

extraordinary addition to this generation.

Mr. Harold Davies fought on the USS *Yorktown* at the Battle of Midway. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States' retaliation emerged in a grueling war of the Pacific. The Battle of Midway was the major turning point in the Pacific in which Japan lost all four aircraft carriers and all of the airmen and planes in the battle. On June 4, 1942, before the last Japanese aircraft carrier sunk, it struck the USS *Yorktown*, leaving the ship dead in the water. The crew worked diligently to repair the damage and returned the ship to fully operational. The USS *Yorktown*, also known as the "Fighting Lady," launched fighters for three more days, gaining a major victory for the United States before sinking on June 7.

Mr. Davies never left his post during this battle. He remained courageous and loyal to his crew and duties. As the ship was sinking, he refused to board the lifeboat until all the wounded were aboard. After the ship sank, he remained in the water for two and a half hours before being picked up by a whaleboat. Mr. Davies was not injured in the battle. He lives today as a prominent member of his community and church in Hebron, KY and is able to share the story of the legendary Battle of Midway. This type of valor should not go unrecognized. Therefore, I join my fellow Kentuckians to honor Mr. Harold O. Davies and thank him for his service in the United States Navy.●

HONORING DAVID TIDMARSH

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize David Tidmarsh from South Bend, IN, as the champion of the 77th annual National Spelling Bee. On June 3, 2004, David became the first Hoosier to win the National Spelling Bee in more than 75 years.

In his quest to be the Nation's top seller, David triumphed over 265 of the best spellers from across the Nation. He successfully disposed of his competition in 15 rounds over three days and claimed victory with the correct spelling of "autochthonous." David and his fellow top spellers, including fourteen other from Indiana, emerged from a pool of more than 9 million 9- to 15-year-olds through winning their local spelling contests.

David's achievement is a testament to his perseverance and dedication. This was David's second time participating in the competition. He tied for 16th place in last year's National Spelling Bee. His hard work and commitment to his goal of winning the National Spelling Bee will serve as an example and inspiration to students across the country and around the world.

Hoosiers throughout Indiana can take immense pride in David's accomplishment, as he represents the full academic potential that exists in the

young people of our State. David's parents and educators also deserve a great deal of credit for David's success. Their support and encouragement throughout David's schooling have been critical to his success and will continue to play an important role in his future academic achievement.

I am honored to enter the name of David Tidmarsh into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, to officially congratulate him on his accomplishment as champion of the 2004 National Spelling Bee.●

TRIBUTE TO WILMINGTON'S REVOLUTIONARY MAYOR

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a mayor of Wilmington, DE, who created a revolutionary government and was beloved by all.

Mayor John E. Babiarz Sr. was a legend in his native city of Wilmington. He was first elected to office in 1948, then served as president of city council before being elected to Mayor in 1960. His reign was made all the more remarkable because he was the city's leader throughout the turbulent 1960s. He was a voice of calm and reason when Delaware's Governor ordered the National Guard to patrol the streets of Wilmington in 1968 after Martin Luther King Jr.'s death.

Despite the troubled times in which he served as mayor, he will be forever remembered and credited with creating a revolution toward a modern form of government for Delaware's largest city and corporate hub. He changed the old commission form of government into a modern, merit political system.

On a personal note, I owe my start in politics to the integrity, guidance, and friendship of Mayor Babiarz. He was a confidant and a friend.

Mayor Babiarz' best friend in life was his wife of 65 years, Adele. She and their two sons, John Jr. and Francis, were the joys of his life.

Wilmington has truly lost one of its greatest native sons.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CHURCH OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today I invite my colleagues to join in recognizing a wonderful celebration that will take place in my hometown, Detroit. On Sunday, June 13, 2004, the Church of the Precious Blood will celebrate its 75th Anniversary.

Founded in 1929 by Father William Hermes with a congregation of only 94, the church grew to a membership of nearly 900 families. Its numbers are moderately lower today, but the work performed in the community by the active members has never waned and is no less vital.

The Church of the Precious Blood, under the outstanding and accomplished leadership of Father Hermes, succeeded by Father Marvin Young, succeeded by Father Leo Priemer and

then Father Donald Clark, followed by Father Ronald Kurzawa, succeeded by Bishop Moses Anderson and now led by Deacon Wyatt Jones, has experienced great transition, encountered enormous challenges, overcome monumental obstacles and celebrated wonderful victories to become the oasis, the Hidden Treasure, in Detroit's northwest community.

For 75 years, the Church of the Precious Blood has been committed to ministering to a diverse community, ethnically, culturally, socially, economically, providing the kind of support and encouragement necessary to confirm the spirit of faith and hope in humankind and our ability as nurturing and loving individuals to make this world a better place. Sunday's celebration is a major milestone on Precious Blood's committed journey on the path of fostering spiritual and economic growth, raising educational standards and providing a multitude of services to the women, men and children in the area.

It is an honor and a pleasure for me to ask my colleagues to join in extending our congratulations and the sincere wish for even greater victories over the next 75 years for the members and community of the Church of the Precious Blood.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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.)

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICIALLY NOTIFYING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF THE DEATH OF FORMER PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN—PM 84

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was ordered to lie on the table:

To the Congress of the United States:

By this message, I officially inform you of the death of Ronald Reagan, the fortieth President of the United States.

Ronald Reagan was a great leader and a good man. He had the confidence that comes with conviction, the strength that comes with character, the grace that comes with humility,