

congregation from Detroit's Colored Society under the leadership of Rev. Gee C. Booth on November 2, 1871, to serve as a safe harbor for newly freed slaves in Detroit. Rev. C.H. Ward served as the first pastor for 25 years. Three pastors from Ebenezer were elected to the office of Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church—Bishop George W. Baber served as pastor from 1933 until he was elected in 1944; Bishop Hubert Robison served as pastor from 1955 until he was elected in 1964; and Bishop Robert Thomas, Jr. served as pastor from 1972 until 1988. More recently, Rev. Robert L. Phillips, who served as pastor from 1991 until 1997, became presiding elder of the north district of the Michigan Annual Conference in 1997.

Throughout its history, Ebenezer served as an institution fully engaged in the fight for civil and human rights. Ebenezer has also worked with the community to make Detroit a better city through outreach ministries, community involvement and financial investments. In 1901, the church provided financial assistance to Henry Ford when he approached Ebenezer for support of endeavors to develop his automobile company. During the Depression, the church established an employment bureau and relief agency for families in need, and during WWII the congregation housed soldiers in the dorms of the former church building. Because of this rich history, in 2003, Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church was designated a historical site by the Detroit Historical Commission.

Today, Ebenezer strives to continue this rich history through a variety of ministries, including programs for young adults and the homeless, as well as substance abuse and prison ministries. Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church continues to stand as a "stone of help" under the leadership of Rev. Dr. H. Michael Lemmons. As the sixth oldest Black congregation in Detroit with members from four or more generations, Ebenezer is full of memories of great historical moments and faith that there are many more to come.

I know my Senate colleagues will join me in congratulating Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church and wish its members, volunteers and ministerial staff continued success as they celebrate their 135th anniversary. ●

#### RECOGNIZING THE THUNDERCHICKENS

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the ThunderChickens on winning the 2006 FIRST Robotics Competition. This is a tremendous accomplishment, and I am delighted to recognize the impressive result of their hard work, dedication, and commitment.

The For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology, FIRST, program provides aspiring engineers with an opportunity to develop and

showcase their talents by designing and implementing original robotic designs. Teams work together to build individual robots and compete against high school participants across the country. In total, 1,130 teams competed in the 2006 FIRST National Championship in Atlanta, GA.

I am proud to have this opportunity to honor the ThunderChickens, a metro-Detroit based engineering team made up of 38 high school students. Great skill, creativity, and originality went into their highly competitive robotic design. I would like to individually honor each member of the ThunderChickens and their mentors at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science, and Technology. The members of the 2006 ThunderChickens include Michael DelBene, Jessica Zavadil, Shannon Willaert, Gregory Petty, Annette Palazzolo, Jacob Miller, Joseph Guzzardo, Sara Craun, Nina Fabian, Kyle Yaxley, Stephanie Hasty, Sala Sadaps, Steven Perry, Joshua Bails, Brian Turoski, Irene Zhu, James Courtois, Tony Kraus, Michael Harrison, Ryan Boyle, Brett Ankawi, Michael Lee, Salvatore Mattered, Joseph Scharnitzke, Anthony Schuller, Michael Ross, Ashley VanMaldeghem, Shayna Kunz, David Orban, Paul Szymanski, Andrew Fonk, Gregory Lau, Aaron Vedolich, Brian Lademan, Mihai Bulic, Heather Hampton, Ed Lionte, and Chad Thornbro. Their teacher mentors include Ron Arscheene, Anita Stafford, Mike Attan, and Janet Kent. Their engineering mentors include Paul Copioli, Ed Debler, Bob Korson, Mike Copioli, Mike Beem, Jim Yaxley, Rick Thornbro, Omar Zrien and Bill Baedke.

This championship is a testament to and the result of many, many hours of hard work and perseverance. While the immediate result of their work is impressive, I look forward to the bright futures that are ahead of these students. They have established a solid foundation on which to develop their interest in the field of engineering. They have also gained invaluable, hands-on experience.

