

#233 is located in a small Georgia town called Loganville and it is commanded by a true patriot in every sense of the word—Mr. Bobby Boss. For over 50 years this man's leadership has allowed the post to continue offering community services that any American would be proud of.

Post #233 held its first meeting on November 19, 1946 with the Legion's standard program of the day: patriotism, rehabilitation, community service, community welfare and membership. Less than ten years after its inception, the Post responded to the town of Loganville's need for a medical doctor by building a clinic. The Post later donated a truck and tractor to the city.

Over the past 40 years, the Post has continued to make numerous donations to the community, including an annual \$1,500 donation to the town's elementary school to help purchase shoes and clothes for the needy and a \$12,000 donation for dropout prevention programs in all Walton County Schools.

Tragedy struck the Post in 1977 when a fire all but destroyed the Post building, leaving nothing but ashes and concrete. At the first monthly meeting after the fire, a majority of the members present chose not to rebuild, but Commander Boss was not in that majority. Two weeks after that meeting, he took his own bulldozer and cleared the charred remains. His efforts resulted in the fine building the Post uses today.

Once the Post was back on its feet, many of the programs that had fallen by the wayside due to rebuilding costs were reinstated. In the past 10 years alone, Post #233 has supported renovation projects for the city of Loganville and donated \$8,000 towards the purchase of computers for the local high school; donated half the costs of building a baseball field complete with lights, restrooms and a concession stand. Post #233 has also contributed funds to help the local Sheriff's department purchase camera equipment for patrol cars. This Christmas season, members of Post #233 will prepare and deliver more than one thousand baskets for widows, the disabled and needy families.

The good work of Post #233 represents all that is noble in our great nation. I applaud their community service and their patriotism. They are an asset to their community, the great state of Georgia and the United States of America.●

**HENRI TERMEER PRESENTED
WITH THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BOSTON'S GOLDEN DOOR AWARD**

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am honored to have this opportunity to congratulate Henri Termeer on receiving the Golden Door Award from the

International Institute of Boston. I also congratulate Henri for recently being sworn in as a United States citizen during a ceremony on October 29.

As chairman, chief executive officer and president of Genzyme Corporation, one of the largest biotechnology companies in the world, Henri is renowned as a pioneer in the industry. He serves on the board of directors of both the Biotechnology Industry Organization, the industry's national trade association, and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, a national pharmaceutical trade organization.

It is very fitting, indeed, that Henri was honored with the Golden Door Award, which is presented to US citizens of foreign birth who have made outstanding contributions to American society. Henri is a native of the Netherlands, and in recent years he has received numerous honors such as the Anti-Defamation League's Torch of Liberty Award and the Governor's New American Appreciation Award. He was also recently inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Throughout his career in biotechnology, Henri has been a strong advocate for the responsibility of industry and government to make life-saving drug treatments available to all people in need, regardless of their economic status or geographic location. Under Henri's leadership, Genzyme has worked diligently over the years to make this vision a reality.

In addition to his commitment to patients, Henri is also a leader in promoting educational opportunities for minorities. Since 1995, he has been a director of the Biomedical Science Careers Project, which provides corporate scholarships to academically outstanding minority high school students. In May 1999, the group presented Henri with highest honor, the Hope Award.

Henri's extensive record of public service includes his role as a director of the Massachusetts Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, as a trustee and vice-chairman of the Boston Museum of Science, and as a member of the Massachusetts Council on Economic Growth and Technology.

In receiving the Golden Door award, Henri joins a distinguished list of previous recipients including Arthur Fiedler, the famed former conductor of the Boston Pops; Jean Mayer, the eminent nutritionist, educator, and former president of Tufts University; and An Wang, the founder of Wang Labs.

