

an important opportunity to mark the progress we have made and the steps forward yet to be taken.

Today, more people with disabilities than ever are graduating from school, participating in their communities, and succeeding in the labor market. For the tens of millions living in the United States with a disability, realizing the American dream is a real possibility that often did not exist a generation ago. I am especially heartened by the growing recognition that tapping these individuals' talent, character, and hard work is as important to the Nation's future as it is to theirs.

At the same time, we must acknowledge the sobering reality that faces too many people with disabilities, including our brave servicemembers and veterans returning from war with severe injuries and conditions. While people with disabilities have long experienced far higher unemployment rates, they are also particularly hard hit by the current economic downturn. Physical, financial, and social barriers to employment remain, as well as the discrimination and prejudice that keep some from competing in the American economy on equal footing as everyone else. Moreover, many individuals with disabilities struggle to afford good, continuous health coverage, a hardship given their intensive health care needs.

Clearly, we have much work ahead of us in order to fulfill the promise of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. I am pleased that Congress is continuing to work toward this priority, most recently with the enactment of the ADA Amendments Act and the Higher Education Opportunity Act. On behalf of all Nevadans, I look forward to building on these successes in the 111th Congress.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN C. HOUBOLT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on July 20, 2009, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the first time man set foot on the Moon. On that day 40 years ago, an estimated 500 million people around the world watched as the crew of Apollo 11, Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, made history. It was a remarkable accomplishment, the magnitude of which has not diminished over the years.

As part of the anniversary festivities, Congress awarded John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth, and the crew of Apollo 11 the Congressional Gold Medal. I cosponsored the legislation and am pleased that they were recognized with it.

Most recently I had the chance to meet two Illinois astronauts, Scott Altman and John Grunsfeld, whom earlier this year successfully completed the last service mission of the Hubble Telescope. We will be able to explore even deeper into the mysteries of our universe for many years to come because of their incredible work.

Today, I wish to recognize Dr. John C. Houbolt, a scientist born and raised

in Joliet, IL, who has received far less acclaim, but who deserves our Nation's gratitude for making the Moon landing possible.

One of the most important and hotly debated technical decisions during the Apollo Program was how to land on the Moon and return safely to Earth. Amid many ideas and obstacles, Dr. Houbolt recognized that the most efficient way to execute the Moon landing was with a lunar-orbit rendezvous plan.

His concept involved a mother craft that would orbit the Moon while a lighter craft descended from it to the surface of the Moon carrying some of the astronauts. Eventually, the smaller aircraft would lift off and rendezvous with the mother ship.

For many years NASA's leadership favored other concepts to reach the lunar surface. But, Dr. Houbolt's determination, persistence, and perseverance moved this innovative concept forward. As former NASA Deputy Director George Low noted, without Dr. Houbolt's efforts, NASA "might not have chosen the Lunar Orbit Rendezvous Mode" and "had the Lunar Orbit Rendezvous Mode not been chosen, Apollo would not have succeeded."

On the 40th anniversary of the lunar landing, as we celebrated with the crew of Apollo 11 in Washington, DC, a new exhibit aptly named "The Soaring Achievements of John C. Houbolt" opened at the Joliet Area Historical Museum. I encourage my fellow Illinoisans, especially students, to visit this exhibit.

Dr. Houbolt's inspiring story, like the stories of Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, Buzz Aldrin, and John Glenn, is a testament to what we can achieve with persistence and the passion to reach for new heights.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING JAMES D. RANGE

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, earlier this year, we lost a great Tennessean and champion of the great American outdoors. James D. Range was a lifelong outdoorsman who loved America's wild spaces. He grew up in Johnson City, TN, hunting and fishing in the backwoods of the Appalachian Mountains. It was in his those early years that Jim—who was also an Eagle Scout—became passionate about preserving our outdoors for future generations.

He became a passionate advocate for the country's fish and wildlife and their habitat and a true champion of natural resource conservation.

Jim was a trusted advisor and counsel to Senate majority leader Howard Baker and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, where he served with integrity and distinction. As a Senate staffer, Jim was instrumental in the crafting and passage of a string of landmark laws, including the Clean Water Act.

After Jim left the Senate, he continued to pursue his love for the outdoors by cofounding and serving as chairman of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, an organization that is dedicated to the stewardship of America's natural landscape, helping to expand fish and wildlife habitat and increasing public access to quality hunting and fishing.

Jim didn't stop there. He furthered his commitment to the cause of conservation through service on the boards of directors for Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, the Wetlands America Trust, the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, the American Sportfishing Association, the American Bird Conservancy, the Pacific Forest Trust, the Yellowstone Park Foundation, the Bonefish and Tarpon Trust, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council, and the Valles Caldera Trust.

Jim was so instrumental in the conservation movement in this country that he was awarded the U.S. Department of the Interior's Great Blue Heron Award, was named Conservationist of the Year in 2003 by Outdoor Life magazine and received the Norville Prosser Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Sportfishing Association.

Both our natural and political environments are better because of Jim Range. Tennesseans, and all Americans, owe Jim a great debt of gratitude. His leadership serves as a great example to all of us.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CECIL EYESTONE

• Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, today I recognize a great Kansan for his long service to the youth of the State of Kansas.

"Teaching by example," was Cecil Eyestone's philosophy in his 31-year Kansas 4-H career. He served 12 years as a Montgomery County club agent and 19 years as a State 4-H specialist. He was a pioneer for leadership opportunities for teens. Cecil initiated the first junior leaders club for the teens in Montgomery County. His determined attitude for developing teen leaders through hands-on experiences resulted in 80 percent of Kansas counties adopting the concept. A State Junior Leadership Camp was held in 1959 at Rock Springs 4-H Center that continued for 15 years with annual participation of 200-300 youth. Cecil and his brother Merle have sponsored a 4-H leadership scholarship for 24 years.

Cecil was Collegiate 4-H Club adviser for 16 years, reaching over 4,000 students. He organized eight collegiate clubs at other Kansas universities and colleges. Cecil guided the animal science 4-H program and helped develop horse, dog and rabbit projects. He created the Horse Panorama to teach horse care and judging.