

was followed by the FMC Red Team, led by Bob Knot. OCI Chemical's Blue Team, which was led by Gary Ruiz, placed fifth, and Solvay's Silver Team, which was led by Shawn Marshall, placed sixth.

These teams represent the best of southwest Wyoming's soda ash industry. The four companies that mine the mineral Trona in Wyoming account for 90 percent of the U.S. production of soda ash. Soda ash is a commodity required for the production of glass. It is also a very important export that accounts for \$500 million of our balance of trade.

I am very proud of this year's showing by our Wyoming soda ash industry in this competition. It is important to remember that although this is a competition, it is not a sport. The National Mine Safety Rescue Contest and other mine safety rescue contests are training events. They help prepare mine rescue teams so they are ready to act if they are ever called to deal with a situation that we hope will never occur.

When accidents happen, miners count on volunteer mine rescue teams to save them. Those mine rescue teams need to have the best resources available to them and the training they will need to be prepared for anything that may happen as they take on that important job. Mine rescue competitions play an important role in that effort by providing mine rescue teams with the kind of experience they will need if they are to perform at the highest level of efficiency in the event there is an emergency. They offer a chance for teams to improve their communication skills, to consider previously unforeseen problems, and to get feedback on their performance from contest judges.

Although these teams compete against each other in mine rescue contests, when a real world situation arises, they operate as one cohesive unit to affect a rescue. Each company can draw on the good will and collective expertise of the mine rescue teams to help bring miners in danger to safety. In the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation, the teams know that if there is a mine emergency, they will have the support they will need to bring the victims of the accident and their fellow rescue workers out of the mine and home to their families and loved ones.

In other words, while these companies compete in the marketplace and mine rescue teams compete in these contests, they will stand shoulder to shoulder should an accident occur at the mine.

I would like to include the names of each of the participants of our teams in southwest Wyoming who competed in the national mine rescue competition. Although I particularly want to congratulate the FMC White Team, the FMC Red Team, OCI Chemical's Blue Team, and Solvay's Silver Team, I congratulate and thank all those who participated. Your efforts continue to make a difference by making our mines

a safer place for all our Nation's miners to work.

The information follows.

FMC White Team: Leroy Hutchinson (Captain) (Benchman), Tony Herrera, Alan Jones (Gas), Robert Byers, Brad Roll, Bronson Berg, Vern Plantenberg, Mike Padilla (Team Trainer).

FMC White First Aid: Robert Byers, Bronson Berg, Vern Plantenberg.

FMC Red Team: Bob Knott (Captain), Mark Anderson, Rick Owens (Gas), Robert Pope, Bill Madura, Daniel Hellickson, Rod Knight (Benchman), Mike Padilla (Team Trainer), Dave Hutchinson (Team Trainer), Rick Steenberg (Official in Charge), Robert Pope, Mark Anderson, Bill Madura.

FMC Red First Aid: Robert Pope, Mark Anderson, Bill Madura.

General Chemical Blue: Jeff Downey (Captain), Doug Cox (Gas), Steve McKeehan, Mickey Smith, Willie Cederberg, Stan Owens, Terry Hansen, Leslie Wareham (Benchman), Keith Mullins (Team Trainer), David Graham (Official in Charge), Mickey Smith, Terry Hansen, Steve McKeehan.

General Chemical Blue First Aid: Mickey Smith, Terry Hansen, Steve McKeehan.

General Chemical Black: Alan Brewer (Captain), Byron Willingham, Lucas Coon (Gas), Curtiss Cooley, Jr., Steve Roberts, Tommy Graham, Ken Ball, Charles Beard (Benchman), John E. Sykes (Team Trainer), David Graham (Official in Charge), Steve McKeehan.

General Chemical Black First Aid: Byron Willingham, Steve Roberts, Curtiss Cooley, Jr.

