

through minimum wage jobs, and endured criticism from the people around them, they had no idea they would change American people, and America itself forever.

America is like a giant mosaic—the most beautiful in the world. If the mosaic was all one color, the beauty would be gone. The pieces are all beautiful in their own way. Not one piece is more important than another. Not one piece shines more brightly than another. The mosaic is perfect, and without Immigrants, this could not have been accomplished. So much of our lives would be different if it wasn't for the diverse nationalities, and the Immigrants that traveled from those nations. Every time you eat a plate of spaghetti, think of an Italian Immigrant. Every time you bite into a bar of chocolate, think of a Mexican Immigrant. Every time you look around your community, and see people nationalities, who have different religions, who have different customs, think of an Immigrant who bravely traveled from their hometown, to bring us those unique ways of life. These Immigrants enriched and influenced our lives in so many positive ways.

WHY I'M GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF
IMMIGRANTS

(By Ilana Peña, Oaks Elementary School, North Miami Beach, FL, ALLA Southern Florida Chapter Contest Winner)

Tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce . . . Russians, Cubans, Asians . . . This is America, a nation of immigrants. Many people say America is a melting pot, everybody coming from different nations but melting into America. We are all proud to be Americans, but I think of us not as a melting pot, but as a salad bowl.

A salad bowl is made up of different vegetables, each with its own distinct flavor. When you take a bite, you still taste each individual vegetable, but mixed all together, the salad is delicious. Each American has his own distinct identity yet mixes together to create our wonderful America, a country made up of different people, with different cultures and backgrounds.

Being a country of immigrants makes America a dynamic place to live. We are rich with unique cultures. I have a friend whose family comes from India, and I am fascinated by her stories about her family's home country. Because of immigrants, there are different foods in our country, different clothing, different songs, and different ways of dancing.

My father and his family came from Cuba, and my mother's family came from Russia. I am grateful that my country welcomed them here in the United States of America. On our Thanksgiving table is not only the traditional turkey, but frioles negros, and kugel pudding. It makes me realize what a remarkable country I live in, as we all, Jews and Cubans, sit around a long table with the salad in the center representing our country, and share our cultures.●

TRIBUTE TO DAN KUNSMAN

● Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today to say good-bye to a good friend who has worked with me for over 10 years.

Dan Kunsman has been my Communications Director for the last eight years, adding to some 3 years of assisting me on the House side when I was the lone congressman from Wyoming. Also a native son of Wyoming, his work for me and the great State extends deeply into the heart and soul of the

West and will continue long into the future.

Dan joined my office in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1991 right out of school. Dan did a great job for me and was promoted to Communications Director when I was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1994.

Dan has not only been valuable in Washington, he was also a crucial part of three, statewide, victorious campaigns. He also took time from our efforts on sabbatical to assist with the success of my good friend and colleague, Senator ENZI, on his initial election effort in 1996.

We're part of a team, my staff and I. Along with my wife, Susan, we feel strongly bound to service for the people of Wyoming. As we say in the West, Dan's a good hand. That's a high compliment. It means that he's part of the team, reliable in a storm or any circumstance. In the House, Senate and on the campaign trail, Dan has proved to be one of the brightest and most effective public policy communicators and political strategists in Wyoming and Washington.

Dan has decided to join Brimmer Communications and will lead a new Washington, DC office for the public relations firm based in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. While it's always hard to see good people move on, in this case, I'm glad Dan plans to go to a strong firm at home and stay close to Wyoming people.

I'm not always the best at saying good-bye. I don't like to say it. So I'll just say see you, and I hope that's true. I'll look forward to it.

To our friend, Dan, I wish him and his wife, Isabel, the best of luck, and I know the Senate does as well.●

COMMEMORATION OF KING
KAMEHAMEHA I

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today in commemoration of the birthday of Hawaii's first monarch, King Kamehameha I. More than two centuries since his birth, Kamehameha is a legendary, indeed, mythical figure renowned worldwide for his bravery and martial brilliance. He commands the respect of Hawaii's people for his wise and just leadership, and his accomplishments continue to influence and govern Hawaii today.

Historically, Kamehameha is notable because of his brilliance as a military strategist and political leader. Kamehameha adapted Western innovation, weaponry, and science to gain a decisive advantage in his drive to unify the Hawaiian Islands. For Native Hawaiians and the people of Hawaii, Kamehameha is beloved for his concern and attention to the well-being of his subjects and for his commitment to do what was just and right for the people.

Kamehameha's wisdom, even more than his strength, stature, and daring, is his greatest and most enduring legacy for Hawaii's indigenous peoples—the Native Hawaiians, the people of Ha-

wai, and all students of history. Mamalohoe, the Law of the Splintered Paddle, is the most prominent example of Kamehameha as a wise and just leader. Mamalohoe is Hawaii's first Bill of Rights protecting the common people from assault, and it is still part of our State's constitution.

One hundred and ninety years ago, in the summer of 1812, Kamehameha returned to the Kona Coast. Having unified the islands and established peace and stability, Kamehameha worked to build prosperity for his people by increasing agricultural production and foreign trade.

The first observance of a day honoring King Kamehameha was proclaimed by King Kamehameha V on June 11, 1872, in the Kingdom of Hawaii. It remains an annual holiday in the State of Hawaii. This year marks the 130th anniversary of the only holiday in the United States created to honor a once-reigning monarch in the only state that was once a kingdom, the State of Hawaii.●

MISSION OF PEACE HOUSING
COUNSELING AGENCY

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I have come today to ask the Senate to join with me in paying tribute to the Mission of Peace Housing Counseling Agency which is located in the City of Flint, in my home state of Michigan.

Home ownership has long been one of the best ways for individuals and families to acquire capital, build equity and secure entry into the middle class. Mission of Peace Housing Counseling Agency was founded in 1997 by Reverend Elmira Smith-Vincent to assist those who desire to own their own home thereby gaining further control over their financial futures. As a real estate agent, Reverend Smith-Vincent saw a need to educate people and provide them with the skills needed to purchase a home. A faith-based, non profit agency, Mission of Peace Housing Counseling Agency provides assistance to families and individuals in the skills needed to purchase a home.

Since its inception, Mission of Peace Housing Counseling Agency has developed strong working relationships with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, The Fannie Mae Corporation, the Fannie Mae Foundation, the United States Department of the Treasury, the Federal Reserve Bank, area banks and lenders, local governments, schools, and the faith-based community. These strong relationships have enabled the Mission of Peace Housing Counseling Agency to have accomplished many great things since its inception only five years ago.

In 2001, they formed a partnership with Fannie Mae to offer the Mission of Peace Faith-Based Home ownership Initiative. As well, they implemented with great success an Individual Development Account program which allows participants to open an account at the Fifth Third Bank to save toward the