

students from across the country to visit Washington, DC, and take part in national competition during the first week of May. These bright students showcased their exemplary knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, and did my State proud against competition from other States. I applaud the achievement of the Kahuku students for placing in the Top 10 of National Finalists out of the 51 schools participating.

The "We the People" program is administered by the Center for Civic Education and is an extensive educational program developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and Bill of Rights. The 3-day competition is modeled after hearings in the U.S. Congress and provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge before a panel of adult judges while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Their testimony is followed by questions designed to probe the students' depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

I recognize the following 23 Kahuku students who proudly represented the State of Hawaii: Genevieve Allen, Yesenia Arevalo, Amanda Baize, Bonnie Cameron, Meri Ching, Dannah Christensen, Krystle Corpuz, Oliver Howells, Lorna Kekua, Jokke Kokkonen, Jacquelyn Lautaha, William Law, Catalina Markowitz, Ajri McArthur, Sara Mirels, Brad Rasmussen, Ashley Rillamas, Lizette Sauque, Noelle Spring, Shirley Tagayuna, Joseph Trisolini, and Morgan Wright. I especially thank their teacher, Ms. Sandra Cashman, for once again seizing this opportunity to educate students about the significance of the American institutions of constitutional democracy. The mere fact that Kahuku students competed here for 11 of the last 12 "We the People" competitions is a testament to Ms. Cashman's skills as a civics education teacher.

As a former Kahuku High School teacher, I take pride in these students who rose to the challenges presented in this competition, and gave impressive performances. I know that it is because of school and parental support, dedication, and commitment that these students were empowered and encouraged to excel in this arena. These students have no doubt made everyone in their school, their families, and their friends proud of what they achieved. We should all recognize that they are learning and advocating the fundamental ideas that identify us as a people and bind us together as a nation. The zeal and diligence these students showed in their understanding of Government ought to serve as a symbol for all citizens to pursue.●

EXCELLENCE IN NURSING

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I celebrate the hard work and dedication of all nurses that serve the veterans of

our great Nation. In particular, I congratulate the recipients of the Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing and Advancement of Nursing Programs. These recipients were nominated for dedication to their profession and for outstanding service to our veterans and to the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA. The honor bestowed on these individuals is greatly deserved.

The 2005 Nursing Award Recipients for Excellence in Nursing include: Marthe Moseley, Kim Pyatt, Ferris Jones, and John Cheng. The recipients of the 2005 Award for the Advancement of Nursing Programs are Timothy B. Williams and Rebecca Newsom Williams. All these individuals have demonstrated high level of achievement and dedication through their service with VA.

Marthe Moseley, PhD, RN, CCRN, CCNS, is an award recipient from the South Texas Veterans Health Care System. Dr. Moseley coordinates and evaluates integrated programs that demonstrate clinical excellence in the field of orientation, competency development and implementation. She has been a key consultant to entities such as the National Dialysis Conference; Brook Army Medical Center; and Wilford Hall Medical Center, Air Force. Dr. Moseley has been a leader in improving the quality and effectiveness of care for critically ill patients.

Kim Pyatt, RN, BSN, of the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, has been an outstanding and positive nurse for the past 5 years. She served as a staff nurse and a night charge nurse in the Nursing Home Care Unit, NHCU, before being selected as the Geriatrics and Extended Care Wound coordinator in 2002. Ms. Pyatt has a great passion for veterans and for providing excellent nursing care in the NHCU.

Ferris Jones, LPN, works in the Puget Sound Health Care System with the Mental Health Service in the Homeless Care Line, Domiciliary Care Program, and also through a residential program that treats veterans for post traumatic stress disorder. His strong medical background, training in the U.S. Army, and experience in mental health have worked together to set a standard of excellence. He has contributed to quality of care through evaluations of procedures for the Domiciliary Care Program and the development of an educational orientation video for those newly admitted to the program.

John Cheng, from the Northport VA Medical Center, has been a nursing assistant in Extended Care since 1998. Mr. Cheng as continued to provide top quality, as well as encouragement, to his veteran patients. Mr. Cheng recently spent a great deal of time with a young traumatic brain injury patient who had been admitted to the NCHU. During this time, Mr. Cheng demonstrated compassion and selfless dedication to treating patients. He did the

little things that are necessary during a time of extended treatment, such as developing a relationship with this young patient. Mr. Cheng is also dedicated to professional growth. He is the only employee to graduate from the VA-sponsored Licensed Practical Nurse, LPN, program and is now working on achieving his registered nurse degree.

Timothy B. Williams is the director of the VA Puget Sound Health Care System. Mr. Williams has worked closely with nursing and physician leadership to implement innovative strategies to optimally deliver patient care, in spite of limited resources. He has continuously sought opportunities to ensure nurse support and to encourage professional development of nursing at all levels. Mr. Williams has also been an effective supporter of VA efforts to recruit and retain nursing staff.

Rebecca Newsom Williams, RN, MPH, is the associate director for Patient/Nursing Services for the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System. In her role, Ms. Williams directs the integration of all nursing related activities throughout the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System, in collaboration with the executive leadership team. Ms. Williams has demonstrated excellence in her leadership by recognizing the need for combined research and clinical practices.

As you can see, these phenomenal nurses deserve to be applauded for their accomplishments. Through their commitment and compassion to our Nation's heroes, they themselves also become heroes to our veterans.

As ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I again congratulate these distinguished award recipients. They demonstrate the need and importance of excellence at every level of care giving, for every patient. In this time of critical need for nurses, it is imperative that we thank these nurses who have chosen to serve in the VA health care system for their diligence and dedication.●

HIGH TECHNOLOGY ENTREPRENEURSHIP HONORED

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, Idaho's small businesses make up over 95 percent of total businesses in the State. New companies launch their products and services every day. These businesses are the lifeblood of Idaho's economy and their existence indicates the overwhelming entrepreneurship that abides in our communities large and small. A unique public-private partnership between the Idaho National Lab, Boise State University, and the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor is helping these vital organs of Idaho's economy grow and function to their best potential. The Small Business Administration recently recognized this effort, giving Idaho TechConnect a national "Best Practices" award at an economic development conference here in Washington.