

they need to become productive and engaged citizens, and have been some of our State's most treasured role models—setting positive examples for the children that surround them, teaching personal responsibility and hard work, and shaping the character of young minds. For these achievements, our State and our country owe them a great deal of gratitude.

Since being elected to Congress in 1996, I have been ever mindful that I am a beneficiary of the State of New Hampshire's public education system. A system that is an exemplary model due in large measure to the contributions and leadership of the many educators and schools being recognized this year. I am confident that the success we enjoy in our State is due to their efforts.

Mr. President, I ask that the list of the 2005 New Hampshire Excellence in Education Award winners be printed in RECORD.

The list follows.

2005 NH EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS  
RECIPIENTS

Londonderry School Board  
Seabrook School Board  
Dr. Marilyn Brannigan  
Barbara Brennan  
William Church  
MaryAnn Connors-Krikorian  
Kathleen Custer  
Cynthia Dow  
Deborah Gibson  
Heidi E. Hale Miller  
Elizabeth A. Hansel  
Kathryn G. Hanson  
Bernard Keenan  
Mary Alyce Knightly  
Lise Lemieux  
Jay Lewis  
Shelley Lochhead  
Steve Lord  
Suzanne Lull  
Meg Maroni  
Maria Matarazzo  
Terrence McKenzie  
Marie H. Mellin  
Michele Munson  
Jane M. Murray  
Dr. Charles Ott  
Robert Pedersen  
David St. Jean  
Barbara Szabunka  
Randy Wormald  
Linda A. Wright  
Dr. Phyllis Scrocco Zrzavy

Schools

Dover High School  
South Meadow Middle School  
Golden Brook School  
The Whitefield School

School Finalists

Holderness Central School  
Dunbarton Elementary School●

TSP CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is with great honor that I rise today to publicly congratulate The Spitznagel Partners, Inc., TSP, on its 75th anniversary as one of South Dakota's premier architectural, engineering, and construction firms.

Founded in Sioux Falls on June 9, 1930, by Sioux Falls native, Harold T. Spitznagel, TSP is the largest architec-

tural and engineering firm in the State. Throughout its 75 years, TSP has contributed to the landscape of 100 different South Dakota communities. Among its most notable structures are the Sylvan Lake Hotel, Sioux Falls City Hall, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Sioux Falls Arena, IBP/Tyson Foods Corporate Headquarters, South Dakota Technology Business Center, Harrisburg High School, and Sioux Falls Veterans' Memorial Park.

Following the firm's significant expansion in 1969, TSP established offices in Minnesota, Wyoming, Colorado, Iowa, and Nebraska. Accordingly, what was once a small budding company staffed by a single person in Sioux Falls is now a prominent firm with offices in nine cities and over 200 employees.

Mr. President, it is with great honor that I share with my colleagues the accomplishments of Harold T. Spitznagel, his partners, associates, and employees. TSP's proven success will undoubtedly continue to enhance both the beauty and property of South Dakota for many years to come.●

HONORING THE CITY OF SPENCER,  
SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and publicly recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of the city of Spencer, SD. On June 18, 2005, the citizens of Spencer will celebrate their city's proud past, as well as their hope for a promising future.

Located in southeastern South Dakota, the origin of Spencer's name is a bit contentious. One story tells of an Indian Camp located exactly where the town of Spencer now sits. One tale has it that scouts from the Lewis and Clark expedition came across the Indian Camp in 1804, where they found an ill and weary Indian woman with her new born baby. After nursing the two back to health, the woman gave the men a short jacket, known as a "Spencer" jacket, as a token of her gratitude. Additionally, she prophesied that a city would one day flourish there; decades later, her prophecy was fulfilled. The railroad came to Dakota Territory in 1887, and in the words of the Spencer News, the town "like a mushroom, sprang into existence." Similarly, the other account of Spencer's name asserts it was named for Hugh Spencer, the division superintendent of the Omaha Railroad.

Platted in 1880, Spencer was officially incorporated into McCook County in 1917. Ever since E. L. Hunskaar opened the town's first railroad depot in 1887, the community has been home to a number of prosperous businesses and has supported farmers and ranchers across the region.

Unfortunately, as many know, Spencer suffered a horrific tragedy in 1998 when the most destructive tornado in South Dakota history, an F-4, devastated the region. On Saturday, May 30, the tornado ripped through the tiny

town, killing six people and injuring over 150 of Spencer's 320 residents. I remember peering over the city from a ladder on a Sioux Falls fire truck and thinking how much the terrible scene resembled a Civil War battlefield. Most of the houses were reduced to rubble; the post office, first station, library, bank, and multiple churches were all destroyed. Despite the devastation, Spencer's dedicated residents committed themselves to the rebuilding effort with undaunted determination. As a result of the residents' diligence and determination, Spencer commemorates its 125th anniversary as a proud and thriving town.

In the twelve and a half decades since its founding, Spencer has proven its ability to flourish and survive. Spencer's proud residents celebrate its 125th anniversary on June 18, 2005, and it is with great pleasure that I share with my colleagues the achievements made by this remarkable and resilient community.●

HONORING THE TOWN OF De  
SMET, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and publicly recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of the town of De Smet, SD. As the 125th anniversary approaches, De Smet looks back on a proud history and looks forward to a promising future.

Founded in 1880 by the Western Town Lot Company, De Smet is almost equidistant from the Nebraska State line and from the North Dakota State line. Situated in central Kingsbury County, De Smet is named for Father Pierre Jean De Smet, a Belgian priest who tirelessly worked among the region's local Indian tribes. Despite the town's status as Kingsbury County seat, De Smet originally was sparsely populated, home predominantly to single men. The arrival of the Chicago Northwestern Railroad in 1880, however, sparked an influx of residents that included many families.

In 1889, De Smet's most notable resident, Laura Ingalls Wilder, author of the Little House on the Prairie books which evolved into the longest running series in TV history, arrived with her family. While her series immortalizes this great community, every summer De Smet honors the famous writer with the Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant.

Another of De Smet's attractions is Washington Park, host to countless family picnics and outdoor activities. The park is also home to a statue honoring Father Pierre Jean De Smet, the duplicate of which is located in his hometown of Dendermonde, Belgium. De Smet's statue, which was dedicated to the public on June 8, 1986, established a bond between Dendermonde, Belgium and De Smet, SD and the two became sister cities.

De Smet's other distinguished landmarks include the historic courthouse, the Ingalls Homestead, the Loftus Store, and the De Smet Depot, a museum immortalizing the town's past.