

He has made many outstanding contributions to the Asian Indian community, to his local community in Dayton, OH and to American society.

Raj Soin is a man who came to our shores in search of a dream, who started from scratch and became a success in his adopted country, and then he went back to his homeland to help millions of people join the information age. There is just one way to describe it—only in America could such an opportunity arise to be successful and to serve.

I am proud to recognize my friend, Raj Soin, and congratulate him on this wonderful honor.●

THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF VERONICA MARRON AND ELIZABETH MARRON

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the upcoming birthday of two native Nebraskans—both fine educators, loving mothers, and devoted wives.

Veronica and Elizabeth Marron were born Oct. 14, 1933, to parents Harry and Pearl Marron, in Waterbury, NE. They were the last children of five, including Joe, Leonard and Gene. Fraternal twins, the girls were called Bonnie and Betty from childhood.

The twins graduated from Newcastle High in 1951, with Betty earning valedictorian and Bonnie salutatorian and Girls' State honors. Although just 17-years-old, both quickly earned teaching certificates and started work in Dixon County's country schools.

That was just the beginning of two lifetimes dedicated to education and twin, true passions for teaching. Both women taught for more than 30 years, with Bonnie ending her career at the O'Neill Public Schools and Betty at Falls City Elementary School.

Bonnie married Jim Lowe of Ponca and had four children, Peggy, Paula, Ann and Patrick. Betty married Phil Slagle of Falls City and also had four children, Scott, Todd, Jeff and Jay.

On October 14, 2003, Bonnie and Betty will celebrate 70 years of living "the good life" in Nebraska. I join their family and friends in wishing them a very happy birthday, and many more.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT ELEMENTARY

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I would like to honor William Howard Taft Elementary School in Boise, ID, on receiving the prestigious No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools Award. The Blue Ribbon Schools Award is highly sought after and is awarded to schools that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. Taft reflects our Nation's commitment to high academic standards and accountability. Taft teachers, parents, and students have demonstrated they are "deeply committed to establishing and upholding high standards of learning." This is reflected in the success of their students.

Of course, improvement and achievement do not happen in a vacuum. Behind this award lie days, weeks, and months of hard work by dedicated individuals who have been actively involved in the teaching and learning process. Dr. Susan Williamson, Taft's Principal, and her staff have reaffirmed our commitment to high-quality education in Idaho. I am pleased to commend Dr. Williamson, as well as the teachers, parents, administrators, community members and all 353 students who have helped make Taft Elementary such a great place to learn. As a recipient of The Blue Ribbon Schools Award, William Howard Taft Elementary, you do Idaho proud.●

TRIBUTE TO THE SENTINEL

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I honor North Idaho College's student newspaper The Sentinel for over 70 years of exceptional journalism. Since the 1930s, North Idaho College has published a student newspaper in Coeur d'Alene. The Sentinel has a remarkable record of honors, including the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, in addition to several regional and national first place awards in various competitions. It is perhaps the newspaper's most recent awards that demonstrate most clearly the tremendous passion and dedication to excellence that exists at the Sentinel.

At this year's Society of Professional Journalists' national convention, The Sentinel received first place in general excellence for nondaily newspapers, and first place in the online newspaper category. In both competitions, North Idaho College, a 2-year school, was chosen over 4-year schools with much larger enrollments.

North Idaho College, former Sentinel Managing Editors Betsy Dalessio and Jerry Manter, advisor Nils Rosdahl, and all members of The Sentinel staff past and present are to be commended for their hard work in creating a newspaper of distinction. They, along with all of the citizens of the State of Idaho, can be proud of North Idaho College's award-winning student newspaper, The Sentinel.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID BROWN

● Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of one of my constituents, David Brown. I rise to commend him for his tenure as president and CEO of the South Carolina Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce as he leaves after 9 years of service.

Under David's leadership the chamber has received capital investment commitments exceeding \$3 billion, resulting in 15,000 new job opportunities in the Greenville area.

During his tenure, the chamber has become instrumental in infrastructure development, education reform, and workforce development, creating the

Corporate Partnership for Operational Excellence and the Carolina First Center for Excellence. Other major projects under David's leadership include the Southern Connector, Bi-Lo Center Arena, and several industrial parks.

A graduate of Dartmouth College, David has served as the president of the Monroe County, Michigan Industrial Development Corporation and the president of the Fort Wayne, IN Chamber of Commerce. David and his wife, Maggie, have two sons: Gregory and Elijah.

I invite you to join me in thanking David Brown for his service in the Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce and his dedication to the State of South Carolina.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has disagreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2691) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, and agreed to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following members as the managers of the conference: Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. REGULA, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. WAMP, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SHERWOOD, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. DICKS, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. OLVER, and Mr. OBEY.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1260. An act amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a program of fees relating to animal drugs.

H.R. 1276. An act to provide downpayment assistance under the HOME Investment Partnerships Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2608. An act to reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3034. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the National Bone Marrow Donor Registry, and for other purposes.