

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HANDS-OFF TELEPHONE BAND TEAM

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize an exceptional group of students with disabilities in southern California from Hesperia Junior High School. Kattie Greene, Emilee Landon, David Perez, and Eric Coldwell have achieved outstanding success in science and problem solving.

These students formed the Hands-Off Telephone Band Team. Together, they developed an apparatus that allows a cellular telephone to be mounted to a wrist or arm—creating an effective and simple assistive technology device that enables some individuals with disabilities to independently use a cellular phone.

The Hands-Off Telephone Band Team's ingenious creation was chosen as one of eight projects from nationwide to be judged by the renowned Christopher Columbus Foundation, which, along with the National Science Foundation, strive to improve America's middle school students' literacy in mathematics and science. Despite facing formidable competition, the Hands-Off Telephone Band Team's project was deservedly selected as the Gold Medal Award Winning Team. Kattie, Emilee, David, and Eric's commitment to excellence, coupled with their mastery of the scientific process, enabled them to return to Hesperia Junior High School as heroes of the community.

I commend these students not only for their success in this prestigious competition but also because they are the first team comprised of students with disabilities to win this national competition. Each of these incredible young people utilized their abilities and coordinated their efforts to succeed. Eighth grade instructor Barbara Jacobs deserves commendation on her successful mentorship of these young students.

I applaud the dedication of the Hands-Off Telephone Band Team from Hesperia Junior High School. Their success has provided an example of determination to us all.●

TRIBUTE TO PETE WHEELER

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, it is my honor today to pay tribute to a man who has passionately spent his career in service to the United States and past members of its Armed Forces. Mr. Pete Wheeler has served with the Georgia Department of Veteran Services since 1949 and as chairman of the National Veterans Day Committee since 1954. From the beginning of his work, he has served as a dedicated advocate and friend to veterans and their families. For his nearly 60 years of service, Commissioner Wheeler will be honored by the Veterans Council of the Golden Isles as "Veteran of the Century."

Pete was born in Albany, GA, in 1922. At the age of 20, he enlisted in the

Army as an infantry soldier just a year prior to his 1943 graduation from the University of Georgia. He married Geraldine Odenweller, and the couple raised three children: Chip, Jane Watkins, and Frances Jones. Pete and Geraldine are now the proud grandparents of six grandchildren.

After his graduation from John Marshall Law School in 1948 and his admission to the Georgia State Bar in 1949, Mr. Wheeler began his career with the Georgia Department of Veterans Services. He was appointed the Georgia chairman of the National Veterans Day Committee in 1954 and has served in the office for over 50 years. Commissioner Wheeler has worked on a wide spectrum of Veterans Affairs panels, associations and programs, but in addition to his civilian services, he retired in 1978 as a brigadier general from the Georgia Army National Guard.

Among State directors and commissioners, Pete is known as the "Dean of Veterans" because of his influential leadership in State and national veterans affairs. He served as president of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs from 1964 to 1965. Two years later, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Mr. Wheeler to the U.S. Veterans Advisory Commission. His national work has continued since then to include serving as chairman of the 1994 World War II Memorial Advisory Board commissioned by President Clinton and President Bush.

In addition to Mr. Wheeler's national influence in veterans affairs, Georgia is especially proud of Mr. Wheeler's work as State chairman. During his tenure, Mr. Wheeler worked tirelessly to assist veterans and their families throughout Georgia. He was instrumental in the development of innovative programs such as the "State Supermarket of Veterans Benefits", a one-stop information service on veterans' benefits, and the "Georgia Veterans Bulletin," a quarterly publication dedicated to keeping veterans and their families informed of law changes, benefits, and special events. Commissioner Wheeler also worked to found the Annual Service Officer School, an event which brings together veterans' benefit counselors and leaders from the State and National veterans groups and offices for veterans issues. Under Mr. Wheeler's leadership, Georgia is still the only State to provide free nursing home and domiciliary care to its eligible veterans. To honor past veterans, he has also helped to establish two veterans cemeteries, including the Georgia National Cemetery in Cherokee County.

Pete Wheeler has lived by his statement that "there is little that cannot be accomplished if one doesn't care who gets the credit." Considering his invaluable contributions to veterans and veterans affairs, it is no wonder that others are quick to pay tribute to Pete for much of what has been accomplished for Georgia veterans.

These tributes among many others, illustrate the tremendous impact of

Pete Wheeler's work in veterans affairs. His enduring dedication to his fellow veterans has shown through his nearly 60 years of service to the community, the State of Georgia, and the Nation. I am very proud to join the Georgia Department of Veterans' Services and the Veterans' Council of the Golden Isles in honoring Pete Wheeler as one of the century's finest examples of service to our Nation's veterans.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF LARIMORE, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 13-16, the residents of Larimore will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Founded in 1881 by Anthony Clark and named for Newell Green Larimore, Larimore is located just north of Grand Forks. Many of Clark's descendants still live in Larimore and are part of the tight knit community. Larimore's post office was established on October 31, 1881, with Lyman P. Goodhume as its postmaster.

Today, Larimore continues to thrive with a bustling downtown area that has a grocery store, a flower shop, and an appliance store. During the summer, citizens of Larimore head out to the Larimore Dam for swimming, boating, camping, and fishing. In the winter, the Men's Club of Larimore and the American Legion hold an annual ice fishing derby.

