

the certification process. Any submission under section 105(a) made after that date, however, may be received too late to be included.●

#### THE 21ST ANNUAL UKRAINIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

● Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, our country is a remarkable mosaic—a mixture of races, languages, ethnicities, and religions—that grows increasingly diverse with each passing year. Nowhere is this incredible diversity more evident than in the State of New Jersey. In New Jersey, schoolchildren come from families that speak 120 different languages at home. These different languages are used in over 1.4 million homes in my State. I have always believed that one of the United States greatest strengths is the diversity of the people that make up its citizenry and I am proud to call the attention of my colleagues to an event in New Jersey that celebrates the importance of the diversity that is a part of America's collective heritage.

On Saturday, September 23, 1995, the Garden State Arts Center in Holmdel, NJ, will celebrate the next in its series of 1995 Fall Heritage Festivals. The Heritage Festival Program salutes some of the different ethnic communities that contribute so greatly to New Jersey's diverse makeup. Highlighting old country customs and culture, the festival programs are an opportunity to express pride in the ethnic backgrounds that are a part of our collective heritage. Additionally, the Fall Heritage Festivals contribute proceeds from their programs to the Garden State Arts Center's Cultural Center Fund which presents theater productions free-of-charge to New Jersey's schoolchildren, seniors, and other deserving residents. The Heritage Festival thus not only pays tribute to the cultural influences from our past, it also makes a significant contribution to our present day cultural activities.

On Saturday, September 23, 1995, the Heritage Festival Series will celebrate the 21st Annual Ukrainian Heritage Festival. Chaired by Oksana Korduba, this year's event focuses on the road to democracy and economic reform for the Ukraine. It is fitting that the Ukrainian Heritage Festival follows so closely on the heels of the fourth anniversary of Ukrainian independence. Upon gaining independence, Ukraine has worked diligently for both economic reform and democracy. In particular, Ukraine has taken significant steps to reform its economy by working to stabilize inflation, liberalize prices, and privatize industries. Further, through the creation and continued improvement of a constitutional framework, Ukraine is developing its own strong democratic tradition.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to pay tribute to the Ukrainian-American community. During the long years when Ukraine suffered under foreign control, Ukrainian-Americans

helped keep alive Ukraine's culture and traditions. The Garden State Arts Center's Ukrainian Heritage Festival, with its celebration of food, crafts, music, sports, and traditional folk dancing, preserves Ukrainian culture for all generations.

On behalf of all New Jerseyans of Ukrainian descent I offer my congratulations on the occasion of the 21st Ukrainian Heritage Festival.●

#### GRATITUDE TO ELLEN SHAFFER

● Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD the text of a letter to Ellen Shaffer expressing my gratitude for her service as a member of my staff since 1992.

The letter follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, September 20, 1995.

MS. ELLEN R. SHAFFER  
807 Arrington Drive, Silver Spring, MD.

DEAR ELLEN: I want to express to you my deep gratitude and appreciation for your contributions to my overall efforts to improve health care for people, and in particular to national health care reform legislation, during your tenure with my office. As my principal legislative assistant for national health policy since January 1992, you have worked tirelessly on this subject with great knowledge and skill.

Because of your long experience in this area, you were able to craft the American Health Security Act, my legislative proposal for a national single payer health care system. You worked diligently with the organizations supporting the bill, and, as a result, they became important participants in advancing our proposal. As a result of your expertise and writing skills, we were able to propose and have published in the New England Journal of Medicine an outstanding piece on the merits of a single payer approach to national health care reform.

I, along with Senator Domenici, was able to lead effectively the Senate's Working Group on Mental Health as a direct result of your strategic skills and your ability to establish a coalition among those parties having diverse views. Similarly, you were instrumental in working with the American Medical Association to develop the legislation known as the Patient Protection Act, a measure which enabled me to fulfill my role as an advocate for health care consumers.

I greatly valued your skills at financial analysis and your ability to expand quickly those skills, which were so critical to our work on health care legislation, and your successful efforts to communicate the merits of our legislative work through the media to the public at large.

Ellen, I have often said in public that your brilliance and dedication led people to believe that I had a health care staff of ten. I consider myself enormously fortunate that you have been my health care staff of one—supplemented, certainly, by the excellent contributions of talented fellows with whom you collaborated in our office. I wish you well in your future endeavors, and I look forward to continuing to see the positive results of the work we have done together.

Sincerely,

PAUL WELLSTONE●

#### INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S WISH WEEK

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise in recognition of the week of November

26–December 2 as International Children's Wish Week.

Children's Wish Foundation International, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Atlanta, GA, has expressed as its mission to provide seriously ill children of every origin, race, creed, religion, or economic status the experience of a lifetime by fulfilling his or her favorite wish; and

Children's Wish Foundation International includes the immediate family in the wish experience in order to provide them with special memories to help counter the last images of doctors, hospitals, and suffering; and

Children's Wish Foundation International has provided invaluable wish experiences for seriously ill children of the State of Michigan; and

International Children's Wish Week will provide a forum to publicly acknowledge the courage of these children and their families while giving others the opportunity to become involved with this important cause. I cannot think of a more meritorious undertaking; this organization is focused on bringing the wonders of life to those whose daily living is in question. The efforts of the Children's Wish Foundation have well earned this special recognition.

Therefore, I hope the people of Michigan will join me in recognizing November 26–December 2, 1995 as International Children's Wish Week in our State.●

#### THE 20TH ANNUAL SLOVAK HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, our country is a remarkable mosaic—a mixture of races, languages, ethnicities and religions—that grows increasingly diverse with each passing year. Nowhere is this incredible diversity more evident than in the State of New Jersey. In New Jersey, schoolchildren come from families that speak 120 different languages at home. These different languages are used in over 1.4 million homes in my State. I have always believed that one of the United States greatest strengths is the diversity of the people that make up its citizenry and I am proud to call the attention of my colleagues to an event in New Jersey that celebrates the importance of the diversity that is a part of America's collective heritage.

On September 24, 1995, the Garden State Arts Center in Holmdel, NJ will celebrate its 20th Annual Slovak Heritage Festival. The heritage festival program will salute one of the many different ethnic communities that contribute so greatly to New Jersey's diverse makeup. Highlighting old country customs and culture, the festival programs are an opportunity to express pride in the ethnic backgrounds that are a part of our collective heritage. The Slovak Heritage Festival will highlight many aspects of the Slovak culture ranging from business to religion. Additionally, the 20th Annual