

a time to meet neighbors and celebrate the heritage of an entire area. Thompson Days features a parade, garden tour, dances, craft shows, classic car show, horseshoe tournament, and lots of other activities.

Mr. President, I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Thompson, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Thompson 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 Thompson that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Thompson has a proud past and a bright future.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE HAWTHORNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, Idahoans have a strong reputation for being staunchly patriotic and supporting our military men and women. I am proud to say that this patriotism has its roots even in our children, as evidenced by the recent penny drive held at Hawthorne Middle School in Pocatello, ID.

More than 500 seventh and eighth graders, with the help of teachers and administrators, raised \$1,000 over the course of 3 weeks to purchase special gifts for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. That \$1,000, mostly in change, required daily counting by the students and, from what I understand, taking it to the bank required multiple bags and boxes! In fact, 100,000 pennies weigh close to 700 lbs, so I am certain that it was a heavy deposit despite the fact that it wasn't all collected in pennies. This remarkable achievement and dedication to supporting our military overseas deserves recognition and congratulations. Hawthorne Middle school's success reflects a sense of civic duty and national pride, refreshing in middle school students in today's world. This is indicative of the influence of strong families and strong educators at this Idaho school. I commend them on their generosity and commitment to our troops, and present Hawthorne Middle School students, parents, and teachers as models of patriotism, civic duty, and selfless giving.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JEFF SINCLAIR

● Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Jeff Sinclair, an outstanding Scoutmaster in the State of Wisconsin who passed away October 25, 2006, after a brave battle with cancer.

Jeff's involvement with the Boy Scouts began in 1998, when he became a leader of St. Dominic's Cub Scout Pack 119. Beginning in 2001, he served as Scoutmaster for St. John Vianney's Boy Scout Troop 71, and despite his illness, he continued leading the group until his death.

During his tenure as Scoutmaster, Jeff mentored over 14 percent of his

Scouts—including both of his sons—to receive the Eagle Award, the highest rank attainable within the Boy Scouts. This is a stark contrast to the national average of 4 percent of Scouts who receive the award. Jeff's remarkable dedication and leadership to the group has earned him numerous awards and commendations, and I believe he deserves our recognition as well.

Jeff was also accepted as a member of the Boy Scout prestigious Order of the Arrow Honor Society, and his sons followed in his footsteps to attain the distinction. Clearly, not only did Jeff commit himself to serving others, but he inspired those around him to do the same.

Born on March 9, 1960, in Milwaukee to Dr. Eugene and Jean Sinclair, Jeff was an accomplished individual who dedicated himself to helping others. In 1983 he earned a business degree from Marquette University, and for the next several years, he used his skills and expertise to serve the State of Wisconsin through the Department of Revenue.

While Jeff was successful and well regarded in his career and throughout Boy Scouts, his greatest priorities were his family and his faith. A loving husband to wife Kathy and a dedicated father to four children—Matt, Andy, Maggie and Emma—Jeff found great joy in encouraging and supporting their endeavors. In addition to his devoted involvement with his sons' Boy Scout troop, Jeff often assisted with his daughters' soccer teams. He was also very active in his home parish, St. Dominic's.

On behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to remember Jeff Sinclair for his dedication to his family, church, and community. Undoubtedly, he was a great friend, mentor, and source of joy to countless individuals throughout the years, and he will be missed.

Mr. President, please join me in offering deepest sympathy to his wife, children, and parents. May they find peace and comfort knowing that Jeff's legacy of serving, teaching, and empowering others will last far into the future that this world is a better place because of him.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN R. GANTZ

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I recognize Dr. John R. Gantz for his 43 years of distinguished service to the United States of America. Dr. Gantz has provided faithful service to his Nation as a soldier, educator and as chief of the Troops to Teachers Program. A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Gantz earned a Bachelor of Science degree from East Stroudsburg University, a Master's Degree in Adult Education from George Washington University, and a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Southern California.

After serving in the infantry with the U.S. Army at Fort Dix, he taught mathematics and science for the Job Corps in New Jersey. He then began his

civil service career as an education adviser in Virginia, followed by two similar assignments in Korea. During this time, he has served as an education specialist, Headquarters Department of the Army; Director of Education, U.S. Army Southern European Task Force, Vicenza, Italy; Deputy Director of Education, U.S. Army Forces Command, Atlanta Georgia; and Deputy Director of the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support, DANTES.

