failure, in whatever office we hold, will be measured by the answers to four questions: first, were we truly men of courage; second, were we truly men of judgment; third, were we truly men of integrity; and finally, were we truly men of dedication?''

These words, first uttered by President-elect Kennedy when I was an elementary school student in Caribou, began to have real meaning for me when they were quoted regularly in speeches by my old boss and mentor, Bill Cohen, a gifted orator and, in many ways, a walking Bartlett's.

But the full impact of Kennedy's glorious phrases struck me with special poignancy this year as I pondered the loss of two of Maine's leading citizens, two good friends, two wonderful men who were taken from us while still in their early 60's, at the height of their powers.

One was born in St. John Plantation in far northern Maine, the other in Auburn. One moved when he was one year old, the other after college. But each became synonymous with his community, Buzz Fitzgerald with Bath, and Joe Abromson with Portland.

Each contributed mightily to his company, to his community, to his State. Each had a family that extended well beyond actual relatives to Mainers in all walks of life. Each made the lives of thousands of people better, and each did it without apparent effort and without a hint of self-righteousness.

It is often said that if you want a job done well, find a busy man. Each of these remarkable individuals ran a company, each possessed a breathtaking list of civic and charitable credentials, and each demonstrated a willingness to embrace causes that would send many businessmen fleeing for cover.

As I watch Buzz become a champion of reproductive rights for women, or Joel become a leading advocate for equal rights for gays and lesbians, I watched the embodiment of Kennedy's four defining characteristics: courage, judgment, integrity, dedication. Those four qualities were an immense aid to Joel as he championed a state law that would outlaw discrimination against Maine citizens who are gay or lesbian. Even though he did not prevail, he led his noble fight for gay rights with courage and integrity, in a manner that is to be commended.