

this space. Additional classrooms, an enlarged social hall, and a minaret were added to serve the growing membership.

In 1997, Imam Hassan Al-Qazwini, his wife and their three children moved from California to Detroit to join The Islamic Center of America. Under his leadership and guidance, the Center has continued to flourish. Outgrowing the location on Joy Road, the Center began construction of a new religious center on Ford Road in Dearborn in 1999, near the Center's existing grade school, the Muslim American Youth Academy. The new mosque, which is located along a stretch of Ford Road that is home to several churches, including St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church, St. Clement Ohridski Orthodox Church, Warrendale Community Church, St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church, and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, which is also home to People of the Book Arab Christian Church, will be the largest in the United States. At an estimated cost of between \$8,000,000 and \$10,000,000, the new mosque complex will accommodate 1,000 individuals at prayer time, and will house a large auditorium, social hall, and 14 additional rooms for the school.

I know my colleagues join me in congratulating The Islamic Center of America on this significant achievement and in recognizing its many years of service to the Muslim American community in Michigan.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. GERALD "CARTY" MONETTE

● Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary scholar, leader, and friend, Dr. Gerald "Carty" Monette.

For more than 30 years, Dr. Monette, a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, has been a leader in the tribal college movement nationwide, and more specifically, at Turtle Mountain Community College in Belcourt, ND. When the college opened its doors on the reservation in 1972, Dr. Monette served as its director, and in 1978 he assumed the presidency of the institution.

During his tenure, Dr. Monette spearheaded an incredible transformation of the college with an added result of his determination being a remarkable increase in the ability of all American Indians to gain access to higher education opportunities. In 1973, under his leadership, Turtle Mountain Community College joined with five other tribal colleges to create the American Indian Higher Education Consortium—AIHEC—to provide a support network for member institutions. Today, AIHEC is composed of tribal colleges and universities located in 13 States, serving American Indian students from over 250 federally recognized tribes.

Prior to the opening of Turtle Mountain Community College, those living on the reservation had no access to higher education. Unemployment and

high school dropout rates were both very high. The college started from very humble beginnings, offering its first courses on the third floor of an abandoned Catholic convent, with less than 60 students and only three full-time faculty members. Today, it has grown to serve over 650 students, with more than 150 courses and 65 full- and part-time faculty members, which is due in large part to Dr. Monette's dedication and leadership.

One of the many highlights of Dr. Monette's professional life was realization of his vision for a new campus for the college. He led the effort to secure the needed funds to construct the facility, which is located on a 123-acre site. The 105,000 square-foot facility includes state-of-the-art technology, general classroom space, science and engineering labs, a library, learning resource center, and a gymnasium. This beautiful new campus stands as a shining testament to Dr. Monette's untiring dedication to the cause of increasing access to postsecondary opportunities in Indian Country.

Under Dr. Monette's leadership, Turtle Mountain Community College also expanded from an institution of higher learning to one of the community's pillars of economic development and opportunity through the creation of the Center for New Growth and Economic Development. Working with tribal leadership, the center has embarked on several projects to strengthen the community's ability to grow and become more economically independent. Some of the many projects taken on by the center include a very successful wind energy program, a review of the tribe's constitution, a school reform initiative designed to improve student performance, and a program to reintroduce traditional Native American foods into the diets of tribal members, which will yield tremendously positive health benefits.

Dr. Monette has been a true agent of positive change in the lives of thousands of students who have passed through Turtle Mountain Community College during his tenure. He has been a true champion for higher education and a powerful national advocate for the tribal colleges. His passion is infectious, and he has motivated everyone to reach to their goals no matter how small or large.

Dr. Monette has dedicated his life's work to the greater good. After 27 years as president of Turtle Mountain Community College, he has decided to commence his well-deserved retirement, but he leaves behind a lasting legacy that will stand for many generations. We owe Dr. Monette a debt of gratitude, and I wish him and his family all the very best.●

HONORING HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an extraordinary class of students from Hamilton Southeastern

High School in Fishers. These outstanding young Hoosiers competed against 50 other schools from across the Nation and won honorable mention as one of the top ten finalists in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution national finals in Washington, D.C.

The motivation displayed by these students will no doubt lead them along the path to becoming some of our country's future leaders.

It is my honor to enter the names of Ryan Arnold, Natasha Arora, Kelsey Buckingham, Ricardo Doriott, Eddie Gillham, Worthe Holt III, Carolyn Homer, Kyle Lymberopoulos, Ashley Martin, Michael Matern, Allison Nimtz, Alex Orłowski, Laura Peregrim, Jennifer Wardell, Brian White and Marissa Wills in the official RECORD of the Senate for their remarkable understanding of the fundamental ideals and values of American government.

I also want to take a moment to salute Jill Baisinger, these students' teacher, for her clear commitment to encouraging the curiosity and development of our Hoosier youth and furthering their understanding of American Government.●

A TRIBUTE TO DR. GERALD "CARTY" MONETTE

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, my colleagues have often heard me speak on this floor about tribal colleges that provide higher education to the residents of this country's Indian reservations. For over 30 years, these institutions have brought hope and opportunity to thousands of students who otherwise would not have had the chance to seek an education beyond high school.

There is a reason why the Nation's tribal colleges consistently manage to achieve more with less than any other educational institutions in the United States—talented and committed leadership. One of those leaders, Dr. Gerald "Carty" Monette, has been part of the tribal college movement since its inception. As the president of Turtle Mountain Community College since 1978, he has seen his institution grow from a handful of students gathering in an abandoned convent and a series of trailers in Belcourt, ND, to an enrollment of 650 meeting in a state-of-the-art building in a setting that reflects the sacred grounds of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

Dr. Monette's modest and self-effacing manner belies a strong and determined leader who has inspired hundreds of graduates of Turtle Mountain Community College. He had an early understanding of the ... relationship between education, economic development, and community partnerships. As a result, the college today boasts the Center for New Growth that is a regional center for economic development; he wanted the College to have energy independence and today there is a wind and geothermal energy center at the College.