

This and other centennial celebrations will ensure that the *Maine* will indeed not be forgotten—nor will those aboard who made the ultimate sacrifice. They answered the call when their country needed them, and we must honor their memories with our respect and remembrance. As a Mainer and a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I have nothing but the utmost respect for the men and women who throughout history have risked their lives and invested their careers in our armed forces.

In that light, let us keep their memory alive, and let us ensure that future generations will understand and appreciate the legacy of the U.S.S. *Maine*, and the tragic sacrifice of her gallant crew. Let us remember the *Maine*.●

OLYMPIAN ERIC BERGOUST

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I stand today to recognize an Olympian from the great state of Montana. Eric Bergoust, a Western Montana native from Missoula, will represent our nation next week in the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

Eric, 28, is a freestyle aerialist skier—a sport that requires athletes to launch themselves off a snow ski ramp, twist and turn their body in mid-air and land on the slope below. You certainly cannot appreciate the physical requirements of this sport until you are able to see it. And the landings don't always end up feet down. Watch the sport long enough and you are bound to see an unplanned landing.

But Eric is not new to the challenges of freestyle aerial skiing. Eric was profiled on network television earlier this week during a look at the 1998 Winter Olympics. The profile included photos of Eric diving off the roof of his parents' Missoula home into mattresses on the ground below. Mr. President, I am happy to see that Eric's adventurous spirit is now compensated and insured.

When I was a kid, we also had to be creative to fill our time, but my feet stayed on the ground and rarely reached a height higher than the stirrups of a tall horse.

Although he has claimed his share of injuries from the physically demanding sport, I am proud to claim Eric as a native Montanan. He has represented our state well in world class events.

Eric is participating in his second Olympic games and has matured into one of the sport's premiere athletes. Last month, Eric won a World Cup event in British Columbia and is at the top of the World Cup standing entering the Olympics.

I've sent Eric a telegram wishing him well next week in the freestyle aerial events. I wanted to make sure my colleagues and the American people are aware of Eric's roots and the Montana spirit that drives him to be the world's best in his sport.●

TRIBUTE TO JANE JOHNSON

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, throughout the years, I have had the opportunity to criss-cross the State of Connecticut countless times, and along the way I have met a number of remarkable individuals. Their occupations and backgrounds may vary, but they are all linked by a common commitment to helping others and making a positive difference in their communities. These are the unsung heroes in our society, and they are the foundation on which our communities are built. Sadly, Connecticut lost one its heroes earlier this month, when Jane Johnson of New Britain died at the age of 59.

Jane Johnson's entire career was dedicated to working with poor and underprivileged children so that they may have a brighter future. A native of New Britain, she spent more than 30 years working in her home town's Head Start program, and for the past 17 years she served as its Director.

I was fortunate to work with Jane over the years, and I, along with everyone else who knew her, had the highest regard for Jane and for her opinions on issues concerning children. Not only was she well-respected throughout the State but her efforts on behalf of young people earned her national recognition. That is why she was invited to several White House Conferences on Head Start.

As if her efforts with Head Start were not enough, Jane also volunteered her free time to serve her community. She was involved with many service organizations, including as a member of the board of directors for the Sheldon Community Guidance Clinic and the United Way of New Britain. She was also active in her church, singing in the choir and actively working with the young people in the congregation.

No one really knows exactly how many children showed up to their first day of school ready to learn and came closer to reaching their full potential because of Jane Johnson's efforts. But everyone in New Britain and throughout the State of Connecticut knows that she was a remarkable woman who touched many young lives and will be dearly missed.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to her friends and family, and I ask that her obituary be printed in the RECORD.

The obituary follows:

[From the New Britain Herald, Feb. 6, 1998]

JANE JOHNSON

NEW BRITAIN.—Jane Johnson, 59, of New Britain, Director of the New Britain Head Start Program, died Tuesday, Feb. 3, 1998, at New Britain General Hospital.

Born in New Britain, she was the daughter of Josephine (Gray) Hines of New Britain and the late James Johnson. She was a lifelong New Britain resident. Jane Johnson worked for the New Britain Head Start Program at the Human Resources Agency for 30 years. She began her career in public service as a teacher's assistant in 1965, the first year of the national Head Start Program which was begun by President Lyndon Johnson as a central part of his Great Society Program. In order to fight the "War on Poverty," pro-

grams like Head Start were developed on the national level.

Ms. Johnson was an exemplary model of the program. She began participating as a client through the Parent Involvement Component of the Head Start Program. From 1965-67, she worked directly with the children as a teacher's assistant. The first director of the program, John E. Francisco, recognized Ms. Johnson's talent and promoted her. For the next five years, she worked first as an assistant, and then as the coordinator in the Social Service component of the Head Start Program. During the mid-1970's, she returned to school and earned an Associate Degree from Tunxis Community College in 1976.

Mr. Francisco promoted Ms. Johnson again in 1977, when she became his Administrative Assistant. She continued her education, earning a Bachelor of the Arts Degree from Central Connecticut State University in 1979. She graduated with honors and was named to Alpha Kappa Delta National Honor Society.

From 1980-98, Ms. Johnson was the Director of the Head Start Program. During this period, her innovative public policy initiatives earned National recognition. She was selected as a Johnson and Johnson Management Fellow and attended an honorary program at the University of Southern California in 1995.

In addition to her brilliant work as a leader in the National Head Start Program, Ms. Johnson served her community as a volunteer. She served as a member of the Board of Directors at the Sheldon Community Guidance Clinic and at the United Way of New Britain. She was a member of the Connecticut and National Association of Head Start Directors. Ms. Johnson also volunteered as a coordinator for the Conference on Coordinated Child Care For The State of Massachusetts.

Ms. Johnson was a member of the McCullough Temple C.M.E. and during the 1960's, was active as a choir member and served as a Junior District and Secretary Delegate to their young people's conference.

Throughout her life, she made countless contributions to the children and their families who came to the New Britain Head Start Program. The staff, the children, and the families who were involved with the program for the past 30 years will miss her loving guidance, her wonderful sense of humor and, most of all, her kind heart. She will continue to inspire them to serve their community with hard work and commitment.

In addition to her mother, she is survived by three children, Carnell Small of New Britain, Cheryl Small-Parris and her husband, Colin Parris of New Britain, and Wayne Small of Calif.; two sisters, Beatrice Walker of New Britain, and Margaret Johnson of Hartford; two grandchildren, Torey Small and Tia Parris; a great granddaughter, Taryn Fudge; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by an infant son, Todd Anthony Small.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, 11 a.m. at the Spottswood AME Zion Church. Burial will take place at Fairview Cemetery, New Britain. Calling hours are Sunday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. at the church. Memorial donations may be made to the HRA Head Start Program, 180 Clinton St., New Britain, CT 06053. Erickson-Hansen Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.●

JOHN HAMRE'S SPEECH ON NATO ENLARGEMENT

● Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, few have had as distinguished a career in the Senate as Howell Heflin, our former colleague from the great state of Alabama. One of the ways through which I