

to Florida's Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court, where he has served with integrity and competence. His peers and colleagues have overwhelmingly endorsed his abilities. In a 1994 survey of regional attorneys by the Dade County Bar, 92.8 percent of respondents rated Judge Gold's performance as qualified or exceptionally qualified.

As a circuit court judge, Alan Gold served both in the family and criminal divisions, where he presided over felony jury cases. Despite the demands of a heavy caseload, Judge Gold continued his efforts to improve the legal system for Florida communities, families, and individuals. He was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court's Family Court Steering Committee and has recently chaired an effort to develop a model family court.

During the confirmation process, Judge Gold's support transcended partisanship. In addition to the support from Senator CONNIE MACK and myself, he earned strong endorsements from U.S. Representatives LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Miami and E. CLAY SHAW of Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. President, Judge Alan Gold has long provided an example of academic diligence, legal acumen, judicial excellence, and determination to serve Floridians. I am pleased that he will join the Federal bench, and extend my congratulations to him, his family, and the Senate for its prompt review and confirmation of this worthy nominee.●

MICHIGAN STATE CONFERENCE OF THE NAACP

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to extend my best wishes to those who will participate in the 61st annual convention of the Michigan State Conference of the NAACP. This event will be held in Saginaw, MI, on September 12, 1997.

As race relations continue to be at the forefront of American life, this convention provides an opportunity for delegates to openly discuss issues which confront not only their communities, but everyday lives. The NAACP convention will focus on finding programmatic solutions to such issues as, education, violence, crime, homelessness, and drug abuse. It is through open dialog and the exchange of information that concrete solutions to these issues will be found. I commend the delegates and organizers of this convention for their steadfast desire to address the racial and social problems facing the United States today.

Again, I extend my heartfelt best wishes on this special occasion.●

TRIBUTE TO GUYANESE INDEPENDENCE

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the May 27, 1997 31st anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Guyana. The word "Guyana" is an indigenous word that means land of many waters. But Guy-

ana is also a land of many peoples, with East Indians, Africans, Chinese, Amer-Indians, and Europeans counted among its ancestors. Guyana is also a country that embraces freedom of religion, which allows Christians, Muslims, and Hindus to worship side by side.

My colleagues may be aware that Guyana achieved independence and observed its first free and fair election in 1992, after more than three centuries of British, French, and Dutch colonialism. Guyana's first constitution bore the influence of British legal traditions, and former President Jimmy Carter supervised the team of international observers to guarantee the fairness of the 1992 elections.

Guyana's three decades of unpopular and repressive rule slowed economic progress, but Guyanese are working to overcome these hurdles. I hope that they will succeed.

Guyanese-Americans have much to be proud of. Their history is rich, and I hope the future of Guyana will be bright.●

TRIBUTE TO THE SHELburne MUSEUM

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Vermont's Shelburne Museum on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. The museum, sometimes referred to as New England's Smithsonian, will celebrate its anniversary on September 27, 1997 with a myriad of activities for people young and old.

The museum's founder, Electra Havemeyer Webb, was a pioneer collector of Americana and American folk art. Today, the museum collects, preserves, and studies art as well as history with an emphasis on the New England area. Thirty-seven exhibit buildings spanning across 45 scenic acres include three galleries, 7 furnished historic homes and over 80,000 objects. The historic buildings and collections reflect our transition from an agricultural to an industrial nation.

The Shelburne Museum has become an important cultural resource for Vermont and the Nation. In a rapidly changing world its collections as well as its programs provide the public and scholars alike with an opportunity to reflect on and explore the central themes of ingenuity, craftsmanship and creativity.

The museum embodies a spirit of celebration which provides visitors from across the country and around the world with a unique perspective into the region's history. As a learning tool, it plays a significant role in reminding patrons that the past can often provide a key to the future.

Mr. President, I wish the Shelburne Museum many more years of continued success in service to our community.●

A MORE COMPLETE PICTURE

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, on September 3, during floor deliberations

the senior Senator from Washington presented a story of a most tragic situation on the Yakama Indian Reservation in his call for support of an appropriations rider that would require tribal governments to relinquish their right to sovereign immunity in order to receive Federal funding.

In 1994, a tragic accident involving a tribal police officer en route to the scene of an ensuing robbery resulted in the death of 18-year-old Jered Gamache. Before I proceed, I want to express my deepest sympathies to the Gamache family for this devastating loss. As a mother of two, I find it almost unbearable to contemplate such a loss. It is always painful to lose a loved one, but the loss of a child is something no parent should have to face.

The issues involved here are very controversial and everyone involved has strong views. In the interest of airing views from all sides regarding section 120 of the Interior appropriations bill, I have agreed to submit a statement on behalf of the Yakama Indian Nation in response to the chairman's comments. I ask that the statement from the Yakama Indian Nation be printed in the RECORD.

The statement follows:

YAKAMA INDIAN NATION ASTONISHED BY GORTON FLOOR STATEMENT WHEREIN HE MADE ANALOGY OF TRIBAL POLICE OFFICER ACTING WITHIN HER SCOPE OF DUTY AND NEW YORK COPS WHO BRUTALIZED A HAITIAN IMMIGRANT

TOPPENISH, WASHINGTON.—The Yakama Indian Nation today responded with both amazement and sadness to statements made Wednesday on the Senate floor by Senator Slade Gorton (R-Wash.), wherein the Senator made an analogy of a 1994 accidental vehicular death involving a Tribal police officer responding to an emergency call (regarding an urgent armed robbery in progress), to the intentional brutal beating and sodomitization recently inflicted by New York City policemen against Haitian immigrant Abner Louima.

In what appears to be an attempt to justify a far-reaching amendment he has inserted into an appropriations bill that would eradicate tribal sovereign immunity, the senior Senator from Washington has chosen to exploit the victimization of Abner Louima and a tragic car accident that occurred on our reservation.

The facts of the case cited by Gorton should be brought to light as should the point that a close associate of the Senator, Yakima County Prosecutor, Jeff Sullivan, declined to pursue a criminal prosecution (for "disregarding the safety of others") against the tribal police officer involved in the accident.

On October 25, 1994, Tiffany Martin, a fully trained police officer of the Yakama Indian Nation responded to an emergency call for assistance from the Yakama County Sheriff's office. There was a burglary in progress at a convenience store and the closer police force in the city of Wapato had not responded. Officer Martin proceeded in her police vehicle northbound on Route 97 with both sirens and overhead flashers on. During her response a second call came in indicating that gun shots had been fired and the situation was clearly quite urgent. As the officer approached a particular intersection, where she initially had a green light, she slowed her vehicle down (she estimates to between