

the memory of a remarkable man, Reserve Deputy John Sandlin of Solano County, who died Friday, April 23, 2004. Deputy Sandlin spent almost 50 years working to protect his fellow citizens, serving a distinguished career in the Navy and as a volunteer deputy with the Solano County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Sandlin was killed in the line of duty when his patrol car spun out of control during a recent pursuit.

John Sandlin was the devoted husband of Dr. Kay Talbot and the proud father of three daughters, Lizabeth, Lori and Susan. He was also the proud grandfather of seven grandchildren.

Deputy Sandlin compiled a remarkable record in community policing with the Solano County Sheriff's Office, becoming its second most highly decorated officer. He spent 20 years as a volunteer reserve deputy who patrolled the streets most Friday nights for the past decade. Last May, he earned the Sheriff's Office Distinguished Service Medal and the Purple Heart. Sheriff Gary Stanton said of Deputy Sandlin, "We lost a brother—a man who has been part of our department for 20 years."

Before joining the Solano County Sheriff's Office, John served in the Navy for 22 years. He became a nuclear power instructor, served in the Submarine Service, and was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for saving another's life. He attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander while on active duty.

John Sandlin also spent 14 years at Westinghouse Electric Corporation as a Senior Mechanical Engineer and Documentation Manager. During his career at Westinghouse, he was sworn in as a reserve deputy sheriff with the Solano County Sheriff's Air Squadron. He earned the 1990 Community Service Award for his dedication to law enforcement and drug surveillance activities with the Solano County Sheriff's Department.

After retiring from Westinghouse, he soon entered the patrol field training program in the Sheriff's Office and began to work on the ground, patrolling the streets to protect his community.

John Sandlin died doing what he loved to do—providing protection for his community. He was a natural leader, a compassionate mentor, and an enthusiastic, charming and very well-liked member of the Sheriff's Office. We will always be grateful for Deputy Sandlin's heroic service defending our Nation and our freedoms, and protecting his community.●

#### PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD HONOREES

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I recognize Meghan Pasricha and Andrew Bell for being selected as two of the Nation's top youth volunteers in the ninth annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. This is an extraordinary honor. More than 24,000 young

people across the country were considered for this recognition each year.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, NASSP, constitutes America's largest youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteerism. The awards are designed to emphasize the importance that our Nation places on service to others and to encourage young Americans of all backgrounds to contribute to their communities.

Meghan Pasricha was named as one of America's top 10 youth volunteers for 2004. Selected from more than 2,000 applicants, she received \$5,000, an engraved gold medallion and a crystal trophy from her school, Sanford School. In addition, she will have \$25,000 in toys, clothing and other juvenile products donated in her name to needy children in the area by Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc.

Meghan Pasricha, 18, of Hockessin, is a senior at Sanford School. Meghan started an antitobacco club at her school that has since developed into a full-blown campaign to educate young people across the country and overseas about the hazards of smoking. When Meghan heard that her State legislature was considering a ban on indoor smoking, she paid close attention. After learning that most smokers start before they turn 18, Meghan founded the Anti-Tobacco Action Club at her school. With a grant from the American Lung Association and the Delaware Health Fund, she recruited a core team of volunteers, led meetings, planned a year-long series of antitobacco activities, created training and presentation materials, and conducted 12 tobacco awareness workshops for school and youth groups. She also set up a tobacco education booth at a school health fair, published a newsletter and helped other Delaware schools start tobacco education programs. And by writing newspaper articles and speaking publicly, she helped mobilize youth support for the enactment of one of the Nation's toughest indoor smoking bans.

On a visit to India, Meghan observed how young people there are targeted by tobacco sellers, so she trained a group of youth advocates to raise awareness in a number of villages. Later, Meghan presented her project at the World Conference on Tobacco in Finland, and worked with youth advocates from nine other nations to prepare a World Health Organization Youth Action Guide and video. "I am convinced that a single person, even if young and inexperienced, can become a catalyst for change," she said. "Young people are often told that they are 'leaders of tomorrow.' I urge young people to become leaders today."

Andrew Bell of Seaford was selected as one of Delaware's top youth volunteers for 2004. He received a \$1,000 award and was congratulated by Academy Award winning actress and come-

dian, Whoopi Goldberg. He also received an engraved silver medallion and a trip to Washington, DC, for the program's national recognition events.

Twelve-year-old Andrew, a sixth grader at Sussex Academy of Arts and Sciences, helped collect shoes, socks, and shoelaces for needy orphans around the world. Andrew started the project by writing letters to the four elementary school principals in his hometown of Seaford, asking them for permission to collect donations in their schools. He wrote articles for his school newsletters, created handouts and brochures explaining the purpose of his project, decorated collection boxes for each of the four schools, and solicited donations from local department stores. Some 300 pairs of shoes, 83 pairs of socks and 15 pairs of shoelaces were collected for this effort. From there, the items were sent to the Buckner Orphan Care facility in Texas. The items were then distributed worldwide to orphans in need. Andrew felt that this project was important because "many children on Earth are poor, and not very many people are trying to help them."

Today, I rise to congratulate Meghan and Andrew. These youngsters inspire examples of community spirit and leadership. They serve as role models not only to their peers, but to all of us, as well as to the people they have touched through community service. They represent the State of Delaware at its very best.●

#### ALAMEDA CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY'S EARLY LOAN REPAYMENT

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I congratulate the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority, ACTA, for repaying its loan to the Federal Government 28 years ahead of schedule.

ACTA has proven that it is an asset for Southern California and the Federal Government by building the Alameda Corridor on time and on budget—and now repaying the loan so early.

I have worked on this project since 1995, when I secured the Alameda Corridor as a high priority corridor in the National Highway System bill.

This project is extremely important because the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach receive 40 percent of the Nation's imports, together composing the largest shipping complex in the United States.

By taking trucks off the road, the Alameda Corridor helps move goods more rapidly and reduces congestion for many communities in southern California.

I am proud to be associated with this project. It is a model for the Nation and a model for innovative finance.

I look forward to working with ACTA on new projects supporting goods movement in southern California.

I ask that a proclamation signed by the City of Los Angeles, the City of Long Beach, and the Alameda Corridor