

young people from Massabesic High School in Waterboro, ME. This group of 20 students represented Maine in the national finals of "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" in Washington, DC, May 4-6, 2002. The students from Massabesic High School demonstrated teamwork and dedication to reach this milestone and represented Maine ably and with determination. During the competition, students from 50 classrooms across the country put their skills to the test demonstrating their understanding of the values and ideas embodied in American constitutional government.

I would like to recognize the participating students, Allie Auger, Kirsten Benham, John Blow, Selina Carter, Alyssa Daniels, Scott Doyle, Brian Dupee, Kaleigh Gerity, Tucker Gilman, Matt Kimball, Matt Krueger, Aaron Libby, Eric Matheson, Bri Morin, Glen Petrarca, Meghan Roubo, Joe Rousseau, Jason Roy, Courtney Strout, and Dawn Theriault for their persistence, dedication, and drive. I also stand to recognize the dedication and work of their teacher, Joseph Wagner, the district coordinator, David Ezhaya, and the state coordinator, Julia Underwood.

I am very proud to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of this exceptional group of students from Maine and bring their achievement to the attention of the Senate.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MAVERICK LEZAR

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the achievement of Maverick Lezar, a fourth grade student at the Hockaday School in Dallas, TX. Maverick wrote a wonderful poem that earned first place in the 2002 Poetry Society of Texas contest. Annually, the Poetry Society sponsors a Poetry in Schools contest which is open to any Texas student from first grade through college. This contest recognizes and encourages talented students and fosters their creativity as aspiring writers and poets.

Maverick Lezar's award winning poem, "God Bless Me," speaks to the strength and spirit of America. It serves as a striking reminder of the beauty in our Nation's physical landscape as well as the ideals for which America stands.

I am as powerful as the burning sun.  
I am as brave as the cobra standing tall.  
I am as brilliant as a gold carriage glinting in the sun.

God bless me,  
I am the thing that makes you free.  
I am as strong as a bald eagle soaring high.  
I am as gentle as the lovebird's song.  
I am as beautiful as the weeping willow's sway.

God bless me,  
I am the thing that makes you free.

Call me and I'll listen.  
Listen and I'll call.  
I echo through the mountains.  
I whisper through the fields.  
I sing through the river.  
I yell across the hills.

Wherever you go  
Whatever you see  
There will always be at least  
A little bit of me.  
I am America  
The proudest of them all.●

#### CONGRATULATING THE GIRL SCOUTS ON 90 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

● Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, 90 years ago on March 12, 1912, the first troop of 18 Girl Scouts met in the United States. To date, there are nearly 4 million girls and adults who are part of this extraordinary program.

Today, at the Denver Zoo in my home State of Colorado, Girl Scouts, their families, and others interested in scouting will be celebrating this 90th anniversary with hands-on activities and a variety of entertainment. I would like to congratulate the Mile Hi Council of the Girl Scouts on this historic achievement and wish them all the best during today's celebration. What a fantastic way to share the efforts of the Girl Scouts nationwide.

Throughout the 20th century, the Girl Scouts have been a visible force behind efforts to serve people in times of national unrest. During World War I, they sold war bonds and collected peach pits for the manufacturing of gas mask filters. Girls collaborated to learn about food preservation and conservation by canning fruits and vegetables.

When the Great Depression hit, troops of Girl Scouts led community relief efforts to provide the things necessary for basic survival. They collected food and prepared meals for the poor, carved wooden toys for children, and assisted in hospitals to treat those in need of medical care.

By the 1940s, women's involvement in our national security was on the rise after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and many women were taking over positions once dominated by men. The Girl Scouts led the vanguard of young women who were interested in helping those enlisted overseas as well as those trying to maintain a sense of normalcy here in the United States. They collected over 1 million articles of clothing for victims of war overseas, and put in numerous hours dedicated to farm aid projects. Additionally, they were part of efforts to teach women survival skills during raids and blackouts.

The Girl Scouts have left their mark on endeavors to improve social climate. In 1952, *Ebony Magazine* reported on their "progress toward breaking down racial taboos." They launched a campaign in the sixties to encourage girls to respect every aspect of themselves and to get to know others who are fundamentally different whether it be by race, national origin, or religion.

In the last 20 years, the Girl Scouts have worked together to tackle issues plaguing society's well-being, such as drug addiction, violent crime, environmental destruction, and the AIDS epi-

dem. Through collaborative work with the government and local communities, girls have promoted the positive influences of literacy, personal health, and individual responsibility.

Now more than ever, we are looking to our young people for a collective face of hope and prosperity for this Nation's future. We have witnessed the vulnerability of human life, but know the strength of collective effort and the potential for individual integrity. Our national security and viability as a community depends on this strength.

However, recent reports indicate that girls are less likely to pursue careers in math, science, or technology—fields vital to our progress in this global economy. Sometime during their teen or preteen years, many girls lose their zest in the classroom and, unfortunately, conform to attitudes that boys are inherently better in math and science.

The Girl Scouts are, again, at the forefront of this issue by confronting the disparity head on. They have collaborated with the National Science Foundation to provide opportunities for girls interested in studying wildlife and environment in Antarctica. In addition, they have created programs to provide girls with hands-on technology training, computer science skills, and access to information on physics and engineering. Most importantly, the Girl Scouts give girls tools to close the gender gap and the confidence to succeed in these traditionally male-dominated fields.

The Girl Scouts have fostered an environment *Where Girls Grow Strong*—their modern mantra. But, while the activities of the Girl Scouts may change over the years, its commitment to young women nationwide is resolute. By encouraging personal responsibility, social awareness, community service, and individual freedom, the Girl Scouts have shaped the physical and mental well-being of young women everywhere.

Thank you for allowing me to congratulate the Girl Scouts on 90 years of exceptional achievement. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them all the best in the years to come, and in giving a "Mile Hi" salute to the Girl Scouts celebrating today in Denver and throughout the Nation.

I ask that the Girl Scout Law be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

#### THE GIRL SCOUT LAW

I will do my best to be  
honest and fair  
friendly and helpful,  
considerate and caring,  
courageous and strong, and  
responsible for what I say and do,  
and to  
respect myself and others,  
respect authority,  
use resources wisely,  
make the world a better place, and  
be a sister to every Girl Scout.●