

Maryland's agricultural industry truly helps the State live up to its often used nickname, "America in miniature." From vegetable production and horticulture in southern Maryland, to the dairy operations and horse farms of central Maryland, to the beef cattle, forestry products and tree fruit in western Maryland, to poultry growing on the eastern shore, Maryland agriculture is indeed diverse and provides a showcase for the nation's agricultural capabilities.

Mr. President, we in Maryland and our nation are very proud of our agricultural industry. There is still much work to be done to ensure a bright future for America's farmers, but as this week's theme suggests, through a strong commitment at all levels of government—together—we can help continue to build such a future.

#### TRIBUTE TO CAPITOL LIONS CLUB

• Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, ever since the pioneer days, when entire communities would gather to help in the building of a barn, Oregon has had a rich tradition of neighbor helping neighbor. This heritage of neighbor helping neighbor is alive and well in countless Oregon cities and towns.

I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding example of the difference that can be made through volunteerism. The Capitol Lions Club, along with other Lions Clubs in the Salem-Keizer area, are helping our young people learn about patriotism through a project where small flags are presented to first-grade students.

Capitol Club members buy lumber, cut it into small blocks, drill holes in the blocks, put Lions' decals on them, and place small 4- by 6-inch flags in them. Lions members then go in to classrooms, to present the flag to students, along with a presentation on the importance of a flag, and a brochure on flag history and etiquette.

This year, 2,575 first-graders and their teachers in Oregon public and private schools will benefit from this outstanding program. As one Salem first grade teacher said, "The children are very excited to have their own little flags to take home. They have their special little places for them, I know that it is still real important to them."

Mr. President, I'm proud to be one of those Americans who feel something stir in my heart everytime I see our flag flying in the wind. What better way to ensure a bright future for our country than by ensuring that the timeless value of patriotism is alive and well in our young people.

Mr. President, I am proud to salute the Capitol Lions Club of Salem, OR, for a job well done. I ask that an article from the Salem Statesman-Journal detailing this project be printed in the RECORD, in the hopes that other organizations around the country might undertake a similar project.

The article follows:

#### LIONS CLUB OFFERS LESSON ON FLAGS

(By Hank Arends)

The members of area Lions clubs have a community project that they believe is worth saluting.

For more years than anyone can remember, club members annually have presented a program on the U.S. flag to first-graders. They give the students their own flag on a wooden base with the Lion's insignia and a brochure on flag history and etiquette.

This year, 2,575 first-graders and their teachers in area public and private schools received the 4-by-6-inch flags, said Ralph Jackson, community coordinator. And the kids loved them.

"They were very excited to have their own little flags to take home," said Katie Keisey, a first-grade teacher at Lake Labish Elementary School.

"They have their special little places at home for them. I know that it is still real important to them."

Those who do the distribution love it, too. "It makes me feel so good that those little kids were so receptive," said Viola Laudon of the Keizer club.

"They give us such comments as, 'Oh, I love you. Thank you for the flag. I'm taking good care of my flag.'" Laudon said of a large card she received from students at the Keizer Christian School.

"This is an idea that started in Arizona, and somehow we heard about it and thought it might be OK," Jackson said.

The club members try to make their school visits in February, around the birthdays of presidents Washington and Lincoln.

The local clubs and a lot of others get their flag sets from the Capitol Lions Club. Joe Carson is chairman of the production and marketing of 26,000 to 27,000 flags a year in Oregon and as far away as Pennsylvania.

"It is kind of an Americanization project. We came up with the idea 15 to 17 years ago as a fund-raising project," Carson said.

The Capitol members sell the sets at 65 cents each to other clubs and make \$6,000 to \$7,000 annually for such Lion's projects as assistance to the hearing impaired and blind, Carson said.

Capitol Club members buy the lumber, cut it into small blocks, drill the holes, put Lion's decals on them and finish them. They also reproduce the brochure that goes with each set.

The participating clubs are Capitol, Keizer, Salem Downtown, Northeast, South Salem and West Salem. Frank VonBorstel was area chairman of the flag distribution for at least 10 years.

"We want to interest the young people and provide the chance for them to learn something about patriotism and the flag," VonBorstel said.

Lion Kelly Freels tells of Lions members who served in the Korean War and try to tell the first-graders what the flag means to them.

"They tell them how when they came back to base and saw the U.S. flag flying, they knew they were safe. It also gives us an opportunity to get out in the schools and see what is going on," Freels said. •

#### KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, From 1950 to 1953, the United States was in the midst of a bitter war on the Korean peninsula. As the inscription at the base of the Korean War Memorial says, our Nation's sons and daughters answered the call "to defend a country they never knew and a people they

never met." And they did so honorably. Today, though, the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice is honored once again.

Earlier today, the Korean War Veterans Memorial Honor Roll Kiosk was officially unveiled in a ceremony by representatives of the American Battle Monuments Commission, the National Parks Service, the Samsung Group, and IBM. The Honor Roll Kiosk houses a high technology interactive computer base which contains all the verifiable names from the Korean war theater of those killed in action, still listed as missing in action, and those captured as prisoners of war. Touch screens allow visitors, friends, and family to research the service record of their loved one, and obtain a certificate of honor in the name of that soldier. This was made possible in large part through the generous donation from the Samsung group of companies.

As part of the July 1995 Korean War Veterans Memorial dedication ceremonies, Samsung made a significant contribution to the memorial fund. It was with great honor and appreciation that Samsung recognized the sacrifice and commitment of the United States to the security of the Korean peninsula. It is a commitment America maintains today. We have worked together to establish close relations in defense of common principles and it is because of these shared beliefs that the United States and South Korea remain partners in peace today.

In addition to contributing to the memorial, Samsung also created an educational endowment with the American Legion. Their gift of \$5 million to the American Legion will be used to fund collegiate scholarships for the descendants of America's veterans. I commend and congratulate Samsung on their generosity and willingness to recognize the origin in which their success today is rooted. I am proud to have their North American headquarters located in Ridgefield Park, NJ. Lastly, I recognize the honor and dignity with which America's service men and women fought on the harsh Korean field of combat. As the dedication ceremonies remind us, your service—and your sacrifice—was not forgotten.

#### PATIENT RIGHT TO KNOW

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this week my colleagues, Senators KYL, KENNEDY and HUTCHINSON, and I have introduced S. 449, the Patient Right to Know Act of 1997. This legislation outlaws so-called gags in contracts between managed care companies and their licensed practitioners which have limited what doctors can tell patients about their medical condition and all treatment appropriate to their care.

Plain and simple, such gags have been used to limit appropriate medical care. While this is a dollars-and-cents issue for health care organizations and insurers, for patients and their doctors