

their sustained effort to increase automobile safety. I also encourage them to continue their significant progress on the development of safer tires and improved consumer awareness. Working together, we can all enhance tire safety and save lives.●

#### WE THE PEOPLE CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today, and over the weekend, more than 1,200 students from across the United States came to Washington to take part in the national finals of "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution," the most extensive educational program in the country developed to educate our youth about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education through the No Child Left behind Act, passed into law just 2 years ago.

I am proud to announce that a group of students from Trumbull, CT are in our Nation's Capital to represent my home State in this prestigious national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to Washington and compete at the national level.

Modeled after hearings in Congress, the "We the People National Finals Competition" gives students an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of the Constitution and Bill of Rights before a panel of adult judges. Students evaluate, take and defend constitutional positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues, and are subject to a barrage of questions designed to further probe their depth of understanding as it relates to our "founding documents."

Last year, Russell Berg, a student from Trumbull, testified at a Congressional hearing on civic education mentioning his participation in the "We the People" program. Russell said that civic education "is the key to comprehending, appreciating and eventually participating in our democratic process." I could not think of a greater endorsement for civic education in our schools. Clearly, an understanding of history and civics is critical to our ability as a nation to continue as a thriving, functioning democracy.

Our Constitution is a great document, but it is neither a simple nor self-implementing one. For it to work, it requires an educated populace, and a populace that understands that American citizenship brings with it both great benefits and great responsibility. If we want to ensure that our society remains faithful to democracy, and its underlying ideals, we must teach our children what those ideals are. "We the People" does just that.

I applaud the achievements of all the students who qualified for this year's competition and all of those students

who participated in local and State rounds of competition. We should all be proud that these students are learning and advocating the fundamental ideals that identify us as a people and bind us together as a nation.●

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JEREMIAH GUMBS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to publicly pay tribute to Jeremiah Gumbs. Jeremiah Gumbs was a patriot of both the United States and Anguilla, West Indies. Gumbs served in the U.S. Army in World War II and was a successful businessman in New Jersey, owning Gumbs Fuelers. He went back to his native Anguilla, opened a popular resort on beautiful Rendezvous Bay, and helped Anguilla become less dependent on Britain. Jeremiah and his wife Lydia educated their four children in the U.S.

I am pleased to submit for the RECORD, Jeremiah Gumbs obituary of his remarkable life, which appeared in the New York Times on April 10, 2004:

Jeremiah Gumbs, a hotel keeper who became a hero in Anguilla when that sliver of sand upended Britain's postcolonial design for the Caribbean islands known as the Lesser Antilles, died there on Thursday, his family announced. He was 91.

Mr. Gumbs, an institution on an island that today has a population of 12,000 people, reached a world audience in 1967 when he went before the United Nations with the islanders' objections to a British plan that lumped Anguilla's 35 square miles into a self-governing state, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, associated with Britain.

Considering the 70 miles of blue waters between Anguilla, the northernmost of the Leeward Islands, and the new authorities in St. Kitts, not to mention the many different flags that flew on the islands in between, such as St. Martin and St. Barthelemy, the Anguillians balked.

"After 300 years of neglect as a British Colony," Mr. Gumbs told the United Nations, "the people feel they are able to take care of their own affairs." Indeed, he said Anguillians wanted independence.

The people of Anguilla voted for it, 1,813 to 5, but Britain did not recognize either the referendum or Mr. Gumbs as a leader of the secessionist movement. But a special United Nations subcommittee on colonialism listened to his formal arguments for Anguilla.

It was a "natural paradise," Mr. Gumbs said of the island, but had been left undeveloped under British rule, without running water, electricity, phones, or a decent road. A new highway, built with European aid, has recently been named for Mr. Gumbs.

The British protested United Nations involvement, while other Caribbean commonwealth islands sought to mediate.

Britain asserted that the island was "completely dominated by a gangster-type element," referring to Mr. Gumbs

and the chosen leader of the rebellion, James Ronald Webster. It sent a troop of London's Metropolitan Police force to keep order and stop the secession movement.

But efforts to patch the link to St. Kitts failed. In the end, Anguilla got part of what it wanted, becoming a self-governing British dependent territory with its own elected officials, an arrangement codified in 1971 and brought up to date with Anguilla's new constitution in 1982.

Jeremiah Gumbs was born in Anguilla, the youngest of nine children; his mother was a baker and his father, a fisherman. He started school in Anguilla, but economic hardship drove him as a boy to work the cane fields in the Dominican Republic. Starting at age 15, he worked for 2 years in oil refineries in Aruba and Curacao before returning to Anguilla to teach himself tailoring.

At age 25, he went to live with a sister in Brooklyn and took night classes at City College on a scholarship. He hoped to become a dentist, but was drafted into the Army in 1941 and was given American citizenship at the time.

After the war, he married Lydia Gibbs of Perth Amboy, NJ, and, using his G.I. bill money, trained as a furnace installer. He started his own company in Perth Amboy, Gumbs Fuelers, and made a success of it.

When he took Lydia to show her Anguilla, it was she who planted the idea for another venture-tourism on the island's untouched beaches. They bought 14 acres, later doubling the amount, and in 1959 started building Anguilla's first beach resort with their own hands.

They rented the first rooms in 1962, opening what has become the Rendezvous Bay Hotel and Villas, a cornerstone of the island's growing tourism industry. As a businessman with local roots and a civic leader acquainted with the ways of the world, Jeremiah Gumbs became a natural choice to serve as the island's roving ambassador during the Anguillan revolution of 1967-1969.

He managed the hotel until about 5 years ago and remained a jovial host after that. Lydia Gumbs died about 3 years ago. Jeremiah Gumbs is survived by three sons, J. Alan, the managing director and owner of the Rendezvous Bay; Clyde, of Atlanta; and Duane, of Edison, NJ; a daughter, Una, of Edison and Anguilla; and seven grandchildren.

It is my honor to share Jeremiah Gumbs impressive life with my colleagues.●

#### 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