

Democracy cannot prosper on blind-faith. To work effectively, democracy's foundation—the people, must be well informed. And, in order to be more informed, more responsive, and more prepared for the challenges ahead, we must continue to ask questions to our leaders; that is our duty as responsible citizens. It is why the 9/11 Independent Commission's investigative work, public hearings, public Final Report and public Recommendations are so vital.

The only way elected officials, agencies and institutions can be held accountable and responsible is if we, the American people, stay vigilant and informed. Before 9/11, the will of the nation to fight terrorism was not present. Post 9/11, the will of this nation exists to confront the battle of terrorism.

But fighting terrorism is not simply an offensive strategy. It is a combined and cumulative process. We need the intelligence agencies to investigate more creatively and aggressively. We need our judicial process to permit the fair and just prosecution of terrorists. We need our foreign policy to issue sanctions to all countries that sponsor terrorism, even if that means our foreign economic dependency suffers. We need our Treasury Department to have the resources to dry up money lines that fund terrorist organizations. We need big business interests to yield to the common good.

Our elected officials who take an oath of office to lead, protect, and serve need to be held responsible and accountable. They must have the courage and curiosity to ask questions, to have established and reliable plans and back-up plans, to demand action, reforms and to welcome personal responsibility.

Most importantly, our elected officials need to remember that they are serving at the will of the people. As our public stewards, it should not be the sanctity of their own political well-being that most consumes their actions and decisions. More correctly, it should be the safety, security and well-being of the people that they serve that should pre-occupy their time.

In a post-9/11 world, it is the responsible preservation of all life that must transcend politics.

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mission.*

Mrs. CLINTON. In light of the pending release of the 9/11 Commission report, I wish to recognize the Family Steering Committee for the 9/11 Independent Commission and their efforts to establish the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING THE CITY OF MENNO

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I honor and publicly recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of the city of Menno, SD. The city of Menno has a proud past and a promising future.

The area that was to become the city of Menno was settled in 1874 by a group of Black Sea Germans from Russia. The great majority of settlers made

their living off the land. According to a U.S. Government survey, Menno and the land surrounding it is made up of some of the richest most fertile soil in the country. Menno owes its beginnings to the railroad industry, which brought much-needed commerce.

The city of Menno bears the name intended for the town of Freeman, 10 miles away. When railroad officials were nailing the signs bearing the names of new towns to the depots, the name boards of the neighboring towns of Menno and Freeman were accidentally interchanged. With the result that Menno derives its name from the large settlement of Mennonites at Freeman, called Mennonites because the sect was founded by Menno Simons, while the town of Freeman is named for an early settler of Menno. The city of Menno was officially settled in 1879.

Currently, more than 800 people live in Menno. The city has already started celebrations for its 125th anniversary and will continue them throughout the year. It is with great honor that I advise my colleagues of the achievements made by this great community. •

HONORING THE MUHLENBERG CAREER DEVELOP

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I take the opportunity to honor the Muhlenberg Career Development Center. Beginning with the groundbreaking in 1973, this institution has been working diligently to better the lives of all its students. This has been acknowledged by a four-star rating from the National Job Corps Association and by the National Job Corps Award for Excellence it received from the same association earlier this year. The Career Center also received a "Top 50" national ranking for Job Corps centers.

The Muhlenberg Career Development Center has a profound impact on the surrounding community. The center employs 135 men and women, making it the fourth largest employer in Muhlenberg County. The center also generates a substantial amount of revenue for the community through the contract it has with the Department of Labor. The standard of excellence set by the career development center is greatly appreciated by the 404 students who are currently working towards a GED and vocation there. The dedication exhibited by the Muhlenberg Career Development Center towards its students, county, State, and country deserves to be recognized and honored.

The citizens of Kentucky are proud to have the Muhlenberg Career Development Center as a part of their community. Their example of hard work and determination should be followed by all in the Commonwealth. The Muhlenberg Career Development Center has successfully found a way to bring out the best in its men and women. I personally thank the leaders and supporters of this great organization for continually producing strong and

bright men and women committed to making Kentucky a better place to live. •

TRIBUTE TO DR. NEAL R. BERTE

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my home State of Alabama. Dr. Neal Berte has been president of Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama since 1976. He recently retired, ending his 29 years of service to this great liberal arts institution. It has been my pleasure to work with Dr. Berte during my time in the Senate on issues affecting higher education and community service in the Birmingham area.

Dr. Berte recognized early on in his career the need to produce future leaders rich in a background of service to others. Therefore, he made service-learning a priority for himself and Birmingham-Southern students. Almost every student who graduates from Birmingham Southern College leaves the Hilltop having had some type of community-service experience. From serving food at a homeless shelter to mentoring children at the local elementary school, the opportunities are endless and involvement is always encouraged. Dr. Berte has led this effort by deeds, not words. He is the first to arrive at a service event and the last to leave. His involvement in the local community is unparalleled and has led to his being awarded Birmingham's Distinguished Citizen Award, Citizen of the Year, and the Erskine Ramsey Award for Outstanding Civic Service.

While developing and implementing an aggressive service-learning component to higher education has been a great achievement at Birmingham-Southern, it is far from being his only accomplishment. During the "Berte years," Birmingham-Southern College's student enrollment has doubled, the academic profile of the student body has increased and regularly leads other Alabama colleges and universities, the number of faculty has increased by almost 70 percent, the student-faculty ratio has lowered from 18-to-1 to 12-to-1, the campus has expanded, and the college's endowment has grown from \$11 million to more than \$122 million. It is difficult to fully gauge the impact Dr. and Mrs. Berte have had over the past 29 years, however, perhaps it is best captured in Dr. Berte's relationship with the students that have flowed through the campus. Dr. Berte's support of the student body has been unwavering. From attending campus sporting events to carrying the boxes of new students on move-in day, Dr. Berte's face has been a constant presence at events throughout each school year. Amazingly, he has learned the name and face of almost every student who has walked the halls at BSC and makes it a priority to greet each person he meets by name and to inquire about something occurring in his or her life at the moment. I think this