In 1984, Dr. Gantz was selected as the DANTES European adviser. In this position, he provided guidance and training to education professionals supporting military personnel throughout the United States-European military commands. He has served on numerous advisory boards and been selected to participate in many national conferences as an expert in education programming. This year he was inducted into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame in Dallas, TX.

Since 1994, Dr. Gantz has been the first and only chief of the federally authorized Troops to Teachers Program. Under his dynamic and innovative leadership, over 9,000 servicemembers from the Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy have made the transition from military careers to become K-12 public education classroom teachers and school administrators. His superb dedication to develop a unique program that recruits special education, mathematics and science teachers for high-needs, low-income schools has provided countless students the benefit of learning with "real world" mentors and role models. His dedication to academic excellence, complete selflessness and visionary professionalism has brought great credit not only upon himself, but also upon the Troops to Teachers Program and public education everywhere.

I know my colleagues in the Senate join me in congratulating Dr. Gantz for his dedicated service to our country. He has made a significant difference in both the U.S. Army and as chief of the Troops to Teachers Program. Once again, I thank Dr. Gantz for his many years of devoted service.●

#### EBENEZER AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to congratulate an outstanding and historic church from my home State of Michigan. This year, Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church of Detroit, celebrates 135 years of service, learning and faith. This milestone provides the perfect opportunity to reflect on the rich history of this institution and to remember the many individuals who played an integral part in its success.

The name "Ebenezer" means "stone of help," and for 135 years, Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church has truly exemplified this meaning. Ebenezer was established by a small

congregation from Detroit's Colored Society under the leadership of Rev. Gee C. Booth on November 2, 1871, to serve as a safe harbor for newly freed slaves in Detroit. Rev. C.H. Ward served as the first pastor for 25 years. Three pastors from Ebenezer were elected to the office of Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church—Bishop George W. Baber served as pastor from 1933 until he was elected in 1944; Bishop Hubert Robison served as pastor from 1955 until he was elected in 1964; and Bishop Robert Thomas, Jr. served as pastor from 1972 until 1988. More recently, Rev. Robert L. Phillips, who served as pastor from 1991 until 1997, became presiding elder of the north district of the Michigan Annual Conference in 1997.

Throughout its history, Ebenezer served as an institution fully engaged in the fight for civil and human rights. Ebenezer has also worked with the community to make Detroit a better city through outreach ministries, community involvement and financial investments. In 1901, the church provided financial assistance to Henry Ford when he approached Ebenezer for support of endeavors to develop his automobile company. During the Depression, the church established an employment bureau and relief agency for families in need, and during WWII the congregation housed soldiers in the dorms of the former church building. Because of this rich history, in 2003, Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church was designated a historical site by the Detroit Historical Commission.

Today, Ebenezer strives to continue this rich history through a variety of ministries, including programs for young adults and the homeless, as well as substance abuse and prison ministries. Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church continues to stand as a "stone of help" under the leadership of Rev. Dr. H. Michael Lemmons. As the sixth oldest Black congregation in Detroit with members from four or more generations, Ebenezer is full of memories of great historical moments and faith that there are many more to come.

I know my Senate colleagues will join me in congratulating Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church and wish its members, volunteers and ministerial staff continued success as they celebrate their 135th anniversary. ●

#### RECOGNIZING THE THUNDERCHICKENS

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the ThunderChickens on winning the 2006 FIRST Robotics Competition. This is a tremendous accomplishment, and I am delighted to recognize the impressive result of their hard work, dedication, and commitment.

The For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology, FIRST, program provides aspiring engineers with an opportunity to develop and

showcase their talents by designing and implementing original robotic designs. Teams work together to build individual robots and compete against high school participants across the country. In total, 1,130 teams competed in the 2006 FIRST National Championship in Atlanta, GA.

