

KEVN-TV aired a live fundraiser that collected over \$53,000 for flood victims in Grand Forks. Many families escaped rising flood waters in the dead of night, often with only the clothes on their back, and ultimately lost everything in their homes. The money donated by KEVN-TV viewers will help families rebuild their lives.

While those of us from the Midwest will never forget the destruction wrought by this year's floods, I have been heartened to witness firsthand and hear accounts of South Dakotans coming together within their community to protect homes, farms, and entire towns from rising floodwaters. The selfless actions of the individuals at KEVN-TV illustrate the resolve within South Dakotans to help our neighbors in times of trouble.

Mr. President, there is much more to be done to rebuild and repair Grand Forks and other impacted communities. The individuals at KEVN-TV in Rapid City illustrate how the actions of a community can bring some relief to the victims of this natural disaster, and I ask you to join me in thanking them for their selfless efforts.●

#### RECOGNITION OF KOTA RADIO'S ASSISTANCE DURING THE FLOODS OF 1997

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize the important work of individuals at KOTA Radio in Rapid City, SD, in ongoing flood recovery efforts in the Dakotas.

Early this year, residents of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota experienced relentless snowstorms and bitterly cold temperatures. Snowdrifts as high as buildings, roads with only one lane cleared, homes without heat for days, hundreds of thousands of dead livestock, and schools closed for a week at a time were commonplace. As if surviving the severe winter cold was not challenge enough, residents of the Upper Midwest could hardly imagine the extent of damage Mother Nature had yet to inflict with a 500-year flood. Record levels on the Big Sioux River and Lake Kampeska forced over 5,000 residents of Watertown, SD, to evacuate their homes and left over one-third of the city without sewer and water for 3 weeks. The city of Bruce, SD, was completely underwater when record low temperatures turned swollen streams into sheets of ice.

The 50,000 residents of Grand Forks, ND, and 10,000 residents of East Grand Forks, MN, were forced to leave their homes and businesses as the Red River overwhelmed their cities in April. The devastation was astounding; an entire city underwater and a fire that gutted a majority of Grand Forks' downtown. Residents of both cities recently were allowed to return to what is left of their homes, and the long and difficult process of rebuilding shattered lives is just beginning.

KOTA Radio aired a live, 2-day fundraiser that collected over \$16,000 for flood victims in Grand Forks. Many families escaped rising flood waters in the dead of night, often with only the clothes on their back, and ultimately lost everything in their homes. The money donated by KOTA listeners will help families rebuild their lives.

While those of us from the Midwest will never forget the destruction wrought by this year's floods, I have been heartened to witness first-hand and hear accounts of South Dakotans coming together within their community to protect homes, farms, and entire towns from rising flood waters. The selfless actions of the individuals at KOTA Radio illustrate the resolve within South Dakotans to help our neighbors in times of trouble.

Mr. President, there is much more to be done to rebuild and repair Grand Forks and other impacted communities. The individuals at KOTA Radio in Rapid City illustrate how the actions of a community can bring some relief to the victims of this natural disaster, and I ask you to join me in thanking them for their selfless efforts.●

#### RECOGNITION OF EMM BAUMAN AND BETA SIGMA PHI'S ASSISTANCE DURING THE FLOODS OF 1997

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize the important work of Emm Bauman and Rapid City's Beta Sigma Phi chapters in ongoing flood recovery efforts in the Dakotas.

Early this year, residents of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota experienced relentless snowstorms and bitterly cold temperatures. Snowdrifts as high as buildings, roads with only one lane cleared, homes without heat for days, hundreds of thousands of dead livestock, and schools closed for a week at a time were commonplace. As if surviving the severe winter cold was not challenge enough, residents of the Upper Midwest could hardly imagine the extent of damage Mother Nature had yet to inflict with a 500-year flood. Record levels on the Big Sioux River and Lake Kampeska forced over 5,000 residents of Watertown, SD, to evacuate their homes and left over one-third of the city without sewer and water for 3 weeks. The city of Bruce, SD, was completely underwater when record low temperatures turned swollen streams into sheets of ice.

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Emm Bauman initiated a series of coffee parties in Aberdeen 25 years ago that raised \$5,000 for victims of the flash flood that killed hundreds of people in Rapid City, SD. Each participant paid a minimum of \$1 and then hosted a smaller party of her own until there was no one left to host. Once again, Emm mobilized fellow members of Beta Sigma Phi to host a series of Friendship Vanishing Coffee Parties in hopes of raising another \$5,000 for Grand Forks flood victims. The money will help families who lost everything in the devastating floods rebuild their lives.

While those of us from the Midwest will never forget the destruction wrought by this year's floods, I have been heartened to witness first-hand and hear accounts of South Dakotans coming together within their community to protect homes, farms, and entire towns from rising flood waters. The selfless actions of people like Emm Bauman and members of Beta Sigma Phi illustrate the resolve within South Dakotans to help our neighbors in times of trouble.

Mr. President, there is much more to be done to rebuild and repair Grand Forks and other impacted communities. Emm Bauman and the members of Beta Sigma Phi illustrate how individuals can bring some relief to the victims of this natural disaster, and I ask you to join me in thanking them for their selfless efforts.●

#### BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION ACT

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, vitamin supplements containing the B vitamin folic acid, have been proven to prevent common and disabling birth defects, including spina bifida and anencephaly, if taken daily before and in the early days after conception. This vitamin could prevent six to nine cases of these birth defects per day, saving \$245 million per year in the United States.

On June 10, 1997, the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation released a new nationwide survey which shows that while more American women of childbearing age have heard of folic acid, the proportion of women actually taking a multivitamin on a daily basis remains low. Only 32 percent of women ages 18 to 45 take a daily multivitamin containing folic acid.

Awareness of folic acid jumped 14 percentage points over the 2-year period, from 52 percent of women in 1995 to 66 percent in 1997. However, women under age 25 are the least likely to consume vitamins daily, with only 23 percent reporting that they do so, and this age group accounts for 39 percent of all births in the United States. It is because of these statistics that I encourage my colleagues to vote for S. 419, the Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1997.

This legislation would establish a national birth defects surveillance, research, and prevention system. This