

farm where he lived and worked as a young man. Over the years, from his time with the Farmers Union to his leadership in the State agriculture department, Lynn became the “go to” person in North Dakota for any farm-related concern. Whether it was helping one farmer cut through the bureaucratic red tape, or helping organize a massive farm rally, Lynn showed patience, persistence, and skill.

Farmers and Native Americans shared that special place in Lynn’s heart with one more thing—Marketplace for Entrepreneurs. Never was Lynn’s passion, creativity, and dedication more evident than with Marketplace.

Today, Marketplace is North Dakota’s signature initiative to develop the State’s economy—the largest and longest running business development effort in North Dakota. But in 1988, it had much humbler origins. North Dakota farmers were suffering through a searing drought. The auction barns were buzzing while the grain silos went silent. Nothing was in as short a supply in North Dakota as hope.

Lynn gave our farmers hope. Lynn was the force behind making Marketplace possible year after year, creating an opportunity for farmers and others from around the State to gather and think of new ways to update their operations to reach new markets—and ultimately stay in business and stay on the land. Lynn’s vision and determination were vital to the eventual recovery of many farmers and to making Marketplace the enormous success that it is today. That first Marketplace drew about 800 people. Today, thanks to Lynn, we draw more than 10,000 people. It is a tremendous success.

Hearing all this may lead you to ask how a man could devote so much of his life to service. The answer is that Lynn has faith. It is central to his life. He serves as an ordained Catholic deacon in the Bismarck parish. In March, he was appointed to the Rural Life Committee of the North Dakota Conference of Churches. And even in retirement, Lynn and his wife, Janice, are working long hours as volunteers.

In both his public life and his personal friendships, Lynn’s fellowship, devotion, and loyalty set examples for us all. Whenever I needed him, he was there. Whenever North Dakota needed him, he was there. He lives his life in service, making other people’s lives better.

WRITING CHALLENGE 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Do the Write Thing Challenge, or DtWT, is a national program designed to give middle school students an opportunity to examine both the causes and the effects of youth violence. In this program, students work together through classroom discussion and writing to evaluate what preventative measures should be taken with an emphasis on personal responsibility. Since the pro-

gram’s founding in 1994, more than 350,000 students have participated within 28 different jurisdictions, including Detroit.

In 2006, more than 40,000 students submitted their essays, poems, plays, or songs to be considered in the DtWT writing contest. These students wrote about how violence impacts their lives and what they could do to prevent its reoccurrence. Students are also asked to make a personal commitment to carry out their ideas in their daily lives.

Each year, a DtWT committee made up of business, community, and government leaders from each participating jurisdiction reviews the writing samples and selects two national finalists, one boy and one girl from their area. I am pleased to recognize this year’s national finalists from Detroit, Marcelle Walker and Brandi Baldwin-Gat, for their outstanding work and dedication to the prevention of youth violence.

Marcelle and Brandi have written very passionate literary pieces about how both gang violence and domestic violence have affected their lives and have influenced them to think practically about what could and should be done. They have conveyed a deep understanding of youth violence, and I am impressed by the maturity they have shown in their work and congratulate them on being selected as national finalists.

In July, Marcelle and Brandi will join the other DtWT national finalists in Washington, DC, for National Recognition Week. They will attend a recognition ceremony and have their work permanently placed in the Library of Congress. Also, they will have the opportunity to share their thoughts on youth violence with Members of Congress and other policymakers.

I know my colleagues join me in celebrating the work of all of the DtWT participants from around the country. I would also like to thank the DtWT organizers who make a commitment to facilitating open discussions about youth violence. Their work is an essential means to the development of local solutions to the youth violence problem in our nation.

With the tragedy of Virginia Tech fresh in our minds, I believe it is important we recognize the efforts of DtWT participants and organizers to help prevent such acts of violence. It is also important that we, as Members of Congress, support their efforts through our actions. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting legislation that would help prevent youth violence by increasing police patrol on our streets, by increasing resources for school and community violence prevention programs, and by making it more difficult for children and criminals to acquire dangerous firearms.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church on its Founders Day. As the largest church in Genesee County, the NJFGBC has con-

tributed over 43 years of committed service to the southeastern Michigan community.

In 1965, the New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church was founded as the Rose Hill Baptist Mission by a small group of Genesee County citizens at the home of Rev. L.W. Owens in Flint, MI. Seven days later, the mission was renamed New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church. The church grew steadily, and in 1968 a new and larger edifice was acquired to better accommodate the growing membership. While the congregation has undergone many changes and expansions throughout the years, it remained enthusiastically devoted to its activities and its service to the City of Flint. By the early 1990s membership had grown to more than 2,100, and the church was renamed the New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church.

In 1969, the Reverend Odis A. Floyd was unanimously elected pastor of the NJFGBC. As the grandson of the founder, Reverend Owens, Reverend Floyd has proven to be a charismatic leader of this passionate church community. In his many years of faithful service to the church, he has overseen numerous outreach programs, including Operation Blessing. This vital program is designed to provide food and clothing to those in need in the Flint community. Reverend Floyd also manages the New Jerusalem Intervention Ministry Team, which provides counseling and social work services to the less fortunate. Under Reverend Floyd’s capable leadership, the New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church has become a powerful force for change in the Flint community. With over 30 years of dedicated leadership, Reverend Floyd has shown steadfast resolve and determination in his role as pastor of the New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church.

During its 43 years of existence, the New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church has made many important contributions to its community and has a rich tradition of serving Flint area residents, which is evidenced by programs such as Operation Blessing and the Intervention Ministry Team. I know my colleagues join me in commending the work of The New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church and Reverend Floyd for their many years of excellent work in the Flint community.

HONORING SMALL BUSINESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN VERMONT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to share with my colleagues in the Senate the accomplishments of several Vermont entrepreneurs.

Each June, the Small Business Administration honors the best and brightest of each State’s small business community. The entrepreneurial spirit in Vermont breeds many successful small businesses, and today I would like to congratulate the 2007 Vermont Small Business Person of the Year,