I am proud to have this opportunity to honor the ThunderChickens, a metro-Detroit based engineering team made up of 38 high school students. Great skill, creativity, and originality went into their highly competitive robotic design. I would like to individually honor each member of the ThunderChickens and their mentors at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science, and Technology. The members of the 2006 ThunderChickens include Michael DelBene, Jessica Zavadil, Shannon Willaert, Gregory Petty, Annette Palazzolo, Jacob Miller, Joseph Guzzardo, Sara Craun, Nina Fabian, Kyle Yaxley, Stephanie Hastay, Sala Sadaps, Steven Perry, Joshua Bails, Brian Turoski, Irene Zhu, James Courtois, Tony Kraus, Michael Harrison, Ryan Boyle, Brett Ankawi, Michael Lee, Salvatore Mattered, Joseph Scharnitzke, Anthony Schuller, Michael Ross, Ashley VanMaldeghem, Shayna Kunz, David Orban, Paul Szymanski, Andrew Fonk, Gregory Lau, Aaron Vedolich, Brian Lademan, Mihai Bulic, Heather Hampton, Ed Lionte, and Chad Thornbro. Their teacher mentors include Ron Arscheene, Anita Stafford, Mike Attan, and Janet Kent. Their engineering mentors include Paul Copioli, Ed Debler, Bob Korson, Mike Copioli, Mike Beem, Jim Yaxley, Rick Thornbro, Omar Zrien and Bill Baedke.

This championship is a testament to and the result of many, many hours of hard work and perseverance. While the immediate result of their work is impressive, I look forward to the bright futures that are ahead of these students. They have established a solid foundation on which to develop their interest in the field of engineering. They have also gained invaluable, hands-on experience.

Once again, I would like to congratulate the ThunderChickens on their remarkable 2006 First Robotics Competition National Championship. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA SCOTT THOMAS

● Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, today, I honor an important Floridian and a proud American. Virginia Scott Thomas was a loving wife and mother, a passionate volunteer, and a trailblazer for women in Republican politics—I am very thankful that she was a constituent of mine. Sadly, she died this past month—but her legacy of hard work and dedication to good lives on.

Virginia Thomas should be commended for the work she put into creating the Bay County Republican Women's Club. As part of her volunteer

work for the Republican Party, Virginia Thomas opened her home to numerous GOP candidates—many of them to kick off their campaigns. Her energy and hospitality were well known, and Republicans from Ronald Reagan to Charlie Crist had the pleasure of being welcomed into her home. Candidates always spoke about their ideas and vision in front of her now-famous raised fireplace hearth and her warm hospitality made her many friends.

Before calling Florida home, Virginia Thomas, a Birmingham, AL, native, made history in her State. In 1943, she joined and became part of the first group of women Marines in the State of Alabama. She completed basic training in both South Carolina and Georgia and was then sent to the U.S. Marine Corps base in El Centro, CA, to serve as a supply officer. There in California, she met her future husband, Marine L.E. "Tommy" Thomas, and after the war ended, they headed for Birmingham. Eventually, she and her family moved to Florida, where Virginia Thomas became very active in their community.

Virginia Thomas will not be forgotten by the generations of Floridians that came to know her and her lively spirit. And because of her volunteerism and good work throughout more than 40 years in the Bay County area, she will be remembered long into the future. We will miss this good Floridian. Yet we know that her legacy will be carried on by her family and friends. The good works of Virginia Scott Thomas will live on. ●

#### RECOGNIZING LINKS, INC.

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I recognize the North Jersey Chapter of the Links, Inc.'s Linkages to Life Program, and honor the program participants for their hard work and dedication to raising awareness about the importance of blood, tissue, marrow, and organ donation among minority communities.

Each year, for the past 5 years, Links, Inc., in collaboration with Roche Pharmaceutical Company, conducted the Linkages to Life Program to help save lives by educating individuals of African descent about blood, tissue, marrow, and organ donation. With the help of a publication called Can We Talk? they were able to reach a large number of individuals, and educate them about how they can help save lives by being a volunteer donor. More specifically, the North Jersey Chapter provided important education services to individuals and families in Essex, Hudson, Bergen, and Passaic Counties.

Today, approximately 93,000 people are awaiting transplant surgery, and 25 percent of the people awaiting transplants are of African descent. In New Jersey, there are close to 3,000 individuals awaiting an organ transplant. Since organs are matched by a number of factors, including blood and tissue