

ice and hypothesized ocean water underneath, and relay this data back to Earth. The team's project included scale drawings of the tool, and a science fiction story highlighting the tool being used by explorers on Europa.

As a Stellar Design Challenges Team, the Iverson students will attend the national Space Day 2004 ceremony and meet former Senator John Glenn and NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe. They will also have the opportunity to share their knowledge by displaying their project to more than 1,200 sixth graders in the Washington, DC, area on Space Day.

Their efforts reflect a lot of hard work, dedication and creativity as well as Iverson Elementary School's strong commitment to academic excellence. Please join me in congratulating Iverson Elementary School and its Stellar Design Challenges team on their impressive accomplishment.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I congratulate the American Lung Association as it celebrates its centennial year.

The American Lung Association, established in 1904 as the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, was the first nationwide, voluntary health organization aimed at conquering a specific disease.

While still committed to its initial cause, the Lung Association has expanded its research, education, and advocacy to combat other challenges to the respiratory health of the American people.

In the 1950s, the ALA realized that it was becoming increasingly difficult to concentrate on the eradication of tuberculosis without paying attention to other related illnesses. So it expanded its program goals to include the elimination of all forms of lung disease and their causes.

In 1960, long before the dangers of smoking were understood, the ALA established a link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer. It subsequently began an aggressive campaign to educate the public—especially young people and those with chronic respiratory disease—about the hazards of cigarette smoking.

In the 1970s, the ALA sought to reduce the harmful effects of air pollution and played a major role in the adoption of the landmark Clean Air Act.

More recently, the ALA has partnered with schools to provide education programs for children with asthma and public information campaigns to prevent smoking among America's youth.

Today, more than 35 million Americans are living with chronic lung disease, and every year, close to 344,000 Americans die of lung disease, making it the Nation's No. 3 killer.

In Nevada, which has one of the highest rates of lung cancer in the Nation,

nearly 1,300 people died of the disease last year, and another 1,500 new cases were diagnosed. These numbers underscore the importance of the ALA's goal of a world free of lung disease.

I salute the thousands of volunteers and staff of the American Lung Association for their tireless work in fighting lung disease over the last century, and extend my best wishes for a successful future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today marks the beginning of Public Service Recognition Week, which has been celebrated annually since 1985. It is a time in which we honor the hundreds of thousands of public servants who perform the essential services that Americans depend on every day.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of this event, and I thank my colleagues for their support in passing, under unanimous consent, legislation I introduced to commend public servants for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week. The resolution, which was cosponsored by the leadership of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, Senators COLLINS, LIEBERMAN, FITZGERALD, DURBIN, VOINOVICH, LEVIN, and COLEMAN, as well as Senator MURRAY, the ranking member of the Transportation, Treasury, and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee, was introduced on April 8, 2004.

Public Service Recognition Week provides us with an opportunity to acknowledge the work that public servants perform and their commitment to community and country. The work they do affects all of us. Public servants include teachers, members of the Armed Forces, civilian defense workers, postal employees, food inspectors, law enforcement officers, firemen, social workers, crossing guards, and road engineers.

These men and women are the backbone of what makes America great. They deserve our respect and gratitude; and yet for too long, public servants have not been given the recognition they deserve. We must do all we can to foster a better understanding of public service among all Americans and promote public service as an option for young people. As a former educator, I believe it is time to call on a new generation of Americans to consider public service, which is why I am pleased that some schools are now requiring a period of public service in order to graduate.

The Federal Government should be viewed as an employer of choice, not as a safe harbor in times of economic weakness. But to attract, retain, and train the best and the brightest, Federal agencies must have adequate fund-

ing for Federal employee incentive programs, such as the repayment of student loans. I call on my colleagues to ensure that Congress plays an active role in supporting the Federal workforce. Eliminating funding for these programs does not benefit Federal employees or the ultimate end user: the American taxpayer.

In closing, I wish to pay particular attention to the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces and the civilian employees who support military missions. All are key to the security and defense of our Nation. From the war against terrorism to the ongoing conflict in Iraq, our military and civilian support staff show courage in the face of adversity. As with the country's Armed Forces, Federal employees are ready, willing, and able to make the world safe.

As we begin Public Service Recognition Week, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting our Nation's public servants and thanking them for the jobs they do. •

NATIONAL TIRE SAFETY WEEK

• Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, today I wish to talk about tire safety. Just last week, we recognized National Tire Safety Week. Now in its third year, National Tire Safety Week is sponsored by the Rubber Manufacturers Association, and supported by numerous other organizations, to help educate consumers about the importance of tire safety.

Combined with safer roads and more responsible drivers, improved vehicle safety is essential to help reduce the tragic number of motor vehicle injuries and fatalities that occur each year. Tire pressure and tread depth are critical safety components of any automobile. Under-inflated tires and worn or damaged tread can cause tire blowouts and hydroplaning—both of which can lead to devastating accidents on our highways. The Rubber Manufacturers Association estimates that only 15 percent of drivers properly check their tire pressure, and only 30 percent of all drivers know how to tell when their tires are “bald.” Tire safety week is an important means to improve these numbers.

The goal of National Tire Safety Week is to raise public awareness of tire safety and provide consumers with simple, common sense, and inexpensive ways to help increase the safety of their tires and vehicles. Consumers can greatly maximize the safety of their vehicles by properly checking tire pressure, maintaining proper alignment and rotation of their tires, and replacing worn tires. These simple procedures can greatly reduce an individual's risk of a motor vehicle accident—and in some cases, save lives.

I thank the Rubber Manufacturers Association, as well as tire and auto service dealers and innovators in the tire safety community for participating in this important week and for