OCI White Team: Jack J. Volsey II (Captain), Chuck Jones, Paul Larson (Gas), Ted Laughlin, Scott Counts, Kyle Butcher, Willy Moore (Benchman), Nathan Kendall, Matt Cummings (Team Trainer), Rick Terry (Team Trainer), Tim Musbach (Official in Charge).

OCI White First Aid: Chuck Jones, Ted Laughlin, Nathan Kendall.

OCI Blue Team: Gary Ruiz (Captain), Bill Mehle (Gas), Brent Skorcz, Blake Barney, Dennie Hughes (Benchman), Don O'Lexey, Richard Clark, Tyler Lovato, Rick Terry (Team Trainer), Matt Cummings (Team Trainer), Tim Musbach (Official in Charge).

OCI Blue First Aid: Blake Barney, Don O'Lexey, Dennie Hughes.

Solvay Silver Team: Shawn Marshall (Captain), Joe Thompson, Bob Clement, Scott Brown (Benchman), Gerald Maxfield (Gas), Brian Liscomb, Ryan Hansen, Dusty Martin, Jeff Tetmore (Team Trainer), John Angwin (Official in Charge).

Solvay Silver First Aid Team: Shawn Marshall, Joe Thompson, Dusty Martin.

Solvay Blue Team: Joe McDonald (Captain), Chad Rawlins (Gas), Kent Boman, Jamie McGillis, Jerry Huntington, Brian Quick, Jody Burgener, Dennis Hughes (Benchman), David Stevenson (Team Trainer), John Angwin (Official in Charge).

Solvay Blue First Aid Team: Joe McDonald, Kent Boman, Jamie McGillis.●

#### CREATIVE PLANTERS GARDEN CLUB

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I acknowledge the Creative Planters Garden Club of Louisiana. After the catastrophic destruction of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, this organization has dedicated itself to rebuilding the horticulture in Louisiana, and I would like to take a few moments to highlight their efforts.

Unfortunately, like many other citizens in south Louisiana, several mem-

bers of this organization lost their homes to the hurricanes that ravished our State in 2005. While many members of the Creative Planters Garden Club are rebuilding their livelihoods, they are also volunteering their time to rebuild their State. Their priorities include replacing landscape projects devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and replanting the rose garden in New Orleans Botanical Gardens in City Park. It is community involvement like this that enriches our State.

For more than 23 years the Creative Planters Garden Club has worked to enhance Louisiana communities by promoting civic stewardship and horticulture education. They have worked in conjunction with many State and local government agencies to teach and encourage gardening to children.

I applaud the members of the Creative Planters Garden Club of Louisiana for their continued service to the citizens of their community.●

#### REAR ADMIRAL MICHAEL K. LOOSE

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize and honor Rear Admiral Michael K. Loose for his exceptional achievement as Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command and Chief of Civil Engineers, from October 2003 to October 2006.

As Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, NAVFAC, Rear Admiral Loose led 17,000 civilian and military employees, executing an annual workload of \$10.6 billion supporting global contingency engineering operations, the Navy shore infrastructure, and systems command engineering and acquisition support. As the chief of civil engineers, he led Active and Reserve components of the Civil Engineer Corps community of over 2,000 officers and the enlisted Seabee community of over 20,000 sailors that jointly serve as the Navy's contingency and facilities engineering experts and comprise the Naval Construction Force of 22 battalions, 4 regiments, and other supporting units.

Upon assuming command of NAVFAC, Rear Admiral Loose quickly developed an overarching strategic plan that incorporated Department of Defense, Secretary of the Navy, and Chief of Naval Operations guiding principles. Building on this foundational document, and acutely focused on the critical imperative to dramatically reduce costs to support Sea Enterprise fleet recapitalization, improve service to joint/fleet operational commands, and align and single-up accountability, Rear Admiral Loose boldly conceptualized and implemented a dramatic restructuring and transformation of all components of NAVFAC—the most comprehensive and fundamental reorganization of the command since the Navy revamped the Bureau system more than three decades ago. As a direct result of his initiative and vision,