

shown by our Chairs, Senator LANDRIEU and Senator CRAIG. Thanks to their leadership and the importance of public awareness, this event has grown into a true celebration and recognition of the individuals who have earned their award, as an Angel of Adoption.

This year, I am delighted to honor Chris Wood, executive director of Mission West Virginia, a faith-based organization in my State. Chris and his group have undertaken the initiative known as One Church, One Child. This program which has branches in about 30 States was started in my State in December 2001, thanks to the leadership of Chris Wood and Mission West Virginia. Its goal is to raise awareness and interest in adoptions from foster care throughout the community, but particularly focusing on faith communities. Since its inception, hundreds of West Virginians have inquired about potential adoptions. About 40 adults have been registered and certified as foster and/or adoptive parents. But the best news is that 25 children have been adopted into safe, permanent homes. Others are still in the process. This is real progress, and it is changing the lives of children and families.

This is a remarkable program. I am also pleased to note that my West Virginia colleague has nominated Drew Ornbaum as her Angel in Adoption. Drew is a teenager who was adopted from foster care, and he has become a compassionate spokesperson for this initiative and its vital goal—a safe, permanent home for every child.

Chris Wood, executive director of Mission West Virginia, is doing important work on behalf of children and families through the One Church, One Child program.●

RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL REGINALD CENTRACCHIO, U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of MG Reginald Centracchio, the Adjutant General of the State of Rhode Island and the commanding general of the Rhode Island National Guard. Major General Centracchio retired on September 1, 2005, after 48 years in the Rhode Island Army National Guard. He is the only adjutant general from Rhode Island to serve his entire career within the Rhode Island National Guard, rising from private to the position of adjutant general.

Major General Centracchio enlisted as a private in the National Guard in September 1957. He graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1962, and was commissioned a second lieutenant, Air Defense Artillery.

Over the past four decades, Major General Centracchio held a wide variety of important command and staff positions, including platoon leader and battery commander on various missile sites throughout Rhode Island; field ar-

tillery tactical intelligence staff officer and adjutant; recruiting and retention manager; plans, operations and military support officer; director of personnel and administration; and director of plans, operations and training, Rhode Island Army National Guard.

Major General Centracchio was appointed the Adjutant General, State of Rhode Island, and Commanding General, Rhode Island National Guard, by Gov. Lincoln Almond on August 1, 1995. On August 1, 2002, he achieved the State rank of lieutenant general. On July 1, 1996, he was appointed director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, RIEMA, merging the National Guard and Emergency Management Agency. On January 21, 2003, he was reappointed by Gov. Donald L. Carcieri as the Adjutant General of Rhode Island; he was then appointed Rhode Island Homeland Security Advisor. Major General Centracchio is the first adjutant general to hold all three positions simultaneously.

During his tenure as Adjutant General and Commanding General of the Rhode Island National Guard, Major General Centracchio's leadership and commitment were essential in ensuring the Rhode Island National Guard trained, equipped, and deployed soldiers and airmen in support of United States military missions at home and abroad. His experience and knowledge were constantly sought during numerous State emergencies in which Rhode Island National Guard troops were employed to ensure public safety. Under his direct supervision, the Rhode Island National Guard mobilized and deployed over 3,500 troops in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. This represents the largest deployment of Rhode Island National Guard Troops since the First World War.

General Centracchio exemplifies what it means to be a "soldier." He was utterly committed to accomplishing his mission and completely dedicated to the welfare of his troops. He led by example. His service and sacrifice sustained the men and women of the Rhode Island National Guard and will continue to inspire them in the years ahead.

I also want to commend his wife, Linda. She also served by his side to provide for the men and women of the Rhode Island National Guard. Together they made an extraordinary contribution to our Nation and to Rhode Island.

