

It is important to note, however, that Frostburg State University occupies a unique educational niche as the only four-year institution west of the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area. Therefore, it serves as the intellectual and cultural center for this western-most region of my State, and for nearby communities in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Although the student body includes students from various states and foreign countries, it continues to draw primarily from the immediate area, and provides important employment opportunities for the residents of the region. Furthermore, Frostburg State enjoys a partnership with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) from whom they receive federal funds for various projects that enrich the school's resources and provide further economic development to the area.

It has always been my firm belief that a democracy cannot prosper and grow without an educated populace. As the world becomes increasingly complex and technically challenging, the quality education of the individual is one of the most important tasks in our society. From its inception, Frostburg State University has prioritized education; maintaining a commitment to providing community and educational services to the entire region while, at the same time, succeeding in providing a nationally acclaimed education to its own university community.

As we celebrate this important milestone, I would like to commend the greater Frostburg State University family for upholding the traditions of community cooperation and commitment to excellence that serve to exemplify the very best that Maryland has to offer.●

SCHOOR DEPALMA

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to salute Schoor DePalma Engineers and Design Professional Firm as it completes its thirtieth year in business, and to recognize its contributions to the State of New Jersey. This engineer and design professional firm has contributed to some of the state's largest engineering and design projects.

Schoor DePalma is one of the most widely recognized civil engineering firms in the State of New Jersey. The company's ingenuity brings forth a superior level of accountability, concern, and quality of work.

Schoor DePalma's commitment is easily also recognized through its selfless involvement with the community through entities, such as the Board of Professional Planners and the Board of Professional Engineers of the State of New Jersey and its participation in highly regarded academic programs such as the Board of Overseers for the New Jersey Institute of Technology, a variety of college foundations throughout New Jersey, and the awarding of scholarships to students in the engineering field.

One of Schoor DePalma's most recent and profitable contributions to the State of New Jersey was to enhance the economically distressed community of East Orange. Schoor DePalma was hired to conduct a comprehensive business analysis of the six main business districts of East Orange by looking at crime statistics, the labor force, the mix of businesses, infrastructure, and streetscaping needs. Schoor DePalma's innovative blue print for economic growth proved to be successful when some local establishments saw a remarkable 50 percent increase in business.

I am proud to recognize Schoor DePalma as a model corporate neighbor and I look forward to another 30 years of excellence from them.●

TRIBUTE TO FLORENCE KIRKNER

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to pay homage to Ms. Florence Kirkner. Today, we focus on Ms. Kirkner's 50 years of volunteering with the National Ski Patrol. The National Ski Patrol was formed 60 years ago as a volunteer organization that has been granted a Congressional Charter as a charity similar to the Boys and Girls Scouts. This organization formed an army division that could fight in winter weather conditions during World War II. Additionally, Senator Bob Dole was affiliated with this division which is known as the Tenth Mountain Division. This division was the only civilian run division in the Army's history. Today, the Tenth Mountain division is stationed at Fort Drum, New York.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend Ms. Kirkner's participation in many other community activities such as the American Red Cross, the Girl Scouts and the YMCA.

After reviewing Ms. Kirkner's outstanding achievements, I decided an acknowledgment of her awards should be presented. Ms. Kirkner received a Citizen of the Week Award in 1996 and in 1997 she received the Citizen of the Year Award. Previously, because of Ms. Kirkner's excellent community service, she received the Merit Award in 1985 and the Volunteer of the year award in 1986. Ms. Kirkner was twice nominated for the Clara Barton Award in 1988 and again in 1990. Additionally in 1988, the Volunteer of the Year Award was acclaimed to Ms. Kirkner. Furthermore, after serving over 15,000 hours of community service, Ms. Kirkner was presented with the Service Award in addition to the 50 Year Service Award.

Ms. Kirkner has also received awards for the National Appointment #84, the Outstanding Service Award for the North Bay Region, the Patroller of the Year Award for the Western New York Region, 2 Yellow Merit Stars, the Purple Merit Star, the Avalanche Patch #82, the Eastern Division Certificate of Appreciation, the Red Cross Certificate of Merit, the Certificate of Appreciation for the Western New York Region, the Ambassador of the Slopes Award

for the Western New York Region, the Mike Reid Outstanding Instructor Award for the Western New York Region, the Canadian Ski Patrol Special Award and the Green Angel Award from the Girl Scouts.

I would also like to acknowledge Ms. Kirkner for holding numerous offices in her lifetime. She has held offices such as Co-Patrol Leader for Donner Ski Ranch; Regional Training Officer for Western New York; Regional First Aid Chairman in North Bay, California; Avalanche Instructor for National #224; ARC First Aid Instructor and Trainer; ARC CPR Instructor and Trainer; ARC Water Safety Instructor and Trainer; ARC Small Craft Safety Instructor and Shift Leader at Kissing Bridge Ski Patrol.

In addition Ms. Kirkner has managed to conduct training courses and workshops such as the Avalanche Patch Course in Slide Mt., Nevada; Sled Handling Seminars in Squaw Valley, California; the Mountain Rescue Course at the Sugar Bowl; Mountaineering at Circle M; Divisional Jr. Training Seminars for 11 years and National Jr. Training Seminars for 4 years. Moreover, Ms. Kirkner led Fall Forums workshops too numerous to count from New York City to Sacramento, from Portland, to Maine and has been an instructor every year of Patrol CPR since the beginning of Ski Patrol, CPR.

Ms. Kirkner is truly one of those unique individuals who has given a lifetime of community service. Her contributions to society will always be recognized as encouragement and hope to American citizens everywhere, and reminds us that the phrase "it is better to give than to receive" still rings to be true.●

VIETNAM VETERANS IN HYANNIS, MASSACHUSETTS

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I want to commend the extraordinary achievements of a group of Vietnam Veterans in Hyannis, Massachusetts. Five Vietnam Veterans from Cape Cod, Michael Trainor, Ray Pacheco, Woody Hoffman, Craig Morrison and Michael Williams, created the Nam Vets Association in 1983. Their mission, to provide human services to and improve the public image of Vietnam Veterans, has been courageously carried on, to this day, by John Eastman, Charlie Brown, John Ahern, Hank Tucker, Bill SilverRyder, and Randy Ritter. On Vietnam Veterans' Day, March 29, 1998, this group of dedicated men celebrated fifteen years of work on behalf of their fellow veterans. No organization provides more services to the veterans of Cape Cod and the Islands than the Nam Vets Association. It provides counseling services, housing assistance, a food pantry, employment programs, VA benefit information and, perhaps most important of all, a place where veterans and their families feel welcome. I know I did.

Mr. President, at the recent Vietnam Veterans of America Convention in