I commend Henri Termeer for this well-deserved award, and for his new American citizenship. Massachusetts is proud of him, and I congratulate him for his many impressive contributions to our Nation.●

DEATH ON THE HIGH SEAS ACT

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, most unfortunately it appears unlikely that House and Senate conferees will be able to reach agreement this year on a multi-year bill to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration. I am bitterly disappointed at Congress' inability to act on this legislation because of a number of parliamentary budget fights that ignore the dire need to pass this bill. Yet one of my most prominent disappointments is the likelihood that Congress' efforts to amend the Death on the High Seas Act will fall by the wayside in the short term. We will be forced to postpone out efforts to make damage recovery fair for all family members of aviation accident victims who have died.

The Death on the High Seas Act is a 1920's-era law that was put in place to help compensate the wives of sailors who died at sea. The law allows survivors to recover pecuniary damages, or the lost wages of their relatives on whom they depended upon financially. Unlike modern tort law, the Death on the High Seas Act does not allow family members to recover for non-monetary damages, such as for pain and suffering, or to seek punitive damages.

Despite its benevolent inception, the Death on the High Seas Act has been used to limit the recovery of damages among the families of airline passengers whose lives have been lost over international waters. The family members of those who died on TWA Flight 800 and EgyptAir Flight 990, for instance, will not be able to seek the same compensation that they would be entitled to if these accidents had occurred over land. The parents of children killed in these accidents cannot sustain a legal claim for damages, since they did not depend upon their children as the family breadwinners. That is an inequity and an unintended consequence that we need to fix.

As I said earlier, Congress intended to fix these problems in the context of the FAA reauthorization bill, yet negotiations have stalled for unrelated reasons. Consequently, I want to pledge every effort to move Death on the High Seas Act legislation independently, as soon as possible next year.

The Commerce Committee will hold additional hearings on this issue as soon as Congress reconvenes in 2000. I will take the lead in working with my colleagues to ensure that legislation to limit the application of the Death on the High Seas Act to aviation accidents moves as quickly as possible through Congress. I believe it enjoys enormous support within Congress. At the very least, it should not be bogged down in unrelated controversies.

The families of aviation accident victims over international waters have waited far too long for Congress to

make sure that their losses are accorded the same respect as those associated with accidents over land. Family members should know that their children have value in the eyes of the law. The recent aviation tragedies only highlight the need for prompt action.●

IMMIGRATION ESSAY CONTEST

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, each year, the American Immigration Law Foundation and the American Immigration Lawyers Association sponsor a national writing contest on immigration. Thousands of fifth grade students across the country participate in the competition, answering the question, "Why I'm Glad America is a Nation of Immigrants."

In fact, "A Nation of Immigrants" was the title of a book that my brother President Kennedy wrote in 1958 at a time when he was a Senator. All his life, he took pride in America's great heritage and history of immigration.

As one of the judges of this year's contest, I was immensely impressed with the quality of the students' writing and the pride of the students in America's immigrant heritage. Many of the students told the story of their own family's immigration to the United States.

The winner of this year's contest is Crystal Uvalle, a fifth grader from Pennsylvania. She wrote about her father's immigrant background and how he came to America 20 years ago. Other students honored for the high quality of their essays were Leif Holmstrand and Eugene Yakubov of Chicago, Samantha Huber of Fredonia, Wisconsin, Alexa Lash of Miami, and Daniel Rocha of Media, Pennsylvania.

Mr. President, I believe these award winning essays from the "Celebrate America" essay contest will be of interest to all of us in the Senate, and I ask that they be printed in the RECORD.

The essays follow:

WHY I AM GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Crystal Uvalle, Grand Prize Winner)

It was about 20 years ago,
A man come here from Mexico.
He sought a better way to live,
And found he had a lot to give.
He didn't speak a word of English,
So he took a job busing dishes.
To learn his new country's ways,
He worked and studied everyday.
He made Dallas his new home,
And before he knew it he was in the know.
He worked his way up in that restaurant,
And a lady there, his eye she caught.
She was a native of another state,
And he asked her out on a date.
She liked pierogies and roast beef,
He liked tamales and spicy meat.
It didn't take long, they were in love,
Then God sent them a baby from heaven above.

