

and (2) To discuss agricultural trade options.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Subcommittee on Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization will meet on May 8, 1999 in Nampa, ID starting at 9 a.m. at the City Council Chambers. The purpose of this hearing will be to examine the noxious weeds and plant pest problems.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place on Thursday, May 13, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on fire preparedness on Federal lands. Specifically, what actions the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service are taking to prepare for the fire season; whether the agencies are informing the public about these plans; and ongoing research related to wildfire and fire suppression activities.

Those who wish to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. For further information, please call Amie Brown or Mike Menge (202) 224-6170.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the State and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power.

The hearing will take place on Thursday, May 27, 1999 at 2:00 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 244, To authorize the construction of the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System and to authorize assistance to the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, for the planning and construction of the water supply system, and for other purposes; S. 623, To amend Public Law 89-108 to increase authorization levels for State and Indian tribal, municipal, rural, and industrial water supplies, to meet current and future water quantity and quality needs of the Red River Valley, to deauthorize certain project features and irrigation service areas, to enhance natural resources and fish and wildlife habitat, and for other purposes; and S. 769, To provide a final settlement on

certain debt owed by the city of Dickinson, North Dakota, for construction of the bascule gates on the Dickinson Dam.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Subcommittee on Water and Power, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, 364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, 20510-6150.

For further information, please call Colleen Deegan, Counsel, or Julia McCaul, Staff Assistant at (202) 224-8115.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEE TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Governmental Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia be permitted to meet on Monday, May 3, 1999, at 3:30 p.m. for a hearing on Management Reform in the District of Columbia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER PERFORMANCE BY BROWARD COUNTY SENIORS

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today I am delighted to have the opportunity to salute the 1999 honorees of the Dr. Nan S. Hutchison Broward Senior Hall of Fame Award. These outstanding volunteers have contributed time, talents and love toward benefitting the residents of Broward County.

On May 6, 1999, eleven new members selected for this prestigious honor will be at ceremonies celebrating their selection, and their names will be added to a commemorative plaque housed in the Broward County Government Building.

This year's honorees are: Panchitta Chishom, Estelle Ernstoff, Commissioner Sam Goldsmith, Max Klein, Bill Kling, Ella Anderson Lawrence, Madolyn Markham, Hyman Moskowitz, Hattie Robinson, Marvin Simon and John Washburn.

Panchitta Chishom has dedicated her life to serving the community as a teacher for 38 years in the Broward County School system and as a volunteer. She devotes her wisdom, generosity and tireless efforts to various groups including the Northwest Federated Woman's Club, Broward General Medical Center and the NAACP.

Estelle Ernstoff has a passion for volunteer work that has enriched the lives

of those in her community. Among the work she has done for various causes, she has faithfully arranged bi-annual blood drives while supporting the Cancer Association and the Memorial Manor Nursing Home Auxiliary. Her devotion to improving the lives of others has made her a role model for her community.

Commissioner Sam Goldsmith has patiently and steadfastly tended to the needs and concerns of the citizens of Coconut Creek. Besides serving as a former mayor and current city commissioner, Sam has devoted additional precious time to volunteer for several organizations including the Florida Council of Aging, American Legion Post #170 and Board of Trustees of Northwest Regional Hospital.

Max Klein has been a determined and energetic activist for the citizens of Broward County, and in particular, the City of Lauderdale. His participation in journalism and the political process has brought attention to the issues and concerns of elderly. His compassion extends to all residents, young and old, of Broward County.

Bill Kling has spent his adult life campaigning for the rights and benefits of war veterans. He was instrumental in establishing the Veterans Administration outpatient clinic in Oakland Park. His compassion and perseverance have served the community in numerous ways.

Ella Anderson Lawrence has dedicated her life to others through her generous community service. From distributing lap robes to local nursing homes to preparing and serving meals for her church, Bethlehem Lutheran, she has contributed her time, energy and kindness to her entire neighborhood and its residents.

Madolyn Markham has made a pledge over many years and across various interests to help all those in need in her community. As President and Director of C. Robert Markham Foundation, she has supported numerous causes, including The Twelve Step House, United Way and Kids in Distress. Her charity and grace have touched the lives of many people, young and old.

Hyman Moskowitz has a strong sense of community that is evident through his many accomplishments and volunteer work. His efforts have led to the establishment of the Northwest Focal Point Senior Center and a monthly award honoring "Students of the Month" by the Margate City Commission. His dedication to volunteering enriches the lives of everyone around him.

Hattie Robinson shows her compassion for humanity through her generous good deeds to her church, the 15th Street Baptist Church of Christ, and throughout her neighborhood. She has fed the hungry, distributed clothing to the needy and been an active member of the Broward County Foster

Grandparent Program. Her kindness and charity are not limited by boundaries, but instead touch the lives of all whom she meets.