Once again, I would like to congratulate the ThunderChickens on their remarkable 2006 First Robotics Competition National Championship. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA SCOTT THOMAS

● Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, today, I honor an important Floridian and a proud American. Virginia Scott Thomas was a loving wife and mother, a passionate volunteer, and a trailblazer for women in Republican politics—I am very thankful that she was a constituent of mine. Sadly, she died this past month—but her legacy of hard work and dedication to good lives on.

Virginia Thomas should be commended for the work she put into creating the Bay County Republican Women's Club. As part of her volunteer

work for the Republican Party, Virginia Thomas opened her home to numerous GOP candidates—many of them to kick off their campaigns. Her energy and hospitality were well known, and Republicans from Ronald Reagan to Charlie Crist had the pleasure of being welcomed into her home. Candidates always spoke about their ideas and vision in front of her now-famous raised fireplace hearth and her warm hospitality made her many friends.

Before calling Florida home, Virginia Thomas, a Birmingham, AL, native, made history in her State. In 1943, she joined and became part of the first group of women Marines in the State of Alabama. She completed basic training in both South Carolina and Georgia and was then sent to the U.S. Marine Corps base in El Centro, CA, to serve as a supply officer. There in California, she met her future husband, Marine L.E. "Tommy" Thomas, and after the war ended, they headed for Birmingham. Eventually, she and her family moved to Florida, where Virginia Thomas became very active in their community.

Virginia Thomas will not be forgotten by the generations of Floridians that came to know her and her lively spirit. And because of her volunteerism and good work throughout more than 40 years in the Bay County area, she will be remembered long into the future. We will miss this good Floridian. Yet we know that her legacy will be carried on by her family and friends. The good works of Virginia Scott Thomas will live on. ●

#### RECOGNIZING LINKS, INC.

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I recognize the North Jersey Chapter of the Links, Inc.'s Linkages to Life Program, and honor the program participants for their hard work and dedication to raising awareness about the importance of blood, tissue, marrow, and organ donation among minority communities.

Each year, for the past 5 years, Links, Inc., in collaboration with Roche Pharmaceutical Company, conducted the Linkages to Life Program to help save lives by educating individuals of African descent about blood, tissue, marrow, and organ donation. With the help of a publication called Can We Talk? they were able to reach a large number of individuals, and educate them about how they can help save lives by being a volunteer donor. More specifically, the North Jersey Chapter provided important education services to individuals and families in Essex, Hudson, Bergen, and Passaic Counties.

Today, approximately 93,000 people are awaiting transplant surgery, and 25 percent of the people awaiting transplants are of African descent. In New Jersey, there are close to 3,000 individuals awaiting an organ transplant. Since organs are matched by a number of factors, including blood and tissue

typing, which can vary by race, patients are more likely to find matches among donors of their same race or ethnicity. Given the large number of individuals of African descent awaiting transplants, it is critical to increase the knowledge about donating blood, tissue, marrow, and organs among all races and ethnicities.

Since 1996, our country reserves the second weekend in November to emphasize the need for life-saving and life-altering blood, organ, marrow, and tissue donation in houses of worship throughout the United States. This program is known as the National Organ Donor Sabbath, and November 10-12, 2006, marked the 10th anniversary celebration.

Links, Inc., is built on a foundation of friendship and service. Today, it contains a network or more than 10,000 African-American women. This year the motto for Links, Inc., is "Seizing the Opportunity to Provide World Class Leadership, Friendship and Service." The members of the North Jersey Chapter of Links, Inc., exemplify that motto.

Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize the dedication and commitment of the North Jersey Chapter of Link's, Inc., members to help others. I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking these individuals for helping fellow New Jerseyans live longer and healthier lives.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JOYCE WOODBURN

● Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today I honor Ms. Joyce Woodburn's 35 years of dedicated service at the Central Intelligence Agency. Ms. Woodburn has had a long and distinguished Government career, and on January 2, 2007, she will bring to a close a career as a CIA staff officer that includes over 27 years in the CIA's Office of Congressional Affairs.

