

For her outstanding leadership and achievements, Ms. Wheeler has received awards from the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Association of School Administrators, and the Illinois Association of School Boards.

Education is not the only field which benefits from Ms. Wheeler's talent and energy. She also unselfishly volunteers her time with worthwhile groups such as the Illinois Department on Aging, George Williams College, the Downers Grove Chamber of Commerce and the Downers Grove YMCA. Ms. Wheeler is also a member of the Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

Barbara Wheeler commands a high level of respect from educators in Illinois and around the country, and her broad understanding of the issues and challenges facing public education demonstrates the level of excellence that she will bring to the office of President of the National School Boards Association. Her advocacy in behalf of our nation's students and schools is a model of action for all Americans to follow. I congratulate her on her recent appointment, and wish her good luck and Godspeed.●

#### TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND SCHMITT

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who, like me, called East Haddam, Connecticut home and who demonstrated a great passion and love for this little town along the Connecticut River: Raymond Schmitt, who recently died at his home in Florida.

Raymond Schmitt was a successful businessman who owned several companies that manufactured components for the aircraft industry. He was very generous with his wealth, donating money to the school system, the local historical society and many other organizations.

He will be best remembered for his association with a Victorian-era mill village in Connecticut known as Johnsonville. In 1965, he purchased the mill village and restored the old schoolhouse, general store, and carriage house. In the windows of the buildings, there were whimsical mechanized scenes that delighted all visitors. Johnsonville would open during Christmas and other special occasions, and thousands of people delighted in visiting the village. It became part of the holiday tradition for many Connecticut families.

Johnsonville has been closed for almost a decade, but Mr. Schmitt would still open it for certain events such as a fund-raiser for music students at an area high school.

Mr. Schmitt was known not only for his commitment to his community, but also to his ideas for making it better. In recent years, he came to believe that the town's selectman style of government, which has been in place since the town's inception, was too anti-

quated and in need of reform. As a result, he wrote his own town charter, which called for a 7-member town council and town government.

His charter was never adopted. But no one doubted that Raymond Schmitt loved the town of East Haddam. And it is this passion for his hometown for which Raymond Schmitt should and will be remembered.●

#### TRIBUTE TO STETSON MODEL SENATE

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and commend the Stetson Model Senate program and the nearly one hundred college students who participated in this year's three-day session. Students from Stetson University, Goucher College, University of Central Florida, Clemson University, Lake Sumter Community College, Jacksonville University, The Citadel, and Longwood College conducted committee meetings, party caucuses, and sessions of the full Senate, portraying Senators of the 105th Congress.

This year's program marked my second year attending and speaking at the Model Senate's annual dinner. I was very impressed both with the level of student awareness of public affairs, and with the number of students and schools which participate every year.

I congratulate Stetson University, my alma mater, for encouraging these college students to learn more about this nation's political processes and history.

Mr. President, I would like to especially honor and commend Dr. T. Wayne Bailey, professor of Political Science at Stetson University and organizer of the proceedings, and Kevin Kayes, Senate Parliamentarian, who guided the students during the sessions of the mock Senate. I truly enjoyed meeting these young men and women participating in the 1998 Stetson Model Senate and ask my colleagues to join me in saluting and congratulating these college students and the organizers of this inspirational program.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND RAMS

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, ten years ago the Rams of the University of Rhode Island, shocked sports fans throughout the country when they beat the #3 seeded Orangemen of Syracuse and advanced to the Sweet Sixteen in the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

It took a few years, but the giant slayers from little Rhody are back. Last weekend, the Rams shocked the basketball world again, defeating the indomitable, #1 seeded Jayhawks of Kansas. With a win tonight over Valparaiso, URI will advance to the Elite Eight.

But, Mr. President, don't sell this team short. They may be smaller than their opponents. They readily admit

that. But they know how to win, just ask anyone from Lawrence, Kansas.

I should add, Mr. President, with regard to tonight's game, that beyond the match-ups on the floor, there will be a contest on the sidelines. As many have commented, URI Coach Jim Harrick will do battle with his son, Jim Jr., an assistant coach at Valparaiso. At stake will be family bragging rights that will last a very long time. In this game, however, I'd bet on the elder Coach Harrick. Indeed, Mr. President, I expect to be back on the Senate floor next week to talk about the Rams and the Final Four.●

#### RICHARD GARDNER AND THE UNITED STATES-SPAIN COUNCIL

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I bring to the Senate's attention the distinguished service of the former United States Ambassador to Spain, Richard Gardner. Ambassador Gardner concluded his service on July 12, 1997. During his tenure, Ambassador Gardner performed his diplomatic duties with grace and distinction. As a result of his outstanding work, the relationship between the United States and Spain has been immeasurably strengthened.

The ambassador has received praise and high marks for his exemplary performance from a number of observers. For example, Spanish journalists have commented on his successful efforts to increase private donations for student exchange program, which provide expanded opportunities for cultural and academic interaction between United States and Spanish citizens. In a more formal capacity, Ambassador Gardner's efforts facilitated an improved, and mutually beneficial, trade relationship between our countries and enhanced relations between our respective governments.

One aspect of Ambassador Gardner's work of which I am very familiar is his instrumental role in establishing the United States-Spain Council. Founded in 1995, the Council has grown to become an important institution for the development and enhancement of United States-Spain relations. Its mission is to encourage understanding of our shared interests and to promote constructive relations and cooperation between the Spanish and American governments on a variety of important issues, including, trade, intellectual property rights, and education. Currently, I am the chairman of the council. Its membership includes a diverse group of business, academic, and government leaders.

Mr. President, Ambassador Gardner served his country with great distinction and conducted himself in a manner worthy of the respect and admiration of all Americans. Diplomats serve as liaisons and are the most visible representatives of their home countries. In this capacity, Ambassador Gardner exemplified the best our country has to offer. He will be sorely missed by the