

we will remember this day not for the tragedy that could have been, but for the heroism that was.●

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, this week from April 11–17 we are celebrating the 41st anniversary of “National Library Week.” As a strong and vigorous supporter of Federal initiatives to strengthen and protect libraries, I am pleased to take this opportunity to draw my colleagues’ attention to this important occasion and to take a few moments to reflect on the significance of libraries to our nation.

When the free public library came into its own in this country in the 19th century, it was, from the beginning, a unique institution because of its commitment to the same principle of free and open exchange of ideas as the Constitution itself. Libraries have always been an integral part of all that our country embodies: freedom of information, an educated citizenry, and an open and enlightened society. They are the only public agencies in which the services rendered are intended for, and available to, every segment of our society.

It has been my longstanding view that libraries play an indispensable role in our communities. From modest beginnings in the mid-19th century, today’s libraries provide well-stocked reference centers and wide-ranging loan services based on a system of branches, often further supplemented by traveling libraries serving outlying districts. Libraries promote the reading of books among adults, adolescents, and children and provide the access and resources to allow citizens to obtain reliable information on a vast array of topics.

Libraries gain even further significance in this age of rapid technological advancement where they are called upon to provide not only books and periodicals, but many other valuable resources as well. In today’s society, libraries provide audio-visual materials, computer services, internet access terminals, facilities for community lectures and performances, tapes, records, videocassettes, and works of art for exhibit and loan to the public. In addition, special facilities libraries provide services for older Americans, people with disabilities, and hospitalized citizens.

Of course, libraries are not merely passive repositories of materials. They are engines of learning—the place where a spark is often struck for disadvantaged citizens who for whatever reason have not had exposure to the vast stores of knowledge available. I have the greatest respect for those individuals who are members of the library community and work so hard to ensure that our citizens and communities continue to enjoy the tremen-

dous rewards available through our library system.

My own State of Maryland has 24 public library systems providing a full range of library services to all Maryland citizens and a long tradition of open and unrestricted sharing of resources. This policy has been enhanced by the State Library Network which provides interlibrary loans to the State’s public, academic, special libraries and school library media centers. The Network receives strong support from the State Library Resource Center at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Regional Library Resource Centers in Western, Southern, and Eastern Shore counties, and a Statewide database of holdings totalling 178 libraries.

The result of this unique joint State-County resource sharing is an extraordinary level of library services available to the citizens of Maryland. Marylanders have responded to this outstanding service by borrowing more public library materials per person than citizens of almost any other State, with 67 percent of the State’s population registered as library patrons.

I have had a close working relationship with members of the Maryland Library Association and others involved in the library community throughout the State, and I am very pleased to join with them and citizens throughout the nation in this week’s celebration of “National Library Week.” I look forward to a continued close association with those who enable libraries to provide the unique and vital services available to all Americans.●

TRIBUTE TO STANLEY J. CHERRY

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Stanley J. Cherry, a World War I veteran and extraordinary citizen of Grand Traverse County, Michigan, who was recently awarded France’s highest tribute, the Legion of Honor.

A son of Polish immigrants, Stanley Cherry enlisted in the United States Army in May 1918, after which time he was sent to England with the 330th Second Machine Company Battalion where he was trained to operate English Vickers, French Hodgkiss, and American Browning machine guns. He began his service in France in October of the same year where he remained after the signing of the armistice, assigned to secure provisions.

During his 62 year marriage to his wife Lucille, the couple owned and operated a general store in Elmira, Michigan, for over 30 years. In addition to running the store they raised two daughters, Joanne Hawly and Jeanette Galbraith, who both currently live in Traverse City, Michigan.

In commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the signing of the armistice, the French government chose to honor

surviving allied war veterans who fought in France to help defeat the German Army. A representative of the French Consulate General office in Chicago was present at the February 19th ceremony to confer upon Mr. Cherry the rank of Chevalier of the National Order of the Legion of Honor. France’s highest honor, the Legion of Honor was founded in 1802 by Napoleon as a way of recognizing citizens for their contributions to France.

In addition to the Legion of Honor award, Mr. Cherry was presented a certificate of merit voted by the Michigan Legislature and signed by Governor Engler.

Mr. President, Stanley Cherry is an outstanding American citizen. In April he will be celebrating his 103rd birthday. I salute him for his many remarkable contributions as a veteran and for his commitment to his community and family. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him on being conferred the rank of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.●

HONORING CASSADAGA JOB CORPS

● Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Cassadaga Job Corps in Cassadaga, New York, which was recently rated the nation’s top job center. The center’s director, Andrew Carpenter, and his staff have earned top billing for overall training and job placement performance. In addition to winning national and county recognition, the Cassadaga Job Corps’ achievements have also set state records.

Over the past four years, time and money has been invested in upgrading Cassadaga Job Corps facilities, including construction of an academic and training center which opened in 1997. Upcoming projects include dormitory renovations and construction, development of a waste water plant, and remodeling of the nursing education complex.

I would like to express my congratulations to the Cassadaga Job Corps’ 120 staffers and 255 students who have earned the privilege of being named the best job training center in the nation, and my thanks to them for their hard work and dedication.●

LATIN-AMERICANS FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INC.

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Latin-Americans for Social and Economic Development, Inc. (LA SED.) LA SED, a remarkable organization in my home state of Michigan, will celebrate its 30th Anniversary on May 5, 1999.

For thirty years now, LA SED has served Hispanics and the residents of Southwest Detroit through broad-based social programs. While championing the welfare of the Latino community,

it has also addressed the issues that affect the diverse ethnic populations in Southwest Detroit. From education to advocacy and much more, LA SED's far-reaching hand has helped thousands of Detroit's most deserving citizens achieve a higher standard of living.

