the District of Columbia. The assistance Congress provided to this home during its early years stands today as a strong example of ways Congress can show support and lend short-term assistance to help an organization get its legs. By 1906, the trustees believed the home could manage without Federal assistance, and the congressional appropriation was discontinued Today the home remains a self-sustaining organization funded through endowments and residents.

Today, Thompson-Markward Hall also remains, true to its founding principles, a safe, comfortable, moderately-priced place for young women to live when studying or establishing careers in Washington. Retaining the spirit of Mary G. Wilkinson's founding intentions, Thompson-Markward Hall has earned a reputation as a special place for its residents, helping equip them with a strong foundation for developing lifelong friendships and fostering a deep regard for Washington, DC, and the opportunities the city offers.

As Thompson-Markward Hall celebrates another important milestone in its history, it is important that we recognize and congratulate this organization and especially the many talented individuals who have worked hard and given of their time and talents to help found this residence and now work to maintain and further its rich legacy. It is the efforts of all of these individuals, and especially Mar G. Wilkinson, Bessie J. Kibbey, Flora Markward Thompson, and past and present. Board of Trustee members and staff, who have helped make Thompson-Markward Hall a wonderful housing option for thousands of young women.●

RECOGNIZING TEXAS CENTER FOR SUPERCONDUCTIVITY

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, today, the Texas Center for Superconductivity at the University of Houston (TCSUH) commemorates 25 years of achievements following the discovery of the High Temperature Superconductor YBCO by Dr. Paul C. W. Chu and colleagues in 1987 and the establishment the Center by the State of Texas.

With ongoing support from the State, the Center has continued to grow in size and in the breadth of its programs which include basic and applied research, technology development and transfer and advanced education and training. TCSUH maintains an infrastructure that supports the interdisciplinary research and education that is necessary to advance new fields and accelerate scientific discovery.

I am intensely committed to investing in science and research and Texas' place at the top of that ladder. In 2004, I worked to create TAMEST The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas a vehicle for Texas institutions to share knowledge and research, to know what others in the scientific fields were working on. Today, with better information sharing, Texas has gone from sixth to third as a recipient of Federal research funding.

Science and technology are critical to the future growth and prosperity of our country. America must continue to prioritize scientific research and technological development that fuels our economy, creates jobs, improves health care and helps to promote our national security and global leadership.

This is incredibly important to both Texas and America. Since World War II, more than half of US economic growth can be attributed to technological innovation; part of this is a direct result of Federal investment in science and technology.

Texas' world-class research institutions and university-based innovation centers like TCSUH bring new technology and research together with savvy entrepreneurs, creating new businesses and, most important, creating jobs.

TCSUH contributes to the goals of strengthening the prominence of Texas as a national research leader by attracting top quality researchers to the State, educating the next generation of scientists and engineers, and building links with industry to commercialize new technologies and create quality jobs.

I congratulate Dr. Chu and his colleagues at TCSUH on this important occasion and extend my best wishes to all for many more years of continued success.●

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF DAKOTA RURAL ACTION

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Dakota Rural Action. I am proud to honor the members and stakeholders involved in Dakota Rural Action and extend my congratulations to them on this memorable occasion.

Dakota Rural Action is a local, grassroots organization that exhibits leadership through community organizing. They strive to give South Dakotans a strong voice by working with local, State, and Federal Government officials on issues and decisions involving family agriculture, conservation, and overall quality of life. The members of DRA were also early vocal advocates of my Country-of-Origin Labeling, COOL, law, which has enabled consumers to access information about where their food is coming from and enabled producers to get a better price for their products.

The Dakota Rural Action organization started in 1985 as a steering committee called the South Dakota Rural Organizing Project. The committee was tasked with finding substantive and effective ways to organize citizens on a grassroots level, largely due to the farm crisis of the late 1980s. When the need for a more sustained, long-term organization became evident, Dakota Rural Action was formally created. The founding members wanted to create a nonprofit, nonpartisan, community-driven organization that focused on the causes and larger issues affecting rural America, rather than just the effects of the farm crisis. On January 10, 1987, Dakota Rural Action held its first meeting in Brookings, SD, to adopt bylaws and an organizational structure, set membership dues, and to establish an issue platform.

Today, Dakota Rural Action remains a vibrant, statewide network of six chapters. They celebrated their 25th anniversary at their annual meeting in Brookings, SD on November 9 and 10, 2012. It is a great privilege for me to recognize Dakota Rural Action's 25 years of service to South Dakotans, as well as their continuing commitment to the issues and causes that affect South Dakota and rural areas across the Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE MODRICK

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Mike Modrick of Rapid City, SD. Mike, a recognized television personality in western South Dakota, is celebrating 25 years on October 26, 2012, as a meteorologist at KOTA Territory News and 30 years in weather forecasting. Mike is a graduate of Iowa State University with a bachelor of science degree in meteorology and a degree in speech. Shortly after graduating, Mike made his way to the beautiful, yet markedly unpredictable climate of western South Dakota where he has provided important safety and weather communications to the people of South Dakota for 25 years.

Mike has received the Seal of Approval for Television Weathercasting from the American Meteorological Society, which is considered the most prestigious award in weather broadcasting. His dedication to timely, reliable forecasting across western South Dakota is indicative of his passion and commitment to the safety of all South Dakotans. As Mike celebrates his silver anniversary with KOTA, it is my pleasure to thank him for his service.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. DUANE MEYER

● Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Dr. Duane Meyer, historian, educator, author, former university president and my friend. Fittingly, the Greene County Historical Society honored Dr. Meyer in October with its Life Time Achievement Award for his body of work enriching Missouri's educational, historical and cultural life.

Dr. Meyer, through his dedication, is recognized as one of Missouri's most distinguished historians. Dr. Meyer served as a teacher for 18 years and as an administrator for 22 years (1971–1983 as president of what is today Missouri State University). He arrived in Springfield in 1955 with a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. Dr. Meyer began his career as an assistant professor of history and later became a