Major General Centracchio's superb sense of duty and responsibility provided the citizens of Rhode Island with solid evidence of the National Guard's commitment to the State and Nation. On behalf of the residents of Rhode Island, I thank Major General Centracchio for a lifetime of selfless service. I wish him well and salute him with the title that he has earned and honored. "Sir, you are a soldier."●

NEW MEXICO JUNIOR COLLEGE

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, on behalf of my fellow New Mexicans, I recognize the outstanding achievements of the New Mexico Junior College baseball team and applaud their remarkable world series victory.

New Mexico Junior College, an institution with over 3,000 students, is located in Hobbs, NM. This southeastern New Mexico town is known for its abundant natural resources, agriculture, attractive yearlong weather, and small town charm. Hobbs has long been known as the hub of New Mexico's oil industry, and home to the world's gliding community. Now, Hobbs is the home of the No. 1 junior college baseball team in America.

The Thunderbird baseball team has a distinguished local and national reputation for excellence. More than 85 New Mexico Junior College players have been drafted by professional teams, and two of those recently won Major League Baseball championships with the Florida Marlins and Anaheim Angels. However, this is the first national championship in the school's storied baseball history.

The 2005 season added to the list of accolades for the New Mexico Junior College Thunderbirds. The team finished the season winning 55 out of 65 games, and outscored their opponents 44 to 19 during their championship run. Head coach Ray Birmingham won his 700th game along the way and received the award for NJCAA coach of the year. The team finished with the highest batting average in the country. Seven Thunderbirds, from a variety of positions, received all-conference honors.

Besides being great athletes, the Thunderbirds continue to show remarkable character off the field. Four players earned Academic All-American honors this season, highlighting the high academic standards of the program. I have always believed that the ability to shine on and off the playing field is a truly crowning achievement.

This New Mexico Junior College baseball team demonstrated remarkable teamwork and selflessness throughout the season. Players born in New Mexico, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Australia, Canada, and across the United States came together to realize their dreams this season. For that, and for all their accomplishments, I commend each and every player and coach of the Thunderbird team here in this RECORD. May their success be only a prelude to future accomplishments, and may they continue to represent their school, Hobbs, and the State of New Mexico with distinction.●

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM H. (HARRY) ARMSTRONG

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Mr. William H. (Harry) Armstrong on receiving the 2005 Rose Ann Vuich Ethical Leadership Award. The Rose Ann Vuich Leadership Award, sponsored by the Kenneth L.

Maddy Institute at California State University, Fresno, the Fresno Business Council and the Fresno Bee, is a prestigious award that celebrates excellence and integrity in public service.

Harry Armstrong began his distinguished career in public service when he was appointed to the Clovis Planning Commission in 1966. In 1970, Harry was elected by the residents of Clovis to serve on the city council for nine consecutive terms. During this period, Harry also completed four highly successful terms as the mayor of Clovis. He is currently the longest-serving councilmember in California.

Harry Armstrong's remarkable tenure on city council has coincided with the growth of Clovis from a quiet small town to one of the most vibrant and dynamic communities in the Central Valley. Clovis' status as one of the most desirable places to live, raise a family, and conduct business is made possible in no small part by Harry's extraordinary vision and steadfast commitment to serve the overall good of the community and advance the interests of his beloved constituents.

In addition to his immense contributions to the city of Clovis, Harry Armstrong has been very generous in lending his considerable talents and passion for public service to a number of other statewide and regional causes over the years. A former president of the League of California Cities, Harry is the current chairperson of the Fresno County Transportation Authority as well as serving in the same capacity for the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies. Harry is widely regarded as one of the Central Valley's foremost experts on transportation and water issues.

As important is the high level of ethical leadership that has been the hallmark of Harry Armstrong's tenure of public service.

As his colleagues, constituents, and many admirers would attest, Harry Armstrong is a truly deserving recipient of an award that honors the importance of integrity, character, ethics, consensus building, and commitment to the common good in public service. Throughout his career in government, Harry has consistently embodied the best ideals of a dedicated public servant.

