

RECOGNIZING KENTUCKY'S OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, I would like to congratulate several outstanding young people from the Commonwealth of Kentucky who have been selected as recipients of the 14th annual Prudential Spirit of the Community Award. These young people were selected from over 20,000 nominees, and I would like to commend them on this wonderful achievement.

The Prudential Spirit of the Community Award was created in 1995 by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals. The awards are meant to impress upon all youth the value of community service and to recognize contributions made in this area. This year I am very proud that Kentucky has two State honorees and four distinguished finalists.

The four distinguished finalists this year are Don Combs, Emily Goldstein, Arooshi Kumar, and Elizabeth Moore. Don is from Pikeville, KY, and was nominated by Pikeville High School because he started a recycling program that now encompasses all schools in Pike County. Emily Goldstein is a senior at Atherton High School in Louisville, and she volunteered over 1,000 hours of her time to help protect the environment. She started recycling programs at 12 local companies and donated the proceeds to the Louisville Zoo. Arooshi Kumar is also from Louisville and is completing her senior year at Dupont Manual High School. For her service project Arooshi raised nearly \$5,000 to help establish schools for impoverished children in India. In order to raise this impressive sum Arooshi made and sold jewelry, cashmere stoles, and Indian tunics. Elizabeth Moore of Catlettsburg created a Spanish section in the Hatcher Elementary School library. Elizabeth chose this school because it has the largest number of Spanish-speaking students in her school district. Elizabeth is a senior at Fairview High School in Ashland, KY.

The two State honorees from Kentucky are Jordan Campbell and Meg Olash. Jordan is a senior at Montgomery County High School and resides in Jeffersonville, KY. For his project, Jordan organized a student-run nonprofit theater company to help engage elementary students in the arts. His efforts resulted in 85 children and 15 teen directors putting on shows for the community that sold over 1,200 tickets. Meg is an eighth grade student at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School in Louisville. Meg helped refugees plant produce, which they in turn sold at a farmers market at her church. Meg, along with her fellow volunteers, also spent 3 days of the week playing with children at the local refugee community center.

All of these young Kentuckians have my admiration, and I thank them for their service. They demonstrate that with hard work and perseverance all of

us can make a difference in our communities and make them a better place to live.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. ALISON DES FORGES

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Alison Des Forges in the tragic crash of Continental flight 3407 on February 12. In her passing, we lost not only one of the foremost experts on the state of human rights in Rwanda and Central Africa, but also one of the greatest advocates for human rights in our time. Alison's tireless appeals for international action to save lives both before and during the 1994 Rwandan genocide are legendary in the human rights and Africa policy communities. Her efforts have been widely reported on since that time, and I hope they will continue to inspire future generations. Her personal witness should inspire and challenge us all as we seek an end to ongoing mass atrocities, whether in Darfur, eastern Congo, or areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army.

Long after the genocide ended, Alison maintained her relentless commitment to pursue the truth and promote human rights. Her authoritative research on the genocide informed the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, national courts across Europe and North America, and even this Congress. She was widely recognized over the years for her objective and balanced analysis of the changing situation in Rwanda and Central Africa. This was not a standard easily achieved or without its sacrifices. Indeed, just last year, Alison was twice refused entry by the Rwandan Government, a government that once praised her reporting on the genocide. As a Washington Post editorial recently noted, while the current Rwanda Government has made impressive "accomplishments in righting its country and improving basic services . . . it continues to be intolerant of criticism." Alison was unwilling to allow that growing intolerance to go unnoticed—even when the result made it more difficult for her to do her job.

Alison was never vindictive, but she was never afraid to speak the truth about growing repression or threats to basic rights when she saw them. In that sense, Alison Des Forges embodied the very best of America's tradition of supporting human rights and pressing for meaningful accountability for violations of those rights. She will be greatly missed, but we can pay tribute to her by carrying that tradition forward.●

REMEMBERING PATTY JENNINGS

• Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam President, today I mourn an untimely death and to celebrate a full and remarkable life. Patty Jennings—committed activist, loving wife and devoted mother—died of cancer on February 14.

The world's libraries are full of quotes about turning adversity into achievement, and I might have thought that everything on the topic had pretty much been said. But last week I heard one of the more eloquent statements on the topic. It came from Senator Tim Jennings, Patty's husband.

Cancer is horrible, Senator Jennings told the 18,000 people at Patty's memorial service, "but it's not all bad. We have met some of the nicest people in the world because of it."

Tim's response to his wife's death tells you a lot about the couple. Patty and Tim rarely had it easy, but, as Patty put it, they didn't spend much time wishing things could be different. They took comfort in the people they loved—those they worked with and those they tried so hard to help. They responded to their own struggles by struggling on behalf of others.

When Patty's daughter could not get health insurance because of her Down syndrome, Patty and Tim fought to create an insurance pool that would allow high-risk New Mexicans to get health care. Patty spent her limited free time fighting for the developmentally disabled—both as an advocate for systemic reform and as a caring supporter of individual young people.

And she responded to her own breast cancer by helping to fund lifesaving research on the disease. The University of New Mexico's breast cancer program will soon be known as the Senator Tim and Patty Jennings Program for Breast Cancer. I can think of no more fitting tribute.

While we cannot fully know the sadness that Patty's devoted family is feeling today, all New Mexicans are worse off for having lost Patty Jennings. Her compassion should continue to inspire us as we fight to complete her work. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable woman.●

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR ED ROMERO

• Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam President, today I wish to honor Ed Romero, a great New Mexican. Mr. Romero recently won the Senator Dennis Chavez Civil Rights and Leadership Award. The award is richly deserved.

When the U.S. Congress placed Senator Chavez's statue in Statuary Hall, Reverend John Spence summed up the man nicely. Senator Chavez, Spence said, was "ever a champion of the underdog, the poor and oppressed."

In everything he did, Senator Chavez showed his concern for the underdog. He fought for public education, because he knew what it could do to help the children of struggling families become successful adults. He supported farmers, because he knew how difficult life can be in the small communities where the trains don't stop and the roads don't go. And he fought for civil rights, because Chavez believed that equality of opportunity is the core of the American creed.