Over the years, LA SED has grown to become one of Detroit's premier multi-purpose social service agencies. As it celebrates this important milestone, I am sure its staff, friends and supporters will have the opportunity to recall its many successes. I am pleased to join with them in thanking LA SED for its efforts while applauding all the hard work and determination that have resulted in its prestigious reputation.

Mr. President, LA SED can take pride in the many important achievements of its first thirty years. I hope my colleagues will join me in saluting the accomplishments of LA SED's first three decades and in wishing it continued success for the future.●

TRIBUTE TO THE RAIMONDO FAMILY

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Raimondo Family as they are honored by the Fort Lee Chamber of Commerce as Family of the Year. The Raimondo name and family are synonymous with the rich history of the Borough of Fort Lee.

Carmelo Raimondo, who emigrated from the Province of Coscenza in Southern Italy, founded Raimondo Construction with his wife Madeline Battaglia in 1923. In 1942, they moved to Fort Lee with their two sons Frank and Charles. Since that time, numerous members of the Raimondo family have helped build Raimondo Construction into the pinnacle of success that it is today. Raimondo Construction has been an integral part of the Fort Lee community, and the Raimondos have helped to make Fort Lee the Borough that it is.

The Raimondo Family is now spread throughout Bergen County and across the country, and every member of the family continues to be active in their community. Whether it is serving the United States in the Navy, caring for the sick as a nurse, or shaping the youth of our nation in the Boy Scouts, the Raimondo Family has contributed a great deal to society. They have worked on behalf of a diverse pool of civic organizations such as Christie Muhaw Scholarship Fund, the New Jersey Symphony, the Church of the Good Shepard, the York Street Project in Jersey City, the Bergen 200 Club, the Police Honor League of New Jersey, the Fort Lee Council of Youth and Community Services, and the Bergen County Catholic Youth Organization. The Raimondo Family has set a standard of community activism that we should all strive to meet.

The story of the Raimondo Family is the story of the American dream. It is the story of Carmelo Raimondo coming to America in search of the opportunity that this great country offers. The success that the Raimondos have experienced is a testament to the fact that America is truly the land of opportunity. My grandparents also came to America in search of opportunity, and it is this common experience that has built a bond between myself and the Raimondo Family.

I am proud to recognize the Raimondos on this occasion.●

THE ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL RAMPAGE

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate a group of young constituents and journalists at Rockville High School's newspaper, The Rampage. This year, the students on the staff of The Rampage and their journalism teacher, Kevin Keegan, won recognition as the best student newspaper in Maryland for the seventh year in a row. I am proud of these students for putting their minds and their hearts into creating a first-rate newspaper for the Rockville community.

More than 200 years ago, when the Framers of the United States Constitution created the First Amendment, they recognized and enshrined the importance of a free press in a democratic society. With its declaration that no law could abridge the freedom of the press, the First Amendment also bestowed on our Nation's journalists a unique and special role. The Nation has given reporters the awesome responsibility to help communicate the needs of the Nation, report on and analyze the functioning of government, and chronicle the day-to-day events that affect our communities. In return, we hope those journalists recognize the importance of their responsibility and carefully tend their role as stewards of public information.

To maintain this profoundly important and delicate relationship, it is essential that journalists have strong training in writing, investigation, and ethics. That is why I am so proud of The Rampage, its staff, and its advisor. Mr. Keegan is teaching the important fundamentals of journalism, instilling in these young people the power and obligation of a free press, and encouraging them to grow personally and professionally in the process. Along the way, their hard work and commitment has earned these young journalists great respect and renown.

I would like to say a special word of thanks to The Rampage advisor, Mr. Keegan. He is well-known in Rockville and across the state for his commitment to teaching and to his students. As a journalism teacher and advisor for 20 years and coach of Team Maryland, a state all-star academic team, Mr.

Keegan embodies all that is great and good about education in America. He inspires students personally, challenges them academically, and donates enormous amounts of energy and time to give kids the extra attention and encouragement they need to succeed. In 1997, he was recognized statewide when Hood College in Frederick honored him with its Maryland Distinguished Teacher award.

Mr. President, I have worked with quite a few journalists in my years of public service. I have been proud that many Maryland reporters and news outlets have earned national reputations and honors. But I am uniquely proud of The Rampage today because they represent great hope for maintaining a strong free press and a strong democratic society. In their ranks we may well find some of the next generation's Pulitzer Prize winners. I congratulate them today on their tremendous accomplishments and wish them all the best for their future endeavors. Maryland is very proud of them.●

MS. ROSA PARKS AND MR. OLIVER W. HILL

● Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I wanted to say a few words today about two civil rights leaders to whom this nation owes an immense debt of gratitude. Ms. Rosa Parks and Mr. Oliver W. Hill, both, in very distinct ways, took action that has helped make our children more free, our society more enlightened, our culture more enriched.

I was pleased to add my name to the list of cosponsors of S. 531, legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Ms. Rosa Parks, who as everyone knows stood up to segregation by sitting down in the front seats of a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama. It is difficult to adequately put in words the courage it took on the part of Ms. Parks to oppose decades of institutionalized racism. It is also hard to describe the pride we feel today in Ms. Parks' action, and in how our nation's conscience grew, although too slowly, in response to the bus boycott that followed.

Ms. Parks' action set off a 382-day bus boycott by 40,000 people, which in turn led to a federal court challenge and the end of Montgomery's segregated buses. The decade of peaceful protests that followed brought us a string of liberating Supreme Court decisions and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Today, Ms. Parks, an unassuming seamstress, stands like a giant in the history of the 20th century.

Mr. Oliver W. Hill, an aggressive attorney for the Civil Rights movement, is less well known. But Mr. Hill is no less courageous, and the contributions he made to this country deserve much greater recognition. For that reason, I've asked the President to award him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.