

themselves throughout Michigan in great numbers towards the end of the 19th century. In the pursuit of a better life for themselves and their families, they settled in Polonias, or Polish neighborhoods. Many arrived in search of job opportunities in our great automotive industry. By 1904, Polish Americans were the largest and one of the most influential ethnic groups in Detroit. By 1920, they made up nearly one-fifth of Detroit's population. Polish people have enriched Michigan's culture and made metro Detroit a better place to live.

There were many institutions important to this growing immigrant population including cultural organizations, churches and the Polish American press. The Polish Daily News has played a significant role in this history, devoting itself to sustaining Polish culture and language and connecting the immigrant community to the political, cultural and social life of America.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to congratulate the Polish Daily News on reaching this significant 100-year milestone. Gratulacje!•

MS. TAMARA BRICKMAN

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a special individual who has been serving the great State of Oregon for years. Tamara Brickman, a legislative coordinator at the Oregon Employment Department, is devoted to improving the lives of Oregonians by increasing the efficiency of the State government and improving the quality of workforce training. Her knowledge of State and Federal labor laws is expansive and impressive. My staff and I rely on her expertise frequently when addressing workforce legislation in Congress.

Ms. Brickman is a native Oregonian, the fourth generation of her family to live in a small town named La Grande, not far from my hometown of Pendleton in the northeast corner of the State. She is a graduate of Eastern Oregon University and a former intern of my esteemed predecessor in the Senate, Senator Mark Hatfield. According to Ms. Brickman, it was in Senator Hatfield's office that her true passion for public service blossomed.

Ms. Brickman began her career working for Oregonians as a teacher in La Grande at an alternative high school and a job training facility for individuals receiving public assistance. In January 1993, Ms. Brickman took a job in the Senate Ethics, Elections, and Campaign Finance Reform Committee of the Oregon State Legislature. In fact, Ms. Brickman served as a staffer in the Oregon Capitol when I carried my first bill on the Senate floor as an Oregon State Senator.

Before heading to law school at the University of Oregon, Ms. Brickman furthered her strong reputation in workforce training by running a federally-funded youth summer employment

training program in Union County in 1994 and 1995. The training program was part of the Job Training Partnership Act, JTPA, now known as the Workforce Investment Act. Ms. Brickman taught disadvantaged youth in job skills and then found community job placements for those students in local businesses.

After passing the Oregon State bar in 1998, Ms. Brickman held a range of legislative positions for a State senator, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Oregon University System Chancellor's office. For the last 3 years, Ms. Brickman has gone above and beyond the call of duty at the Oregon Employment Department to help members of our congressional delegation pass unemployment extension benefits and fiscal state relief. Ms. Brickman never fails to share important information about the state of the workforce in ways that allow me to craft timely legislation that responds to our State's needs. Her commitment to Oregon's workers and families shines through in her outstanding work.

There are thousands of dedicated State and local government employees across the country who serve their communities with the highest distinction. In my opinion, few could match the professionalism of Ms. Brickman. It is my honor and pleasure to take the time today to recognize Ms. Tamara Brickman for her dedication to Oregon.•

BALLOON FIESTA—CHARACTER COUNTS

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to discuss the good that occurs when a community joins together. This relates to a wonderful program I have been proud to promote in New Mexico for the past 10 years—Character Counts—and the support it gets from the business community.

We have had troubling and disappointing news over the past few years about corporate scandals and questionable ethics in the corporate world. So it is with great pleasure to be able to discuss a story about responsible and caring business behavior.

For the fourth straight year, Northrup Grumman has teamed with other local organizations to help at-risk youth experience the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

On October 7 through 8, eight elementary-age students in the Character Counts education program run through the Albuquerque YMCA and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Albuquerque and Rio Rancho will be treated to a field trip to the Balloon Fiesta courtesy of the Northrup Grumman and its partners—Meals on Wheels and the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta organization. The children and their chaperones will be treated to tethered balloon rides and generally feted throughout the day as special guests.

Now, this is more than just a simple do-good action by a major corporation.

For these children it is a once-in-a-lifetime adventure linked to the Character Counts education program that builds into their lives the benefits of Respect, Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Citizenship, Fairness, and Caring. These are the six pillars of good character.

The Balloon Fiesta outing is a joint effort by these companies and organizations with the Albuquerque Character Counts Cooperative. We know these trips impact these children's lives. It is not only a reward for excelling at Character Counts, but also an entertaining way for them to broaden their horizons, meet community leaders and have a ballooning experience they might not have otherwise ever experienced.

Character Counts is an incredibly successful character education initiative. We are celebrating its 10-year history in New Mexico and these annual balloon fiesta field trips for outstanding students are a key component to helping youth become inspired by adults who are role models of the Character Counts pillars.

So I express my appreciation to the team of businesses and groups who have helped make the overall Character Counts program a success in New Mexico. In particular, I am pleased with Northrup Grumman, the YMCA, the Boys and Girls Clubs, Meals on Wheels and Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta for broadening the horizons for children.•

CONGRATULATING MARGARET (PEG) CURTIN

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I wish a happy 70th birthday to an outstanding citizen and dear friend, Peg Curtin.

Peg was one of my earliest and strongest supporters when I first ran for Congress in 1974. Peg's family and mine have been close since the 1950s, when my father served in the House and then in the U.S. Senate.

For nearly three decades, Peg has compiled an outstanding record of public and community service in Connecticut. She has truly given her heart and soul to the people of our State.

From 1974 to 1977, Peg was a union organizer for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees and a member of the international staff of the AFL-CIO. In 1975, she was part of the transition team of one of our State's most beloved Governors, the late Ella T. Grasso. That year, Peg also began the first of 4 years as a member of the New London City Council, including one year as the city's mayor. Among her many accomplishments was the development and implementation of New London's first-ever affirmative action plan.

From 1979 to 1996, Peg devoted her time and energy to the State of Connecticut. For 12 years, she served as under secretary at the Office of Policy and Management's Division of Intergovernmental Relations. There, her talents enabled her to handle a demanding and diverse array of tasks,