Joyce began her extensive career as a secretary and rose to the rank of senior executive within the Agency. During her career, she has worked for 7 Presidents, 13 Directors of Central Intelligence, 2 Directors of the CIA, and the first Director of National Intelligence.

Joyce's excellent work and professionalism is well known to us on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and she has been a linchpin in coordinating and supporting the CIA's relations with Congress over the last 27 years. Her calm and friendly diplomacy has certainly smoothed over many a bump in the CIA's relations with Congress.

She has represented the CIA in Congress through some historic crises, including the ordeal of the American hostages in Iran, the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, the bombings of the Embassy and Marine compounds in Beirut, the Iran-Contra scandal, the fall of the Soviet Union, Operation Desert Storm, Somalia, the bombings of our embassies in Africa, 9/11 and the hunt for Osama bin Laden, the invasions of Af-

ghanistan and Iraq, as well as the current tensions with Iran and North Korea. Joyce has been a tremendous help over the past 27 years in getting the members and staff of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence the information and briefings we need to do our work.

Thank you for your service, Joyce, and we wish you a healthy and prosperous retirement.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN MACHACEK

● Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it is with great honor that I recognize John Machacek for nearly 40 years of service as a reporter for Gannett News Service. He has dedicated his career to breaking down policy and politics in a way that underscores how these important issues affect the daily lives of the people of New York. John began his Gannett career in 1967 as a reporter for the Times Union in Rochester. In 1972 John won a Pulitzer Prize for using his instinctive investigative reporting skills to produce unparalleled coverage of the Attica prison riot. He began covering the entire State of New York, from Rochester to Westchester, in 1983 and has kept readers informed on news and politics by serving as a watchdog for the American people ever since. John has accomplished what reporters all over the Nation set out to do by immersing himself in the art of journalism and becoming one of the greatest reporters in his field. He has spent his career with his finger on the pulse of the Nation's politics, government, and the American people. John's unbridled search for the truth has raised the standards in journalism and reporting among his peers, coworkers and competitors and he will always be remembered for his unbiased and colorful accounts of our Nation's most important and transformative landmark events. As John concludes his renowned and distinguished 40 year career, he will be placed among the most influential reporters to have ever worked for Gannett News Service.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:39 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5697. An act to provide for the appropriate designation of certain Federal positions involved in wildland fire suppression activities.

H.R. 6206. An act to revise the calculation of interest on investment of the Harry S. Truman Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 343. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 864) to provide for programs and activities with respect to the prevention of underage drinking.

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:17 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1492. An act to provide for the preservation of the historic confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4510. An act to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept the donation of a bust depicting Sojourner Truth and to display the bust in a suitable location in the rotunda of the Capitol.

H.R. 4583. An act to amend the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939 to revise the requirements for labeling of certain wool and cashmere products.

H.R. 4720. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Gateway Drive in Lincoln, California, as the "Beverly J. Wilson Post Office Building".

H.R. 4766. An act to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide for the revitalization of Native American languages through Native American language immersion programs; and for other purposes.

H.R. 5108. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1213 East Houston Street in Cleveland, Texas, as the "Lance Corporal Robert A. Martinez Post Office Building".

H.R. 5857. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1501 South Cherrybell Avenue in Tucson, Arizona, as the "Morris K. 'Mo' Udall Post Office Building".

H.R. 5923. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 29-50 Union Street in Flushing, New York, as the "Dr. Leonard Price Stavisky Post Office".

H.R. 5989. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10240 Roosevelt Road in Westchester, Illinois, as the "John J. Sinde Post Office Building".

H.R. 5990. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 415 South 5th Avenue in Maywood, Illinois, as the "Wallace W. Sykes Post Office Building".

H.R. 6078. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 307 West Wheat Street in Woodville, Texas, as the "Chuck Fortenberry Post Office Building".

H.R. 6102. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Lawyers Road, NW in Vienna, Virginia, as the "Captain Christopher Petty Post Office Building".

H.R. 6151. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 216 Oak Street in Farmington, Minnesota, as the "Hamilton H. Judson Post Office".

H.R. 6316. An act to extend through December 31, 2008, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).