

Pentecostal Church to a new level. His professionalism and guidance in handling Louisiana's churches and their congregations will be missed, as well as his great wisdom and leadership.

I personally commend, honor and thank Reverend Tenney on the occasion of his retirement from service to the people of Louisiana after 26 years as United Pentecostal Church District Superintendent for the State of Louisiana.●

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO "WE THE PEOPLE" FINALISTS FROM THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I congratulate students from Valley View High School in Jonesboro, AR for winning their statewide competition and earning the chance to come to our Nation's capital to compete in the national finals of "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution". Led by their teacher Dana Shoemaker, students Jarrett Clark, Virginia Gray, Tyler Isbell, Zachery Lesley, Ryan McCormack, Ashley Perryman, Whitney Philamlee, Olga Redko, Elizabeth Renshaw, Laura Stahl, and Molly Throgmorton will join more than 1,200 students from across the country to take part in the weekend-long competition.

"We the People" is a nationwide program developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, and it provides a unique and valuable opportunity for high school students to learn about the foundations of the Federal Government while spending time in Washington, D.C., the center of American civic engagement.

It is a wonderful thing that these students have taken such an interest in government and the political system. The vibrancy of our democracy depends on the active participation of its citizens. And with every new generation, we are faced with the challenge of educating our future leaders in the value of civic engagement. I am happy that the parents and teachers of these students from Jonesboro are meeting that important challenge and that the students are taking an active role in their own education by participating in such an enriching program.

While in Washington, the students will participate in a 3-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing, in which they testify before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles and have opportunities to evaluate and debate positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. It is important to note that the Educational Testing Service—ETS, the world's largest private educational testing and research organization, characterizes the "We the People" program as a "great instructional success." Independent studies by ETS have revealed that "We

the People" students "significantly outperformed comparison students on every topic of the tests taken." I am delighted that the Valley View Blazers can take advantage of such a great opportunity.

These 11 students from Jonesboro certainly deserve recognition for their hard work and talent. Through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and our political system, they have earned the right to compete at the highest level. I am proud that such fine young ladies and gentlemen will be representing my state on the national stage, and I am honored to acknowledge their accomplishment.

I wish these students the best of luck at the "We the People" national finals, and I applaud their outstanding achievement.●

#### WORLD WAR II REMEMBRANCE

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to share with you a remarkable story from World War II and the remembrance shown by our friends in Germany.

Lindlar, Germany a small town outside of Cologne, is honoring the memory of an American war hero who lost his life during WWII. First Lieutenant Victor Rutkowski was a 24 year old, B-17 co-pilot assigned to the 390th Bombardment Group stationed in England. Lindlar will be dedicating a monument to Victor's memory and holding a memorial service to honor him this weekend.

Doug Johnson was the pilot of the B-17 during Victor's last mission. The following is his account of that final mission.

Oct 15, 1944: My 35th and final mission started about like most of the others we had flown during the previous few months. Two of our earlier missions had extended all the way from England, over Germany landing in Russia for a short stay. Leaving Russia and bombing in Poland and Rumania before proceeding on to Italy for a couple days before our final leg back into Framlingham, England. But this time we were going on a relatively short mission to Cologne, Germany. We were to fly the lead position, high element of "B" squadron. Take off went according to schedule and we were airborne at about 0534. Climb out and assembly was simply routine. We reached the IP and turned toward the target area. No enemy fighters were sighted and it looked like the flak was going to be light and inaccurate. Hey, this was going to be a piece of cake.

Just before bombs away the flak became moderate and their gunners were beginning to home in on us. Suddenly we received a burst right under the right wing. We lost number 4 engine and Victor Rutkowski, my co-pilot, feathered it immediately then informed me that number three engine was on fire. Now things were beginning to get pretty tense. We attempted to extinguish the fire with no success and

it's about time for bombs away. We continued and dropped our bombs in the target area. We notified the squadron leader and immediately pulled away from the formation. I called out on the intercom that "we had better get out of here before this plane blows up". Things looked pretty bad. I called back later to the crew but got no answer because all of them except the co-pilot, engineer and myself had already bailed out.

The fire continued in number 3 engine so the engineer bailed out and Victor followed him. I climbed down to bail out but decided to take one last look at number 3. The fire appeared to have gone out. The plane was in a slight dive as I climbed back into the seat. Upon returning the plane to level flight I noticed that the fire reappeared. I then put the plane in a fairly steep dive. I remember saying to myself "come on baby we've gotten this far, don't blow up on me now". The fire blew out shortly thereafter. My luck was still holding.

I was down to about 4000 feet by now and found myself flying through some more flak, and small arms fire. I didn't realize at the time that I was flying directly over the ground fighting between our troops and the Germans somewhere north of Aachen. I really did not know who was shooting at me then but luckily I was out of it in a minute or so. I finally contacted a P-47 fighter pilot in the area who led me into St. Trond, Belgium, Site A92, where the landing was not the best I had ever made. A flat right tire that had been shot out by flak didn't help. After exiting the plane and walking around to inspect the damage, I noticed that the tail gunner was still at his post. A flak burst had killed him. The plane had about 200 holes in it and the fuel was still leaking from the number 3 engine. I still can't figure out why that plane didn't blow up.

I later learned that my co pilot was killed on the ground by German civilians and that my bombardier had been wounded but evaded and my engineer also escaped capture and returned to base. The rest of my crew spent the balance of the war as POWs.

A truly remarkable story that speaks vividly to the sacrifice soldiers such as Victor made fighting for their countries.

I would like to commend the citizens of Lindlar for honoring the memory of Victor Rutkowski and all those who died during in World War II. I would like to add the thanks of the Rutkowski family and the United States Senate to Lindlar for this special tribute.●

#### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on Friday, April 15, 2005, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 256. An act to amend title II of the United States Code, and for other purposes.