

I ask consent that Kylie's NAGC—Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award composition be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

The composition follows:

"Mama, a problem is only a problem until you solve it." These were the words I spoke when I was only three. Ever since then I have been solving all different kinds of problems, whether they only took a couple minutes or months to figure out. What I like about problems is that each and every one of them is different and you have to pull together all of your knowledge and creativity to figure them out.

I got interested in problem solving when I was little. My Dad taught me how to solve all kinds of problems. Whether it was figuring out the money in Monopoly or deciding how to make a stable structure out of Legos all kinds of "problems" were tackled. I was very lucky to have great first and second grade teachers who daily stretched my skills and encouraged me to set high goals. Mrs. Davidson and Ms. Newton taught me how to really push myself.

In second, third and fourth grades, my principal offered the "Principal's Problem of the Week." These were optional challenging word or math problems that always got me thinking. I was awarded top "Principal's Problem of the Week Solver" three consecutive years. In grade school I went to the library once every week and solved challenging problems for gifted children.

I've been in Odyssey of the Mind for three years now. Odyssey of the Mind is a team problem-solving competition with both "long-term" and "spontaneous" problems. The long-term solution you work on for months before you go to the competition. The spontaneous problem's name kind of explains itself. You get the problem and usually you get 1 minute to think and 2 minutes to answer. The team I was on in fourth grade made it all the way to World Finals in Knoxville, Tennessee. Raising the money to get there was a problem in itself. We had a lot of fun there and we took 25th place out of 44 teams in our division even though we were a very young team.

This year in 5th grade my biggest challenge has been learning how to speak French. I have also served as a peer mentor in a group for students having problems making and maintaining friendships. I like helping others solve their problems.

Problem solving opens up a lot of opportunities for me. The cure for cancer is a problem. Putting the pieces together at a crime scene and helping find a serial killer are important problems that will help people feel safer in their beds. I could help people solve their problems if I were to become a psychologist. I could be a teacher and help kids learn how to solve problems. Or maybe I could be a top presidential adviser and solve international problems.

Problems solving is a way to exercise your brain. It is a fun way to expand your knowledge horizon. I hope to stay at it for a long, long time.●

#### RECOGNITION OF THE LYON COLLEGE CONCERT CHOIR

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the Lyon College Concert Choir on the occasion of their performance at the National Cathedral, March 17, 2002. Lyon College, located in Batesville, AR, offers a liberal arts education of superior quality in a personalized setting. A selective, independent, undergraduate, residen-

tial teaching and learning community affiliated with the Presbyterian Church, USA, Lyon encourages the free intellectual inquiry essential to social, ethical and spiritual growth. With a rich and scholarly and religious heritage, Lyon develops, in a culture of honor, responsible citizens and leaders committed to continued personal growth and service. We in Arkansas are extremely proud of the young people from Lyon College who will fill the cathedral with song on March 17.●

#### CITY OF ABSECON CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

● Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I bring to your attention the lovely waterfront community of Absecon, which is celebrating its centennial year on March 24, 2002. Absecon, originally Absecum, comes from the Algonquin Indian word Absegami, meaning "Across Little Water." Located in Atlantic County, Absecon was incorporated as a city on March 24, 1902. It is governed by an elected body consisting of a mayor and council members. The community, which lies adjacent to Atlantic City, encompasses 6 square miles and is predominantly residential, with a population of approximately 7,700 residents.

Finding the area lush with pines, cedars, and bayberry bushes, early English settlers in Absecon earned their living clamming and oystering. Soon wharves lined the creek, and boats large and small were built along the banks of this bustling seaport. In 1795, Thomas Budd purchased 10,000 acres of land in what later became Atlantic County. He paid 4 cents an acre for the land on which Atlantic City now stands. It was called Further Island, further from Absecon, and later called Absecon Beach and finally became Atlantic City. The land was originally purchased for control of the waterways and not for farming.

In 1819, Dr. Jonathan Pitney, saddlebags brimming with medical supplies, a blanket, and clothing, rode into Absecon on horseback to set up his medical practice. Only 21 years old, Dr. Pitney came to Absecon after completing 2 years as an assistant in a hospital on Staten Island, following his graduation from a New York medical school. Few in the village could have known that this young doctor would one day become famous and be forever known as the "Father of Atlantic City." For by 1834, the village known as Absecum in Galloway Township still only consisted of a tavern, store, and 8 to 10 dwellings.

When not visiting patients, Dr. Pitney could always be found strolling the shoreline taking in the sea air. It did not take long for Dr. Pitney to realize the benefits of the sea air and to determine that this area was magical and had the ideal climate for a health resort. Convincing the municipal authorities that a railroad to the beach would be beneficial, he was to be responsible for the construction of the

railroad east across New Jersey through the salt marshes to Absecon Island, now Atlantic City. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Pitney again became a leading force in the Village, petitioning Congress to construct a lighthouse at the north end of Absecon Island. Years later the Absecon Lighthouse was constructed putting an end once and for all to the countless scores of shipwrecks along the shoals and beaches near "Graveyard Inlet."

By 1899, Absecon's population was only 530 people but, in March of 1902 the legislature of the State of New Jersey approved an act to incorporate Absecon City in the County of Atlantic, as a city. From these humble beginnings, Absecon has grown to become a charming city by the water, housing a Central Business District and Light Industrial areas.

I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mayor Peter C. Elco and the citizens of Absecon on their centennial. May they have another 100 years of prosperity and community.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:06 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2341. An act to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, to outlaw certain practices that provide inadequate settlements for class members, to assure that attorneys do not receive a disproportionate amount of settlements at the expense of class members, to provide for clearer and simpler information in class action settlement notices, to assure prompt consideration of interstate class actions, to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow the application of the principles of Federal diversity jurisdiction to interstate class actions, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURE REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2341. An act to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for