I'm so happy for them you see,
That man and woman and I make three.
I'm so happy America let him in,
He's my father and my friend.

I love you Daddy!

AMERICA, AMERICA—THEY CAME TO BE FREE

(By Leif Holmstrand, Chicago, Illinois)

I dedicate this song to my Farfar (father's father), who came to America from Sweden in 1920. His boat arrived in New York, at Ellis Island, where he spent some time. He told my father stories about his trip: friends dying of tuberculosis, lice, over crowding. He went to Nebraska to try farming, but finally settled in Chicago, where he was a fine painter and woodworker.

America, the land of the free;
The immigrants made it strong with their diversity

First, from England, came the Pilgrims, to worship as they pleased,

Next came the Germans, Irish, the French, the Swedes.

The Finns, the Danes, the Polish and Portuguese,

The Welsh, the Dutch, the Scots and the Chinese

America, America, they came to be free,
The immigrants made it strong with their diversity

As indentured servants looking for opportunity,
Stolen from West Africa as slaves without liberty,

They came for land, they came for gold.
From tyranny,

War and famine, they fled to this country.
America, America, they came to be free;

The immigrants made it strong with their diversity.

A dangerous, relentless journey across the sea,

The immigrants landed at Ellis Island wanting to be free.

They worked in mines and factories, on farm and railroad,

Men, women, children, they carried a heavy America, America the land of the free,

The immigrants made it strong with diversity.

The IMMIGRANTS made it what it's come to be:

The U.S.A.—proud and free
America, America, the land of the free,

The immigrants made it strong with their diversity.

Mexico, Korea, Bosnia, the Sudan
From Haiti, the Honduras, Afghanistan.

They're still coming from many other lands,
They come to America, they want this country:

America, America, from sea to shining sea,
America, America, the immigrants' country.

America, America, the land of the free.

WHY I AM GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Samantha Huber, Fredonia, Wisconsin)

Africans, coming to America on slave ships
Whipped and beaten

No choice
French, looking for gold and other treasures

Claiming land that was not up for sale
Indentured servants, looking for a new life

Finding it
America

A nation of immigrants
Spain, France, Mexico, England, Africa condensed into one

Freedom, education, equality, and justice for all

Diversity, teaching us tolerance
Variety

Differences in customs, holidays, foods,
games, language, and clothing

Even ideas and thoughts differ

Everyone with a different life story
Giving us a taste of the rest of the world
I'm proud of my country
Glad to live in a nation of immigrants
Accepting and welcoming people of the world.

WHY I'M GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Alexa Lash, Miami, Florida)

I am alone
Unprotected by the evil that stands before me

I am alone
Without home or a road to freedom

I am afraid
Walking through the blackened street of fear

I am afraid
Going to a new world where my language is not spoken

I am transparent
I am seeking a place with no one to be my guide

I am transparent
People see an ugly girl

I am new
Seeing new people who can help

I am new
Going to be free

I am loved
By my friends who I will trust

I am loved
By the family I will miss

I am leaving
I am going on the ship to freedom

I am leaving
Going to a street of gold

I am crying
Saying my good byes

I am crying
From tear to dangling tear

I am forming
I am becoming a woman on my own

I am forming
I am looking to see who I really am

I am reaching
Hearing the call of an eagle

I am reaching
Getting closer to the destination I have longed for

I am observing
Seeing the ocean bloom into waves along the shore

I am observing
Seeing the sun rise and the birds chirp

I have arrived
Feeling the warmth of the sand

I have arrived
In America.

AMERICA

(By Daniel Rocha, Media, Pennsylvania)

America a land of differences
different races;
different faces,
America a land of differences.

America a land of freedom,
Immigrants come from far and near,
To taste the freedom we have here.

They come for freedom of religion,
freedom of speech,
freedom of press,

they come for freedom from dictators and laws

America a land of freedom
America a land of family,

people come from different lands,
to see their family that lives here,
America a land of family.

America a land of hope,