

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.

Dennis Chavez fought for the underdog because he was an underdog. Born into poverty in Valencia County, NM, when the State was still part of Mexico, Chavez walked a long and difficult road to the pinnacle of political power. A child of an isolated small town, he would see the world and help to shape it. A high school dropout, he earned a law degree and became a lawmaker. A victim of ethnic discrimination, he wrote legislation that would eventually make employment discrimination illegal and then unthinkable.

Ambassador Ed Romero also has been an underdog. Those who know him as an international businessman might be surprised to know he started his career working in the fields. Ed Romero had to fight for his business successes. And he fought for the political power that he has used to make this world a better place.

If Ed Romero had just one career, he would be impressive.

If he had only risen from poverty to become a successful businessman—sought-after for corporate boards and respected by his colleagues around the world—that would be an achievement.

But Ed Romero also has devoted his life to sharing what he has earned. As an activist, he has spent his time helping other underdogs play an active role in their government. He has helped America work with its allies to promote peace and human rights across the world. And, much like Senator Chavez before him, he has worked to ensure that men and women of color are represented in this country's corridors of power.

Ed Romero has shown leadership at home and abroad. He is a founder of the Hispanic Cultural Foundation and the National Hispanic Cultural Center in New Mexico. He cofounded the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute executive board. He has served as a delegate to the Helsinki accords, and we are very proud that President Clinton named him U.S. Ambassador to Spain.

Linking these two great New Mexicans is very appropriate. Each man turned his own personal struggle into a lasting compassion for life's victims. Both men fought for their people—and for every people that have tasted the bitter fruit of injustice. Both men make me proud to be a New Mexican.

Men like Ed Romero keep America true to its ideals. New Mexico is proud to call him a native son. And I am proud to call him a friend. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ambassador Ed Romero on receiving the Senator Dennis Chavez Civil Rights and Leadership Award.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, 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 which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, without amendment:

S. Res. 51. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. CORKER):

S. 451. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 452. A bill to ensure public access to Federal land and to the airspace over Federal land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 453. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants and offer technical assistance to local governments and others to design and implement innovative policies, programs, and projects that address widespread property vacancy and abandonment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 454. A bill to improve the organization and procedures of the Department of Defense for the acquisition of major weapon systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. 455. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of 5 United States Army Five-Star Generals, George Marshall, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight Eisenhower, Henry "Hap" Arnold, and Omar Bradley, alumni of the United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to coincide with the celebration of the 132nd Anniversary of the founding of the United States Army Command and General Staff College; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 456. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation

with the Secretary of Education, to develop guidelines to be used on a voluntary basis to develop plans to manage the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools and early childhood education programs, to establish school-based food allergy management grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. Res. 51. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 52. A resolution designating March 2, 2009, as "Read Across America Day"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 132

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 132, a bill to increase and enhance law enforcement resources committed to investigation and prosecution of violent gangs, to deter and punish violent gang crime, to protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, to revise and enhance criminal penalties for violent crimes, to expand and improve gang prevention programs, and for other purposes.

S. 160

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 160, a bill to provide the District of Columbia a voting seat and the State of Utah an additional seat in the House of Representatives.

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 160, *supra*.

S. 205

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 205, a bill to authorize additional resources to identify and eliminate illicit sources of firearms smuggled into Mexico for use by violent drug trafficking organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 213

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 213, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to ensure air passengers have access to necessary services while on a grounded air carrier, and for other purposes.

S. 256

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 256, a bill to enhance the ability to combat methamphetamine.