

block—which in turn, elected him to serve as the first nonfraternity student body president in the school's nearly 200 year history.

After college, his passion for the law took him to Yale Law School, in my home State of Connecticut. His legal education was interrupted by his distinguished service to the United States in the Pacific during World War II. Upon finishing his degree, he became active in the U.S. labor movement. He and his wife and partner in social activism, Patricia, had the opportunity to travel the United States and Europe studying unions and the labor movements that were beginning to gain steam and become a force in politics and society all across the globe. As a young labor attorney he worked to organize some of Connecticut's first municipal unions, and also served as an attorney for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

At the ripe old age of 36 he became Hartford Corporation counsel, which launched a career in public service that continued until 1980. He served on the Hartford City Council from 1959 until 1968, and in 1969 was elected to represent Hartford in the Connecticut General Assembly. During his time on the council and in the general assembly, George worked to highlight and pursue progressive solutions to issues that were not yet part of mainstream concerns; from civil rights, to elder and juvenile justice, to government accountability, and of course, working to provide equal opportunities for all.

He was truly a pioneer when it came to raising concerns about and finding solutions to address the issue of civil rights and equal opportunities. In fact, in the early 1960s—prior to the passage of the Civil Rights Act—he and Patricia started the Connecticut Housing Investment Fund to help finance minority home-ownership and integrated housing. This organization became a model for subsequent national programs to support affordable housing.

Throughout his career he fought tirelessly for the rights of workers, and the advancement of housing, employment, and other opportunities for minorities—including by recruiting and managing the campaigns of the first minority candidates for the Hartford City Council and Board of Education.

He was also the first man ever appointed to Connecticut's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, an honor that always gave him a smile, and spoke volumes of his commitment to equal opportunities for all Americans.

Even outside of public life, George continued to work to help others. After retiring from the general assembly in 1980, he cofounded the Independent Energy Corporation. One of the projects of Independent Energy helped to streamline the electricity usage of the largest business in the Caribbean region. The electricity savings from that one business helped to lower the foreign exchange bill of the entire nation

of Jamaica—a truly notable achievement.

By any measure, the life of George Ritter was an utter success. In business, in public life, and as the loving father of five children, George led a life of principle and purpose. His work benefited his community and helped to expand opportunities for the less fortunate.

Even though he has passed, George's spirit of public service lives on. His sons Thomas and John have both served in the State legislature, and his grandson Matt is a member of the Hartford City Council and is running to fill the general assembly seat George once held.

I am confident they will continue to build on George's legacy, and am proud to call them my constituents. I wish them the best of luck, and hope that they will continue to pass George's values and character on for generations to come.●

FAITH, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the 100th anniversary of Faith, SD. Faith is a strong community, and I am proud to represent them.

When the railroad announced its plan to settle a community at the edge of the Cheyenne Sioux Indian Reservation, settlers rushed to the area. Businesses sprung up before the town was officially mapped out. The railroad decided to plot the town south of the tracks so the town would expand into Meade County. Even after the drought in 1911, Faith continued to grow, making changes to its approach to farming and ranching. When the water supply was low in 1946, the town began shipping in water from Mobridge, and started constructing a water filtration plant. Faith is also known for the 1990 discovery of Sue, the most complete and best preserved Tyrannosaurus rex ever found. Sue is now on display at the Field Museum in South Dakota.

One hundred years after its founding, Faith holds its history close while continually looking to the future, demonstrating what is great about South Dakota, and why I am proud to call this great State home.●

FEDORA, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I honor the community of Fedora, SD, and to recognize the 125th Territorial Day. Situated in Miner County, Fedora is a testament to the great State of South Dakota.

From its beginnings, agriculture and small businesses have played an instrumental role in the livelihood of Fedora. Fedora was originally named after the daughter of a founding railroad executive. Upon the completion of the railroad, the town of Fedora slowly flourished. A creamery, grocery store and the Farmers Purchasing and Shipping Company gradually urbanized the

town's landscape. Over time, small businesses have come and gone, however, the town's bond to agriculture is unwavering.

The 125th anniversary celebration will be held July 24, 2010, kicking off with Ghost Parade. More activities include a road race, Jaws of Life demonstration, antique/history display, supper pie auction and a dance. People of all ages will be able to take part in the day's activities.

I am proud to publicly congratulate the community on this achievement. As the people of Fedora take this opportunity to appreciate and reflect on how far the town has come from its beginnings, I know they understand the important role Fedora plays in making South Dakota a great State to live.●

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR QUASQUICENTENNIAL

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is with great honor that today I recognize the 125th anniversary of the South Dakota State Fair. This quasquicentennial is meaningful to the citizens of South Dakota, as many visit this event each year for entertainment, competition and great company. Whether it is the 4-H competitions, carnival rides, live music, informational booths or the many commercial vendors there is something for everyone at the State fair.

From its humble beginnings, the State fair started with only 85 acres of land that was deeded to the State of South Dakota by the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company for \$50,000. With time, the fair grew as the South Dakota population grew. More land has been purchased, buildings have been constructed, and several improvements have been made. Today, the grounds host a wide range of buildings from the 4-H livestock complex to grandstands. Although changes have been made to fair ground's landscape since its founding, the South Dakota State Fair has stayed true to its mission, which is to have the fairgrounds be seen as a successful year-round, family-friendly venue that showcases youth, achievement, agriculture and community.

September 2-6, 2010, South Dakotans from across the State will gather at the State fairgrounds in Huron to celebrate 125 years of our State's history. With live entertainment, livestock events, the South Dakota Outdoor Expo, and more, all ages will celebrate in the day's activities. I hope this celebration gives our citizens a chance to reflect on our shared State history, as well as our promising future.

As frequent visitor to the South Dakota State Fair, I congratulate the South Dakota State Fair on reaching this monumental anniversary, and I look forward to the future as the fair continues to prosper.●