

From a small station in the community center, officers monitor the community using cameras that are mounted throughout the neighborhood.

In 1994, the last year Lafayette was fully operative, there were 39 robberies. In Pleasant View, there have been three. In 1994, there were 108 assaults; Pleasant View had seven. Lafayette had nine rapes, Pleasant View none.

Four hundred of the 500 people who lived in Lafayette Towers have returned to live in Pleasant View, among them Eva Riley. After a childhood in the high rises, she left as soon as she could afford subsidized housing in another part of the city, vowing never to raise her children in a place like Lafayette Towers.

But when she visited Pleasant View shortly after its construction, she decided to return to her old neighborhood with her children, Jerod, 13, and Lakeisha, 11.

"It's much safer," she said. "I don't mind my kids playing outside in the evening."●

#### 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VERMONT COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize the Vermont Council on the Humanities on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

In 1965, Congress created the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) with the goal of promoting and supporting research, education, and public programs in the humanities. The mission of the NEH was to make the worlds of history, language, literature and philosophy a part of the lives of more Americans. Over the past three decades, the NEH has lived up to its founding mission and has made the humanities more accessible. As Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, which has jurisdiction over the agency, I have been extraordinarily proud to support NEH during my years in Congress.

NEH brings the humanities to our lives in many unique and exciting ways. NEH makes grants for preserving historic resources like books, presidential papers, and newspapers. It provides support for interpretive exhibitions, television and radio programs. The agency facilitates basic research and scholarship in the humanities. And NEH strengthens teacher education in the humanities through its summer institutes and seminars. Yet, in my view, one of the most important ways that NEH broadens our understanding of the humanities is through the support it provides for state humanities councils. These state humanities councils, at the grassroots level, encourage participation in locally initiated humanities projects. Every state has one, but few are as innovative, creative and self-sufficient as the Vermont Council on the Humanities.

Early on, the Vermont Council on the Humanities determined that the first step in engaging Vermonters in the humanities was to ensure that all Vermonters were able to read. The Vermont Humanities Council met this challenge head on and provided support

for reading programs and book discussions targeted at people of all levels of literacy—from the Connections programs which serve adult new readers to the scholar-led discussions held in public libraries. In 1996, the Council initiated the Creating Communities of Readers program. Five Vermont communities received grants to help them achieve full literacy for their communities. This undertaking of "creating a state in which every individual reads, participates in public affairs and continues to learn throughout life," involves an enormous commitment. Yet, undaunted by the enormity of the challenge, the Vermont Humanities Council stepped to the plate and hit a home run.

Vermont has taken quite literally the mission of bringing the humanities to everyone and, in doing so, the Vermont Council has distinguished itself as a national leader in promoting reading as a path towards participation in the humanities. Recently, the Vermont Council received a national award of \$250,000 from the NEH to implement humanities based book discussions for adult new readers nationwide. Through this national Connections program, 14,000 children's books will become part of the home libraries of adults who are learning to read.

There is much we can gain from studying the humanities. The small amount of money that the federal government spends on NEH goes a long way toward building a national community. Coming together to learn from literature, learn from our past, and learn from each other is, in my view, an extraordinarily valuable use of our public dollars.

Twenty-five years ago, the Vermont Humanities Council chose the road less traveled, and that has made all the difference in Vermont and in the nation. The Council, with its focus on literacy, chose to experiment by developing new and different ways of bringing the humanities to all Vermonters. By choosing to move to the beat of its own drum, the Vermont Humanities Council has become a unique and independent actor promoting the importance of literacy as a means of pursuing the humanities.

In honor of this twenty-fifth anniversary, I offer my sincere congratulations to the Vermont Council on the Humanities for a job well done. I would also like to offer a special note of gratitude to Victor Swenson and the Council's extraordinary Board of Directors. Victor's leadership and the commitment of the Board has made our Council a shining example of excellence. Keep up the good work.●

#### COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, as we enter the twilight of the Twentieth Century, we can look back at the immense multitude of achievements that

led to the ascension of the United States of America as the preeminent nation in modern history. We owe this title as world's greatest superpower in large part to the twenty-five million men and women who served in our armed services and who defended the principles and ideals of our nation.

Before we embark upon the Twenty-First Century, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) will celebrate an historic milestone. On September 29, the VFW will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the organization's founding. For over one hundred years, the VFW has supported our armed forces from the battlefields to the home front. From letter-writing campaigns in WWI to "welcome home" rallies after the Persian Gulf War to care packages sent to Bosnia, the VFW continues to take pride in supporting American troops overseas.

The VFW's support for our nation's armed forces has been exemplary over the last one hundred years, but it is the VFW's work with our nation's veterans that has been most impressive. The original intention of the VFW, in fact, was to ensure that the veterans of the Spanish-American war would not be forgotten and that they received medical care and support in return for their service and sacrifice. The VFW's motto, "Honor The Dead By Honoring The Living", resonates to this day and will carry forth into the next century. Since organizing the first national veterans service office in 1919, to today's nationwide network of service offices, the VFW provides the assistance veterans need in order to obtain much-deserved benefits.

To celebrate this prestigious occasion, a resolution, S. J. Resolution 21, has been introduced in the United States Senate designating September 29, 1999 as "Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day", and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon all Government agencies and the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities. I am a proud cosponsor of this resolution which honors the VFW's recognition of military service and remembrance of the sacrifices made in our nation's defense. I feel this resolution presents an opportunity to recognize, honor, and pay tribute to the more than 2,000,000 veterans of the armed forces represented by the VFW, and to all the individuals who have served in the armed forces.

Throughout my service in Congress, I have long appreciated the leadership of both the South Dakota VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary for their input on a variety of issues impacting veterans and their families in recent years. Their insight and efforts have proven very valuable to me and my staff, and I commend each and every one of them for their leadership on issues of importance to all veterans of the armed forces. I was honored to have the