

Public Policy Action Committee, and later founded "Lobby Day," an opportunity for people with CFIDS to travel to Washington, DC to meet with their federal representatives and advance funding and policy needs of CFIDS. Since then, he has testified at a Senate hearing examining the affects of this illness.

Although Jerry has always spoken on behalf of all people with disabilities, he specifically expanded his focus in 1998 to include people with lymphoma when he was diagnosed with this rare form of cancer himself. He became active in the Carson Advocates for Cancer and was the Nevada co-chair of the 1998 National Cancer March. He came to Washington again, and marched along-side cancer survivors such as Norman Schwarzkopf as they crusaded to encourage research to find a cure for this terrible disease.

Jerry has been a catalyst in bringing advocates together to achieve victories for the disabled. I thank him for his service to Nevada and to all who suffer from chronic, disabling conditions such as CFIDS. He has made Nevada proud.●

#### TRIBUTE TO RE/MAX 1ST CHOICE OF LONDONDERRY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to RE/MAX 1st Choice of Londonderry, New Hampshire, for being named "Company of the Year" by the Londonderry Business Council. It is indeed a prestigious honor.

RE/MAX 1st Choice is a fast growing real estate business that has recently opened in Londonderry. Under the direction of Arlene Hajjar, RE/MAX 1st Choice has worked hard to establish itself within the real estate market of Londonderry.

RE/MAX 1st Choice has worked hard for the community. It has sponsored a number of activities to benefit both charities and the community as a whole. Admirable business practices, community involvement, and charitable donations and sponsorships have made the company a rising force in the Londonderry business community. Its dedication to the town has been admirable and gracious.

Arlene has been one of the main reasons behind RE/MAX 1st Choices' success. She is a member of the Londonderry Business Council and works diligently to represent the business community. She has helped shape not only her company, but also the community through her activism with the town.

As a former real estate business owner, I understand the demands and the trials associated with owning and operating a real estate business. I commend Arlene Hajjar and the staff of RE/MAX 1st Choice on their success. I wish them the best of luck and congratulate them once again for receiving this award. It is an honor to represent them in the United States Senate.●

#### CONGRATULATING VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the students and teachers from Valley High School in West Des Moines, IA for achieving the top score in the 1999 National GRAMMY Signature School Competition.

It took hard work and dedication to achieve this honor, and I congratulate the students, teachers, and others who make it happen. Valley High School enrolls over 2,200 students, and fully 600 students, nearly a third of the student body, participates in one or more music programs. On February 4, 1999 the GRAMMY Signature School designated Valley High School the best music program among 250 public schools from around the country. They were judged by a panel of top musical educators and professionals and were selected based on their high level of commitment to music education.

In light of this announcement, U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley, said, "At a time when creativity and communication skills are at a premium, schools like those being recognized at this program are using arts for their rich potential to captivate and engage students in the process of learning. The arts help children learn to solve problems, think creatively, and develop mental discipline, which are valuable skills for any academic endeavor."

Mr. President, year after year underfunded public schools continue to slash funding for all forms of arts and humanities education, thereby weakening the strong cultural heritage the United States has always enjoyed. We should therefore commend the students and teachers of the Valley High School music program for their commitment to a quality music education, and the benefits their efforts reap upon the cultural landscape of the state of Iowa. It is a true honor to serve as their Senator, and I believe they are examples of what all Americans should strive to be.●

#### GIRL SCOUTS FROM KETCHIKAN

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the work of three Girl Scouts from Ketchikan, Alaska. Angela Pfeifer, Chelsea Pfeifer and Tennille Walker are each working towards the Girl Scout Gold Award. As a part of their service, they are attempting to enhance the visibility, respect and care of the American flag in Ketchikan.

The following is an excerpt from a letter in which Chelsea explains the pride and respect she has for our nation's flag.

This Spring Break I went down to Florida to visit my grandparents. My Grandfather served in World War II. At 87, he still put up the U.S. flag every morning, and takes it down every night. It makes my think of the number of people who died serving this country, so that we could have the freedoms that

we enjoy today. The flag serves as a symbol of the respect and honor that should be given to those who fought. I observed that many of the retired people display the Flag proudly on a daily basis outside their homes. It would be my goal to see that my generation carry out this tradition and be proud to be an American.

In their efforts to instill this same sense of pride and respect, Chelsea, Angela and Tennille have conducted school assemblies at Ketchikan area elementary schools, have placed flags in every classroom at Ketchikan High School and have spoken to local governments officials about erecting a new flag pole in Ketchikan City Park.

Currently, there is no flag flying in Ketchikan City Park. Angela, Chelsea and Tennille have addressed this with Ketchikan—Gateway Borough Mayor Jack Shay. As a result, the Mayor and Borough Assembly agreed to install a flag pole in City Park.

It is my honor to present these three outstanding Alaskans with an American flag flown over the United States Capitol. The flag will be presented to the City of Ketchikan on June 14, 1999, Flag Day, and will be the first flag to fly in City Park.

I commend the work of Angela, Chelsea and Tennille and the Girl Scouts of Ketchikan. They have shown their ability to make a difference and have made a lasting impression on their community.●

#### 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VERMONT STATE PARK SYSTEM

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Vermont State Park System.

In 1924 Frances Humphreys donated the peak of Mt. Philo and surrounding lands to the State of Vermont as the first State Park. Mt. Philo was the perfect location for the first park; looking east from the summit one views Lake Champlain, North America's most beautiful lake stretching as far as the eye can see to the north and south; looking west one views the Green Mountain range rolling across Vermont to the Connecticut River. There are limitless recreational opportunities within and surrounding our first park.

After 75 years, Vermont now has 50 State Parks, from Alburg Dunes on Lake Champlain, to Wilgus on the Connecticut River; from Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak to Quechee, our deepest gorge.

Vermont's State Parks are rich in history. Many of the nation's first ski trails were carved out in Vermont State Parks by the Civilian Conservation Corps, creating the New England ski industry. Under the direction Perry Merrill, who oversaw the State Parks for 37 years, more than 40,000 "CCC Boys" created a parks infrastructure that is intact, and unparalleled even today.

Recognition should also go to the many Vermonters who, over the years, have followed the example of Frances