I congratulate Harry Armstrong on receiving the 2005 Rose Ann Vuich Ethical Leadership Award and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.●

HONORING THE RANCHO BUENA VISTA LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Rancho Buena Vista Little League Team of San Diego, CA, that represented the Western Region in the Little League World Series.

The Rancho Buena Vista Team treated fans to a thrilling season, including an amazing 24-game winning streak. Their season culminated in a 5 to 4 vic-

tory over the team from Chiba City, Japan to win third place at the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA. On August 14, 2005, Rancho Buena Vista defeated Tracy, California 7 to 2 in the West regional championship game, finishing with a 6 to 0 record. The Vista Little Leaguers became the sixth U.S. region representative and 14 overall to qualify for the 2005 Little League World Series.

The team displayed commitment to teamwork, gamesmanship, and a love of baseball as a team sport as they each played fair, strived to win, and always did their best. Vista's pitcher Kalen Pimentel struck out 18 batters in 1 regulation game to tie a Little League record.

On September 10, 2005, in the City of Vista, the Rancho Buena Vista Team will celebrate their victory with fellow San Diegans. The team will be joined by their friends, family, supporters, and coaches Randy Reznicek, Joseph Pimentel, and manager Marty Miller in a parade. They come together to celebrate the team's strength of character, level headedness, pride, and commitment which lead them to victory.

It is with great pleasure that I commend the athletes of the Rancho Buena Vista Little League Team for the determination, composure, and sportsmanship they exhibited throughout the 2005 Little League World Series and for their many accomplishments on the field throughout the tournament. I wish them great success in the future.●

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EVANGEL HOME

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Evangel Home. Evangel Home is a shelter for needy women and children located in downtown Fresno. Now in its 50th year, Evangel Homes has been instrumental in helping hundreds of women and children piece together their broken lives.

Evangel Home was established in 1955 by Ms. Pauline Baker Myers as a "Home for Needy Women and Children." Saddened by the lack of help for women in need at local homeless shelters, Pauline Baker Myers envisioned a shelter for women designed to help them put their lives back together. Evangel Homes became one of the first shelters of its kind in the nation.

Evangel Home helps women through a variety of programs. Women enter Evangel Home through Crisis Home, an emergency shelter where women may stay for up to 28 days. At Crisis Home, up to 24 women and children can receive services such as meals, shelter, clothing, and counseling.

Following the initial stay at Crisis Home, women may be eligible for the CrossRoads Residential Program. Through the CrossRoads Residential Program, Evangel Homes offers a 9-month program of courses and services to help women make better choices for themselves and their families. The

courses are intended to help residents develop their life skills for parenting, finances and setting boundaries.

The GARDEN Residential Recovery Program, or God Answers, Redeems, and Delivers Everyone who draws Near to Him, is an alternative sentencing program. It is designed to rehabilitate women in a structured environment as an alternative to serving a jail or prison term. The GARDEN program accommodates as many as six women and includes courses and counseling programs tailored to teach women responsibility and decision making skills.

Lastly, the Community Connection Graduate Program involves graduates from the CrossRoads and GARDEN programs. Community Connection encourages women to work and attend school while providing them with a support network to ensure their success.

The success of Evangel Homes is evident in the many women and children who have walked out of its doors to productive and successful lives. Annually, Evangel Homes gives shelter to more than 300 women and 200 children. The mission of Evangel Homes goes far beyond giving material support to women in need. Instead, Evangel Homes gives women nurturing support in a structured environment so that they may be taught self-reliance and responsibility.

Evangel Homes recognizes that those who seek its help have the ability to make their own choices. Through spiritual guidance and counseling, Evangel Homes strives to erase the effect of what it calls "disaffiliation" or the feeling of isolation and disassociation from anything positive in their lives that many women and children feel as an effect of their disordered lives. Through programs designed to give women and children the structure, the hope, and the tools for rebuilding their lives, Evangel Homes gives women and children a "chance for change."

I congratulate Evangel Homes on their 50th anniversary and wish them much continued success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:50 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by