

work and know that wherever she goes, those around her will benefit from her leadership, insight, and commitment.●

WEST VIRGINIA VET CENTER RECEIVES AWARD

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, once again I rise to congratulate the Morgantown Vet Center in my State of West Virginia for receiving both the "Clinical Programs of Excellence" award presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Administration and the "Vet Center of Excellence" award presented by VA's Readjustment Counseling Service.

For the second time in a row, the skilled, dedicated staff of the Morgantown Vet Center has been recognized by VA for providing the best of VA care in their field. To receive either of these two awards once would be an outstanding accomplishment. But to receive both of them, twice in a row, by continuing to meet such high standards of care is something to be enormously proud of.

The services provided by the staff at the Morgantown Vet Center include individual and group counseling, family/marital counseling, sexual trauma counseling, substance abuse counseling, vocational and employment assistance, VA claims and benefits information, help for the homeless, and social service and health care referrals. They provide readjustment counseling to combat veterans and their families, including veterans who served during Vietnam, Korea, World War II, and the Persian Gulf.

The staff at the Morgantown Vet Center is extremely dedicated, and literally hundreds of veterans have benefited from their expertise. In fiscal year 2001, 11,528 visits were made to the Morgantown Vet Center, a 41 percent increase in the number of visits for fiscal year 1998. This growth is just one of the many positive facets of Morgantown's program that allowed VA to select them once again as a "Clinical Program of Excellence."

So to each and every one of the staff at the Morgantown Vet Center, thank you again for the exemplary work you do, for your professionalism, your dedication, and your compassion.

Congratulations for a job well done.●

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week. This week of wildlife education and activities marks the 99th birthday of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Following in the footsteps of one of our first conservationist Presidents, Theodore Roosevelt, who in 1903 instituted the National Wildlife Refuge on Pelican Island in Florida, the National Wildlife Refuge System attentively monitors and preserves wildlife habitats on 538 National Wildlife Refuges spanning 94 million acres.

The National Wildlife Refuge System plays a unique and critical role in ensuring Americans a safe, clean, and natural ecosystem where both wildlife and people benefit from a healthy environment.

The National Wildlife Refuge System protects a wide range of wildlife and landscapes throughout the country. In particular, the refuges in the Southwest are necessary to secure the well-being and survival of an assortment of migratory birds, including the bald eagle, who make the Southwest their home during the fall and spring months. The National Wildlife Refuge System concentrates not only on the hands-on aspect of environmental protection but, focuses on the importance of science in determining the future and well-being of wildlife. Specifically, they direct their scientific endeavors towards the accelerating rate of extinction of species and the associated loss of biological diversity coupled with habitat alteration and destruction. Their efforts towards the preservation of wildlife are in conjunction with and for the well-being of Americans and their ability to enjoy a peaceful, natural, and unspoiled national refuge.

The National Wildlife Refuge contributes greatly to ensuring many of New Mexico's natural landmark treasures such as Bitter Lake, Bosque del Apache, Grulla, Las Vegas, Maxwell, San Andres, and Sevilleta. The National Wildlife Refuge has been devoted to the restoration of Sevilleta, making native animals such as deer, elk, coyotes, mountain lions, and various birds and reptiles more abundant and visible. In particular, and of great interest to me, is the Long-Term Ecological Research Project the National Wildlife Refuge System they have launched. Such programs are key to the revitalization of not just Sevilleta, but to all of New Mexico's varying ecosystems. Their project is in line with the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge program and the Rio Grande Bosque Initiative that was implemented in 1991.

As part of my concern for New Mexico's wildlife, I included a provision in this year's Interior Appropriations bill providing \$1.25 million for the Fish and Wildlife program to design a new research complex for Sevilleta NWR. This facility will support numerous university and Federal agency research programs.

The National Wildlife Refuge System consistently helps prevent and regulate environmental disasters through their highly cultivated set of management tools that includes farming, prescribed burning, exotic plant control, moist soil management, and water level manipulation. Without the perseverance of such organizations as the National Wildlife Refuge System, we would not be able to successfully tackle the many environmental obstacles that stand in the way of a healthy and well managed ecosystem.

I wish the National Wildlife Refuge System a great week of learning, ex-

ploration, and fun and a continued success in their wildlife and environmental work. Although I cannot be in my beloved home of New Mexico for this noble event, I congratulate this organization for their almost one hundred years of conservation and public works.●

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the work of the Center for Civic Education. The center offers outstanding professional development institutes for teachers of civics and government throughout the United States.

While the center is based in my home State of California, their programs are administered nationally by a network of State and congressional district coordinators. Many of you are familiar with We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, a nationally acclaimed civic education program for upper elementary, middle, and high school students. I know that a number of you have met with the high school students who participate in the We the People national finals, a three-day academic competition in which students respond to questions on the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The center-sponsored professional development institutes are offered at national, regional, and State levels. These institutes are designed to instruct teachers in the content and methodology required to deliver quality education in civics and government. Institutes are usually one week long and provide rigorous content knowledge, innovative teaching techniques, and authentic assessment practices. Regional institutes provide an opportunity for teachers from neighboring states to share best practices in civic education.

This past year, 27 regional and State institutes were held in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. A Juvenile Justice Institute was offered for teachers of incarcerated youth, and a civics and government institute was held for university professors of education.

The center also sponsors a more intensive 3-week National Academy for teachers from across the country; the academy is held in California. Participants in the academy study major works of political theory such as Aristotle's Politics, Hobbes' Leviathan, Locke's Second Treatise, The Federalist, anti-federalist writings, and U.S. Supreme Court opinions. They also discuss relevant knowledge and creative ways to apply this experience when they return to the classroom.

National institutes for elementary school teachers and teachers interested