

On February 3, 1942, Dr. Hamden L. Forkner spearheaded the effort to create the first FBLA chapter in Johnson City, Tennessee. Dr. Forkner envisioned a national organization that would train high school students in the real-life aspects of the professional business world, and also develop their leadership, self-confidence, and patriotism. The FBLA concept quickly expanded, and membership grew many times over.

In 1958, the benefits of FBLA were extended to postsecondary students with the creation of Phi Beta Lambda. This professional business organization seeks to ease the transition from school to work for thousands of students by providing training in business leadership skills and connecting students with current industry leaders.

Over the years, FBLA-PBL has grown to encompass two additional divisions: a Professional Division, founded in 1989, for their partners, supporters and alumni; and the Middle Level, founded just a few years ago, which connects middle school and junior high students with basic leadership and business principles.

The mission of the FBLA-PBL is to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs. They accomplish this through a variety of national programs, including seven national leadership conferences, over seventy competitive events, strategic business partnerships, career expos, and community service.

Mr. President, in the past fifty-six years, FBLA-PBL has trained literally millions of today's leaders in American business. For fifty years now, Louisiana has benefited from the FBLA-PBL and today, there are approximately 7,000 members in my home state. I am proud to say that the National Phi Beta Lambda President is from Louisiana. This is truly an organization that has made a positive impact on my home state as well as on our country, proving that our youth are ready, willing, and able to take the reins of leadership and help guide us toward a brighter tomorrow. With over 240,000 members annually, FBLA-PBL is a shining example of what makes America great, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize them for their efforts. I would like to take this opportunity for all of us to recognize and remember that FBLA-PBL has done a tremendous service for this country.●

HONORING THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF JOHN BENSCHIEDT

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, all too often, we hear frightening stories about today's young people. I think it's important to remember that not all of them deserve that bad reputation. In fact, many—if not most—of our young people step up to the responsibility of caring for their communities and fellow citizens. I would like to take this

opportunity to tell you about a heroic young Idahoan, John Benschiedt, who courageously saved the life of eight year-old Douglas Schedler. This remarkable youth responded to an emergency situation with the speed of a trained professional.

John Benschiedt was the only person to witness the heavy snow pile cascade off a condominium roof at Schweitzer Mountain and quickly bury a small child standing nearby. Without hesitating, John began digging with his snow board, trying to reach little Douglas trapped under five feet of snow. John's calls for help caught the attention of others in the area, who assisted in John's efforts to save the boy. After frantic minutes of searching, the child was retrieved and taken to Bonner General Hospital, where he was treated and released without serious injuries.

We are all grateful that John had the presence of mind to act quickly in a life-threatening situation. The inherent characteristics John demonstrated during this incident reflect a strong upbringing and profound awareness of human value. Let him serve as a reminder to all of us that we have exceptional youth in this country who contribute greatly to our communities and to our lives. It gives me great pleasure to honor such a fine young man.●

RADIATION EXPOSURE

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I want to recognize those Americans who were exposed to radiation fallout from government testing of nuclear weapons in the 1950's, the effects of which are still being studied.

I was recently contacted by Karen Anderson and her two children, Leah and Seth, who are constituents of mine from Urbandale, Iowa. Included in their correspondence was a moving and touching tribute to Bob Anderson, their husband and father, who, after a lengthy and courageous battle, succumbed to cancer on September 7, 1996. As someone who grew up in Iowa and lost two sisters and a brother to cancer, I understand and empathize with their situation.

The letters, photos and other personal materials that made up a bound volume memorializing the life and struggle of Mr Anderson displayed the obvious affection and love he felt for everyone and that he received in return. In fact, dozens of friends and relatives signed the notebook in tribute to Bob Anderson. It is always a tragedy when someone is taken from us when they have so much left to offer. There is no doubt he will be greatly missed by all.

The anguish of the Anderson family was compounded by the circumstances surrounding the cause of Mr Anderson's cancer. Atomic bomb tests in Nevada during the 1950's exposed millions of Americans—particularly children—to large amounts of radioactive Iodine-131, which accumulates in the thyroid gland and has been linked to thyroid

cancer. "Hot Spots"—where the Iodine-131 fallout was the greatest—were identified as receiving 5-16 rads of Iodine-131

To put that in perspective, Federal standards for nuclear power plants require that protective action be taken for 15 rads. To further understand the enormity of the potential exposure, consider this—116 million curies of Iodine-131 were released by the above ground nuclear weapons testing in the United States compared with 7.3 million from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster in the former Soviet Union. Exposing our citizens to these risks is unacceptable.

The "Hot Spots" included many areas far away from Nevada, including New York, Massachusetts and Iowa. Due to the character of Iodine-131, those exposed to the highest concentrations were those who drank large amounts of milk from cows that grazed in fields with radiation fallout. Because their thyroids are smaller and still growing, children were most vulnerable.

Mr. Anderson grew up in Iowa in Woodbury County, an area noted as a hot spot by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). He also suffered from Thyroid cancer. It is understandable that his family now wonders whether his cancer could have been detected and treated more effectively if the NCI information was known earlier.

This hits very close to home for me. During the 1950's, like Bob Anderson, I was living in a rural Iowa county which has now been identified as a "Hot Spot" by the long delayed National Cancer Institute study. Along with many Iowans, I drank milk from cows kept on the farm. This increased the risk faced by myself and my family because of the accumulation of radioactive iodine in milk.

When it comes to the government and nuclear testing, history shows the problem hasn't just been a fallout of radiation, but withholding of facts which may be detrimental to the public health. Information has come to light that government officials were aware that fallout from nuclear testing would contaminate areas that were hundreds, even thousands, of miles away. Additionally, it is outrageous that the government provided maps and forecasts of potential radioactive contamination to the Kodak film corporation during the 1950's and not to the American public. As I've said before, if we could protect a roll of film, we should have protected the parents and children.

On October 1, 1997, the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee held hearings where I raised questions about Iodine-131 fallout and its impact on our nation's citizens. I am working with NCI and other federal health agencies to ensure that useful and timely guidelines on the health impacts of radioactive fallout from nuclear weapons testing gets to physicians and concerned scientists. Although NCI has started this process, a lot more needs to be done.