

Tom began an electrical contracting business, Custom Electric, in 1983 with two employees. Today, his company employs fifteen people and continues to grow. He is described by his colleagues as a very enthusiastic, highly motivated businessman.

Tom has served as Director of the Board of the Merrimack Chamber of Commerce since 1993. He is a member of the Merrimack Village District Board of Directors and a member of the Association of Facilities Engineering.

Tom is also very active in the community. His business sponsors a Babe Ruth baseball team and he assists at a vocational/technical college. He helps to put together a yearly Golf Tournament and trade shows for the Chamber of Commerce. Every year, he sets up the holiday decorations in Fraser Square in Merrimack for all to enjoy.

As a former small business owner myself, I understand the hard work and dedication required for success in business. Once again, I wish to congratulate Tom Nutting on Custom Electric being selected as "Business of the Year" by the Merrimack Chamber of Commerce. It is a pleasure to represent him in the United States Senate.●

#### 1998 CONNECTICUT STATE SOCCER CHAMPIONS

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Cromwell High School Boys' Varsity Soccer team for winning the 1998 Connecticut State Soccer Championship. This achievement reflects the proud soccer tradition that has been established at Cromwell High School and the outstanding caliber of its student athletes.

With a first-rate team and a phenomenal level of play, the Cromwell Panthers concluded their season with an impressive record of 20-1. The Panthers became known throughout Connecticut for their strong defensive play and balanced team of players. In soccer, as in so many sports, a blend of smart players and smart decisions results in victories. The Cromwell Panthers proved they have this combination. The strength of this team was demonstrated by their ability to hold their opponents to a total of only 6 goals for the entire season.

The state championship game was played with emotion against an equally talented opponent, the Old Saybrook Rams. Although the Panthers were favored to win, neither the team's coaches nor its athletes took victory for granted. After receiving two yellow cards in the first half and being outshot by their opponents for most of the second half with a refocused energy. The Panthers' first goal came late when Justin Linehan received a pass from Steve Dworak and sent the ball soaring just out of reach of the Rams' goalie. Steve repeated his superb pass-

ing performance when he sent a left cross pass to Mike Flanagan who headed the ball past a diving goalie with only two minutes left in the game. This final goal was a turning point in the game, bringing it to a 2-0 score in the Panther's favor and helping to guarantee their win.

This championship game also took on a more personal meaning for its players and, most especially, its head coach. Sadly, Coach Mike Pitruzzello's father, Manny, passed away a week before the start of the season. In his honor, Coach Pitruzzello dedicated the Panthers' second championship win to his late father. Even during a time of personal hardship, Coach Pitruzzello continued to guide and nurture his team to a near-perfect regular season and a championship win. Nothing better reflects his love for the sport and his players than the dedication Coach Pitruzzello has shown throughout this season. I am sure his father would have not only been proud of his son, but also honored by the sportsmanship exhibited by these talented young men on the field.

Winning a state championship is an exciting and gratifying moment for any young student athlete. In their win over the Old Saybrook Rams, the Cromwell Panthers demonstrated a talent they had perfected throughout their regular season with hard work and the guidance of an experienced and caring coaching staff. Furthermore, as with any team sport, it is not just one player who makes the amazing pass or singlehandedly scores the critical goal, but rather a cooperative effort from each player who offers his own special talent which ultimately adds to the success of the entire team. The Cromwell High School Boys' Varsity Soccer team exemplifies the true spirit of teamwork and tenacity, and it is because of those qualities that they are now the state champions.

At this time I would like to recognize all the members and coaches of the Boys' Varsity Soccer team and, again, congratulate them all on their momentous and well-deserved victory:

Head Coach Mike Pitruzzello, Assistant Coach Bruce Swanson, Freshman Coach John Harder, Paul Dworak, Steve Dworak, Tony Faienza, Mike Fazio, Mike Flanagan, Bryce Gibson, Eric Harrison, Nick Libera, Steve Libera, Justin Linehan, Shawn Maher, Jason Negrini, Mike Simeone, Ryan Steele, Ron Szymanski, Colin Whalen, and Sean Whalen.●

#### WORK INCENTIVES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

● Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, the great Leo Tolstoy once confided in his diary that he would be the unhappiest of men if he could not find a purpose for his life. As we all know, Tolstoy did, indeed, find purpose. As a novelist, phi-

losopher, and social reformer, he brought entertainment, meaning, and direction into the lives of millions—his influence continuing even into our day and age.

The need to bring meaning and success into our lives—the need to have a purpose, to be anxiously engaged in a good cause—is, as Tolstoy pointed out, one of the most basic in our nature. With this in mind, it is my pleasure to join Senators MOYNIHAN, JEFFORDS, and KENNEDY to introduce legislation that while simple in purpose will be infinite in application and influence. Our objective? To help people with disabilities go to work.

In 1990, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act. That law made an important statement about this nation's commitment to independence and opportunity for people with disabilities. Since then, barriers that had made some of even the simplest daily tasks difficult or even impossible have been lifted. Millions of Americans have gone back to work or found their daily chores to be more accessible—easier to address and accomplish.

Despite these successes and the progress that has been made in the ensuing eight years, there are still serious obstacles for too many people with disabilities—obstacles that stand in the way of their realizing the most basic and important opportunity of getting a job.

With this legislation, we begin to address some of the remaining impediments to employment for people with disabilities. These include the lack of access to health insurance and fundamental job assistance.

At a hearing held by the Finance Committee last July, witness after witness testified about the importance of health insurance for people with disabilities trying to enter the workforce. Jeff Bangsberg of the Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities put it best when he said that "having appropriate, affordable health care is a critical factor in decisions people with disabilities make about working. Many individuals are afraid to work because they can't afford to lose access to continued Medicaid coverage."

The simple fact, Mr. President, is that people with disabilities are often presented with a Catch-22 between working and losing their Medicaid or Medicare. This is a choice they should not have to make. But even modest earnings can result in a loss of eligibility for Medicaid or Medicare. Without health insurance, medical treatment often becomes prohibitively expensive for individuals with disabilities, and without medical treatment it becomes impossible for many to work.

My constituents in Delaware have made it clear that lack of access to health insurance is a real and seemingly insurmountable barrier to employment. Larry Henderson, Chair of