

conferences and symposiums in the U.S. and Asia on political, economic, and security topics, and to host small, off-the-record meetings of American and Asian officials, businessmen and academic leaders providing a venue for free and open discussions and exchange of views.

Under Mrs. Kee's stewardship, the institute has successfully met its objectives, and I am confident that it will continue to do so under the tutelage of her successor. One of Mrs. Kee's most successful initiatives has been staff codels which she has organized and led. As an example, there were 70 staff codels with 800 senior congressional staff that traveled to China to meet and discuss issues with high government officials. This has facilitated mutual understanding, a core objective, and people-to-people diplomacy the benefits of which will continue to inure to our mutual benefit.

As Mrs. Kee retires from active leadership of the United States-Asia Institute, I have every confidence that she will continue to be active in the institute and United States-Asia relations as a valued adviser. On a personal level, I look forward to her continued counsel and advice.

Mahalo nui loa—thank you very much—Esther G. Kee, for all that you have done on behalf of our country in its continuing and important mission of promoting better understanding between the United States and Asia.●

CONGRATULATING JOSEPH M. DELL'OLIO

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I wish today to commend someone whom I have admired for my entire time in this body, a man who has committed his life to helping society's most vulnerable. Joe Dell'Olio, who is retiring after 35 years at Child, Incorporated, is a dedicated public servant in the true sense of the word.

Joe started at Child, Inc., of Wilmington after spending his early career fighting to reduce Delaware's crime rate. In 1972, after just 2 years as the executive director of the Delaware Agency to Reduce Crime, we saw the crime rate cut by 7 percent. As the head of the agency responsible for leading that fight, perhaps no one was due more credit than Joe.

Joe then joined Child, Inc. in 1973, the same year I was sworn in to the Senate. As executive vice president, he was responsible for the development and administration of a wide range of advocacy and service programs for victims of domestic violence and their families. Joe and I grew together as we fought to empower and protect victims of domestic violence in our community.

While I labored in the Senate to write and pass the Violence Against Women Act, Joe Dell'Olio was on the front lines in our battle. He was the one on the street or in the counseling room. He was the one securing legal help when victims could not afford it. And he was the one who made sure

someone was there when a victim had nowhere to go.

I consider the Violence Against Women Act my proudest legislative accomplishment. But the Joe Dell'Olios of the world are the ones who deserve the credit for our progress. Joe has received several awards, including some from the U.S. Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services.

Throughout my career, I have been privileged to work with some of the finest public servants our Nation has ever known, those who committed their lives to the greater good. None have been more unwaveringly focused on a worthy cause than has Joe Dell'Olio, even as he raised a loving family of his own. Joe's tireless sense of duty and his unrelenting service never cease to amaze me.

I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF LARKSPUR

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the 100th anniversary of the city of Larkspur, located in Marin County, CA.

The city of Larkspur was incorporated into the State of California on March 1, 1908. This year, we celebrate its centennial anniversary. With a downtown that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the architecture that defines the city of Larkspur has fascinated and charmed visitors for decades. Its historical structures and natural surroundings provide residents and visitors alike a glimpse of California the way it was at the start of the 20th century.

The city is divided into two distinct areas, with its historic downtown area to the west of Highway 101 and Larkspur Landing, an outdoor shopping area with sublime bay views, to the east of Highway 101. Just across the street from Larkspur Landing, travelers can catch the Larkspur Ferry to the San Francisco Ferry Building, a ride that offers spectacular views of Mount Tamalpais, Angel Island, and the Golden Gate Bridge. This outstanding natural scenery in the midst of such a finely preserved historical setting makes the slogan "Meet me in Larkspur" a common phrase amongst residents and visitors alike.

From the preservation of historic Magnolia Avenue to the conservation of the celebrated Blue Rock Inn, the city of Larkspur offers visitors a vibrant look at smalltown California as it was in the early 1900s. For 100 years, the city of Larkspur has not only served as a recreational escape and historical wonderland for those visiting the city but a place to call home for its more than 11,000 residents. I commend the city of Larkspur for maintaining the natural beauty and historical significance that defines this fine city.

The city of Larkspur's vision and commitment to protecting its small piece of California history should be commended. I congratulate the city of Larkspur for its hard work on this spe-

cial occasion, and I look forward to future generations having the opportunity to visit and enjoy this unique city.●

RETIREMENT OF CAROLYN DOWNS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the service of Carolyn Downs. She has tirelessly worked on behalf of the poor throughout her life, including many years of outstanding service as the director of The Banquet in Sioux Falls, SD. Carolyn has been committed to providing a safe place where people may gather to receive nourishment and fellowship.

Throughout her 20 years at The Banquet, Carolyn has touched the lives of innumerable needy individuals and families. Her devotion to feeding the hungry sets an example to the community of a life devoted to the betterment of people all over South Dakota. All of the guests that she has served have seen what is described as her cheerful strength.

Her work at The Banquet has not only touched the lives of the hungry but has given many South Dakotans an opportunity to volunteer and become involved in their community. Carolyn's work has brought out the best in people around her and is an inspiration to all of South Dakota.

Under her leadership, The Banquet turned into a vital resource center institution for the hungry and is one of the pillars of the Sioux Falls community. Her humility, grace, leadership skills, and humble service will be greatly missed when she retires. All of her work has not been for public praise or external reward but, rather, a deeply held belief in serving others. The State of South Dakota and all of its residents owe her a debt of gratitude for all that she had done to better it.

Carolyn will be retiring this February. Though her day-to-day presence at The Banquet will be greatly missed, her years of hard work are appreciated by all that volunteer and use The Banquet. I applaud Carolyn Downs's service and thank her for her time and efforts.●

TRIBUTE TO LABRADFORD EAGLE DEER

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to offer a statement about a distinguished South Dakota youth, LaBradford Eagle Deer. LaBradford, 16, of St. Francis, SD, was one of two teens who represented the United States at the United Nations' observation of the 20th International Day for the Eradication of Poverty last October. Six young people from across the world were chosen to speak at the event on a panel about what they thought needed to be done about poverty.

According to the United Nations' Web site, the U.N. General Assembly declared October 17 as the International Day for the Eradication of