

benchmark in evaluating pension and retirement plans.

As the chairman of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, I can attest to the effectiveness of NARFE members in making the case for equitable retirement and health benefits for the more than two million federal retirees and their survivors.

My State of Tennessee is home to more than 37,000 Federal retirees. These folks, like all federal retirees, served their country through their commitment to public service. Federal retirees deserve our Nation's thanks for the dedication they have shown. I hope all my colleagues will join me today saluting Federal retirees for a job well done.●

THE GREATER DETROIT BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL RECEIVES 2000 GENDER AND RACE DIVERSIFICATION EXCELLENCE AWARD

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on May 2, 2000, the Great Lakes Construction Alliance will hold its annual Gender and Race Diversification Excellence Awards dinner. Each year, the G.A.R.D.E. Awards are given to labor owners and contractor organizations which have made significant efforts in improving the recruitment and retention of women and people of color in the unionized construction industry. Each award winner has developed, or engaged in, some substantial program with the goal of furthering opportunities for women and people of color, which is one of the fundamental principles upon which the Great Lakes Construction Alliance was founded.

Nominees are judged by a jury of construction industry representatives. To be considered for the G.A.R.D.E. Award, programs must show documentation, including numbers for minorities and women, of the number of people added to the organization's labor force, and promote quality, acceptable construction practices. Ultimately, the awards are given to those programs which have made significant efforts to improve the recruitment and retention of women and people of color in the unionized construction industry. The recipients of the 2000 G.A.R.D.E. Awards are the Human Rights Department of the City of Detroit, the Greater Detroit Building and Construction Trades Council, and the Comerica Park Construction Management Team.

The Greater Detroit Building and Construction Trades Council, with Barton-Malow acting as program manager, formed twenty construction management teams, which together coordinated over 750,000 hours of service during the Detroit Public Schools Summer Emergency Maintenance Program. 130 minority students, thirty-seven percent of whom were female, participated in the Summer Emergency Maintenance Program. The twenty construction management teams provided these students with the opportunity to work

directly with prime contractors in a multitude of capacities, including administrative activities, painting, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing. Students were also assigned a mentor who helped them develop objectives and document their work experiences. The construction management teams also prepared outcome reports, which provided guidance for educators to continue support of the students' interests once the school year began.

Mr. President, I applaud the Greater Detroit Building and Construction Trades Council, and the members of the twenty construction management teams, for their willingness to help these students. Undoubtedly, their efforts had a profound impact on the lives of each and every one of them. Furthermore, this is the type of work that must be done if the revitalization of Detroit is truly to come about. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate the Greater Detroit Building and Construction Trades Council on receiving the 2000 Gender and Race Diversification Excellence Award.●

THE BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER HONORS MS. ROBIN TRUMBULL

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Ms. Robin Trumbull, whom the Battle Creek Enquirer will present with a George Award Tomorrow evening. These awards are given annually to individuals who "Don't wait around for George to do it." Recipients are recognized for their leadership, and they are usually individuals who have spearheaded projects. Ms. Trumbull is being honored because she is the volunteer founder and president of Amber Alert of Michigan, a nonprofit organization in Battle Creek which works to create an effective communication system between local police and radio stations to immediately alert community members in the event of a child abduction.

The first few hours after an abduction has occurred are the most crucial in recovering the child, and the implementation of this effective emergency broadcast plan has the potential to save the lives of many children. The organization, which started in the Dallas/Fort Worth area in the memory of Amber Hagerman, has since spread throughout the country. It has done so because of the incredible efforts of individuals like Robin Trumbull.

I have had the privilege of working with Ms. Trumbull on this worthwhile cause, and I think I can safely say that all residents of Michigan owe her a debt of gratitude for the work she has done to save children from being abducted, and to help recover those who have been abducted as quickly as possible. Because of her efforts, and her dedication to the children of Michigan, the Amber Alert program has been kicked off successfully.

I applaud Ms. Trumbull for bringing this wonderful program to the State of

Michigan. I also applaud the Battle Creek Enquirer for acknowledging her tireless efforts to do so. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate Ms. Robin Trumbull on receiving her George Award. I could not imagine a more deserving recipient.●

COMERICA PARK CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT TEAM RECEIVES 2000 GENDER AND RACE DIVERSIFICATION EXCELLENCE AWARD

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on May 2, 2000, the Great Lakes Construction Alliance will hold its annual Gender and Race Diversification Excellence Awards dinner. Each year, the G.A.R.D.E. Awards are given to labor owners and contractor organizations which have made significant efforts in improving the recruitment and retention of women and people of color in the unionized construction industry. Each award winner has developed, or engaged in some substantial program with the goal of furthering opportunities for women and people of color, which is one of the fundamental principles upon which the Great Lakes Construction Alliance was founded.

Nominees are judged by a jury of construction industry representatives. To be considered for the G.A.R.D.E. Award, programs must show documentation, including numbers for minorities and women, of the number of people added to the organization's labor force, and promote quality, acceptable construction practices. Ultimately, the awards are given to those programs which have made significant efforts to improve the recruitment and retention of women and people of color in the unionized construction industry. The recipients of the 2000 G.A.R.D.E. Awards are the Human Rights Department of the City of Detroit, the Greater Detroit Building and Construction Trades Council, and the Comerica Park Construction Management Team.

Comerica Park is the new home of the Detroit Tigers. It is a breathtaking, state-of-the-art facility. In my somewhat biased opinion, it is not only the newest, but also the nicest, stadium in the Major Leagues. Its construction would not have been possible were it not for the efforts of the many people who helped to build it. The construction of Comerica Park was a conglomerate effort, which was led by the Construction Management Team of Hunt, Turner, and White, Tigers General Manager John McHale, Jr., and aided by many Detroit City organizations: the Downtown Development Authority, the Minority Business Development Council, the African American Association of Business Contractors, and the Majority Business Initiative.

The Comerica Park project, with the cooperation of the aforementioned individuals and organizations, and also Detroit residents, targeted specific