

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN CELEBRATION OF REBECCA
WOOD WATKIN

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased and honored to salute my dear friend Rebecca, Becky, Wood Watkin as she celebrates her 95th birthday.

Born on April 4, 1913 in Portland, OR, Becky graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1933 and went on to the University of Pennsylvania to study architecture. Undeterred by the fact that the architecture department did not accept female students at that time, Becky completed all required courses, and became the first woman graduate in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1937. That same year, Becky relocated to San Francisco and applied at a variety of architectural firms, none of which wanted a woman in the drafting room. Despite her difficulties with finding employment in the male-dominated workforce, Becky persevered, earning her California architectural license in 1944.

A vanguard for aspiring women professionals everywhere, Becky opened her own architectural practice in Marin County in 1951. In the midst of these professional milestones, Becky also gave birth to three wonderful children. As a working mother, Becky looked for ways to use her personal and professional talents to help those in need, becoming a tremendous source of support and energy to causes that she believed helped the community, including the Ecumenical Housing Association and Planned Parenthood.

Mr. President, 1948 saw Becky enter the political realm for the first time, by fundraising for Roger Kent, a local Democratic candidate for Congress. This initial political activity 60 years ago spearheaded a lifelong involvement with Democratic politics, a passion of Becky's that allowed her to work on the presidential campaigns for Adlai Stevenson, John Kennedy, Eugene McCarthy, George McGovern, and Jimmy Carter.

Inspired by Becky's trailblazing story and her fervent belief in good government, I first met Becky in the 1960s as we worked together to end the Vietnam war. As a young working mother myself, Becky quickly became a deeply admired mentor. As the years passed and our friendship grew, she was instrumental in helping me move up the political ladder from the board of supervisors to the House of Representatives and then to the Senate.

As we celebrate the 95th year of her remarkably courageous and passionate life, I remain in admiration of Becky's strong sense of civic duty, honesty, integrity, and perseverance. Along with hundreds of her family, friends, and admirers, I wish her many more years of continued happiness.●

EL MALPAIS CONSERVATION AREA

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, the turn of the year marked the 20th year

the El Malpais Conservation area in western New Mexico has had the benefit of special Federal protection. Two decades ago with the help of the delegation, Congress passed legislation to ensure the protection of this culturally and geographically significant portion of New Mexico, while an amendment of mine allowed the nearby native tribes to continue to utilize the area for their traditional religious and cultural activities.

Located just south of Grants, between State highways 53 and 117, the El Malpais conservation area is unlike any other in the United States. This unique area is an important cultural resource for the pueblos of Acoma, Laguna, Zuni, and Ramah Navajo. El Malpais, meaning "the badlands," describes the hardened lava plains where molten rock once flowed thousands of years ago. The uneven cooling of these lava flows created many lava tube caves throughout the designation which now provide for a unique hiking experience. This exceptional conservation area also contains the West Malpais and Cebolla Wilderness areas, spectacular sandstone cliffs and canyons, and a habitat for a multitude of desert vegetation such as aspen, pine, juniper, fir, grasses and cacti. The El Malpais conservation area offers visitors guided tours, picnicking, camping, biking, and horseback riding in designated areas.

Last year I was able to help secure \$250,000 for the purchase of 200 acres of inholdings at the El Malpais national conservation area. This additional acreage is an important additional step to preserving the history and consolidating the varied landscapes contained within this one of a kind conservation area.

Our public lands are truly national treasures, and as such, they demand our most thoughtful management. The outdoors in New Mexico reminds us all of the things we hold so dear. I am proud to have played a role in ensuring the expansion and continued protection of El Malpais. This New Mexico treasure remains much the same as it did as so many years ago, and I am glad this will be the case for generations to come.●

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CENTER FOR DISABILITIES

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I congratulate the University of South Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences Center for Disabilities in Vermillion, SD, which will celebrate its 35th anniversary in 2008.

Started in September of 1973 as the Developmental Disabilities Evaluation Center, the Center for Disabilities has a long and distinguished history of providing training, service, information, and research not only to South Dakota but to the entire region. My wife Barbara worked on the DDEC staff during those initial years. Thirty-five years later, the school continues to serve

those needs of South Dakota through current projects, such as the Autism and Related Disorders Program, Birth to 3 Connections, Cheyenne River Reservation Rural Health Outreach Project, Deaf-Blind Program, Dietetic Internship, the Upper Midwest Public Health Training Center, and the Pine Ridge Developmental Clinic, which was established in 2008. The Center for Disabilities is also working with other States to provide service in projects such as the Four-State Consortium on Studies in the Prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effect and the Upper Midwest Public Health Training Center.

Over the last 35 years, the University of South Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences Center for Disabilities has provided quality services to the people of South Dakota. Their goal, to help those with disabilities live without limitations, has been demonstrated through the citizens with whom they have worked. Those ideals have also been carried out by the students who have graduated and gone on to excel in their careers.

Not only has this center encouraged learning and research, but the University of South Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences Center for Disabilities also strives to bring together communities. Indeed, one of the core functions of the center is community education. The center works to provide training and assistance, not only to individuals with disabilities and their families, but also to professionals, paraprofessionals, policymakers, students, and any member of the community who chooses to get involved.

I am proud to honor the University of South Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences Center for Disabilities for its 35 years of outstanding service. It is an honor for me to share with my colleagues the exemplary leadership and strong commitment to education and research the University of South Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences Center for Disabilities has provided. I strongly commend their years of hard work and dedication, and I am very pleased that their substantial efforts are being publicly honored and celebrated.●

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to publicly commend the University of South Dakota women's basketball team for their great season, and their 2nd place finish in the 2008 NCAA Division II Women's Basketball tournament.

The USD women's basketball team has worked especially hard this last year, to reach the Division II championship game. All South Dakotans are extremely proud of their wonderful efforts and achievements in going so far.

They finished with a 33-2 record, won the North Central Conference with a