An annual highlight is the celebration of Larimore Days. Each year Larimore holds festivities that are meant to bring the community, family, and friends together. Larimore celebrates with parades, school reunions, and family events. This year, the 125th anniversary of the town will be held in conjunction with the Larimore Days celebrations.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Larimore, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Larimore and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Larimore that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Larimore has a proud past and a bright future.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEWBURG, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 8-9, the residents of Newburg will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Newburg is a vibrant community in northern North Dakota. Newburg was

established when the Great Northern Railroad built a station in the town and named it after an early settler to the area, Andrew Newburg. About a year after the railroad station opened, the town's post office was established. Newburg is also home to a local inventor and businessman, Frederick Sund. Sund began Sund Manufacturing Company, which employs many community residents.

Along with Sund Manufacturing Company, Newburg is home to several other businesses, many of which support farming business in the town and surrounding area. The town also has many recreational activities, including fishing and duck hunting. Guide services are available to assist wildlife enthusiasts in the area.

The residents of Newburg are proud of all of their accomplishments over the past 100 years and have planned a celebration that includes a parade, a car show, a variety show, a street dance with fireworks, a community-wide pot-luck meal, and an ecumenical church service.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Newburg, ND, and its residents on the first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Newburg and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Newburg that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Newburg has a proud past and a bright future.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF McVILLE, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 7-9, the residents of McVille will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

McVille is a small but welcoming community located in the northeastern part of North Dakota. In 1906, McVille, like many rural towns, relocated to a new townsite along the Great Northern Railroad. McVille has a rich history. It is one of the oldest settled areas in North Dakota outside of the Red River Valley. The name McVille was coined from the many families in the region whose surname began with "Mc."

Today, McVille is a great place for outdoor enthusiasts. McVille Dam offers great opportunities for sports fishermen, and is stocked with walleye, northern trout, large mouth bass, blue gills, and perch. McVille also hosts "McVille Days," an annual three-day community celebration that offers residents and visitors many fun and exciting activities to participate in.

McVille is a close-knit community that fosters unity and cooperation among its residents. The citizens of

McVille have many exciting events planned to celebrate their centennial, including a dance, art show, basketball tournament, pig race, canoe race, car show, golf tournament, and parade.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating McVille, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring McVille and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as McVille that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

McVille has a proud past and a bright future.●

MAX SCHUMACHER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY WITH THE INDIANAPOLIS INDIANS

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate an important milestone in the life of my fellow Hoosier, former classmate, and close friend, Max Schumacher. On July 15, I will have the opportunity to join Max's family and many friends in Indianapolis at Victory Field to celebrate his 50 years of important leadership with the Indianapolis Indians baseball team.

Since I came to know Max while we were both students at Shortridge High School, I have always been impressed by his commitment to leadership and public service. During our time at Shortridge, I admired his remarkable athletic and journalistic abilities. Max went on to study at Butler University where he was a member of the baseball team and editor of the school's newspaper, *The Collegian*. After receiving a bachelor of science degree in journalism in 1954, Max joined the U.S. Army, where he served until 1956. Butler recently recognized his accomplishments when he was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

For the past 50 years, Max has worked in several different capacities within the Indians organization, including ticket manager, publicity director, general manager, and now president and chairman of the board. His leadership has helped the Indians achieve 31 consecutive years of profits and business success. In 1988 Max received the John H. Johnson President's Award to recognize him as the individual who "best exemplifies the standards of a complete baseball franchise."

Another milestone of Max's leadership of the Indians was the opening of Victory Field 10 years ago. Fans from across the country have marveled at this beautifully modern facility, which has been recognized as one of the premier baseball stadiums in the country. Victory Field has been an important addition to downtown Indianapolis, enabling families to enjoy memorable experiences together in such a welcoming atmosphere.

Max's leadership in the Indianapolis community goes far beyond his work

with the Indians. Max has served as president of the Indianapolis Downtown Kiwanis Club, the Indianapolis Kiwanis Foundation board of directors, the board of directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Indianapolis, and is a member of the board of directors of the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce. As a recognition of this service, Governor Bowen named Max a "Sagamore of the Wabash" in 1980, and he was designated a member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels.

I also congratulate Max's wife Judy and their three children, who have been such an integral part of the Indians family for these many years. I was honored to be an usher in the wedding ceremony when Judy and Max were married, and Max was an usher when Charlene and I were married.

I appreciate this opportunity to congratulate my friend Max Schumacher, and I look forward to many more adventures with him, his family and friends, and the entire Indians organization as we cheer the Indians on to victory.●

HONORING A GREAT COLORADAN

● Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the work of a great Coloradan, Randy Rusk, and share some thoughts about the role that conservation easements can play in protecting Colorado's open spaces and rural way of life.

Mr. Rusk was recently named one of "15 People Who Make America Great" by *Newsweek Magazine* for the contributions he has made to the protection of Colorado's Wet Mountain Valley. The Wet Mountain Valley is near my own San Luis Valley in southern Colorado. It is known for its lush pastures, for the jagged mountains that flank it, and for the men and women who ranch its lands.

Mr. Rusk's family raises cattle on their 1,500 acres, but it would be a prime setting for second homes, 35-acre ranchettes, or a subdivision. Clearly he could sell his land to a developer if money was his primary concern, but Mr. Rusk would rather that his grandchildren be able to enjoy and work the ranch as he has.

As someone who comes from a ranching family, I can tell you, that ranchers generally don't like to be told what they can or can't do on their lands. But Mr. Rusk decided that the best way to protect his land was to put its development rights in a trust. With a conservation easement on his land, he can be certain that the property will remain intact in perpetuity.

Mr. Rusk has taken this idea beyond his own ranch and has convinced other ranchers in the Wet Mountain Valley to place conservation easements on their land, too. Some get reimbursed for parting with their land's development rights, while others simply donate them. Thanks to Mr. Rusk's leadership, around 11,000 acres of the Wet Mountain Valley will be protected from development.