Marvin Simon has been a dedicated and enthusiastic supporter of Broward County's senior population. His perseverance resulted in the establishment of an Emergency Medical Services base on the Pine Island Ridge Condominium grounds. His devotion extends past his neighbors through his active participation in various organizations including the Gilda's Club and the Jewish War Veterans, Post 730.

John Washburn has a gift of giving that has enhanced the lives of all those who have been touched by his generosity. He volunteers for numerous organizations including the Cooperative Feeding Program, Manna Share a Meal program and Optimist Club of West Broward/Lauderhill. His commitment to the community has benefitted all, especially the needy and the sick, the young and the elderly.

Florida and Broward County are fortunate to have these inspiring senior citizens who have given so much to their communities. I congratulate them today and wish for them many more productive and healthy years.●

#### HONORING THE ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE CENTER

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise to honor the opening of the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage, Alaska.

The Heritage Center, the first of its kind in Alaska, is a twenty-six acre campus that offers a unique opportunity to learn and explore the traditional ways of Alaska Native cultures. The Center will be a "gathering place" where local residents and visitors to Alaska can meet Native Tradition Bearers, artists and performers. While visiting, they can learn about the Native traditional lifestyle by participating in workshops and guided tours of the five traditional village settings that have been built around a lake on the campus.

In 1994, I was privileged to add the Stevens/Murkowski Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development Act as an amendment to the School-to-Work Opportunities Act. This amendment paved the way for authorizing federal funding for the Alaska Native Heritage Center. Congressman DON YOUNG was instrumental in winning House approval for the measure. Over the past six years, Senator STEVENS has been successful in securing matching federal funds for the Center—I am proud to say the Center isn't just a federal project, but a statewide project funded by individuals, private companies, Native Corporations and friends from outside the State who were united in a common dream.

Finally, I would like to commend the vision and relentless dedication of the

Chairman of the Alaska Native Heritage Center, Mr. Roy Huhndorf. The Heritage Center is a tribute to his leadership and determination to ensure a vibrant and continuing celebration of Alaska Native traditions and cultures for years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. PATRICIA CLEMENTS

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today I rise to offer a tribute to Dr. Patricia L. Clements for her years of work on behalf of historical preservation in Florida.

As we prepare for a new millennium, with its promise of inventions and technical advances beyond our comprehension, we are reminded of the importance of preserving and understanding our past.

Toward that end, Dr. Clements has helped lead the historical preservation effort in Florida, particularly in preserving and interpreting women's history.

Women helped build and lead Florida, and their roles have been preserved in myriad ways by Dr. Clements and her colleagues.

She has been a pioneer in producing audio biographies of prominent Florida women. Dr. Clements is the founder of the Inaugural Gown Collection, housed at the Museum of Florida History, including textiles dating to 1901, nearly a century ago.

Meanwhile, she has collected more than 100 artifacts for the First Families exhibit at the Museum of Florida History. Strong public interest prompted the museum to extend the exhibit by three months.

Florida has many ways of recognizing the contributions of outstanding women, one of which is through the Florida Women's Hall of Fame. Dr. Clements is the audiobiographer of women inducted into this elite group, and is a member of the Florida Women's Hall of Fame selection committee.

Mr. President, we live in a fast-paced world, and can expect mobility and the pace of the flow of information to increase in the next century. As we embrace the future, we salute those who preserve the past and help us to understand our heritage.●

#### RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS DAY

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise this morning to recognize the contribution of charter schools to the education of our nation's children. Today, on Charter Schools Day, we celebrate the hard labor and accomplishments of charter school teachers, parents, and students.

In 1993, Michigan became the ninth state to grant citizens the freedom to establish charter schools. Many public school educators had found that the

complex labyrinth of federal and state regulations prevented them from providing their students the best education possible. The Michigan State Legislature passed charter school legislation to provide regulatory relief for educators, ensure school accountability, and encourage educators to innovate. The following year, Congress established the public Charter Schools program which authorized \$15 million for the Department of Education to support the development, initial implementation, and evaluation of charter schools. During the 105th Congress, I voted for the Charter School Expansion Act of 1998 which increased federal charter school funding to \$100 million.

Mr. President, charter schools are integral to our nation's education system because they empower citizens to develop schools which meet the needs of their local communities. One fine example of charter school innovation may be found in Michigan's Saginaw County. Four years ago, the Saginaw County Intermediate School District opened their Transitional Academy. This school was designed to educate juvenile offenders and provide them with an individualized education that would allow them to return to their regular schools and graduate with their classmates. Today, I am pleased to report that the Saginaw County Transitional Academy has not only graduated a majority of their students, but that these students have remained crime free.

Charter schools are also successful because they empower parents to send their children to the public school of their choice. Last year, Michigan parents sent 30,000 children to charter schools, an increase from 21,000 in 1997. Throughout the nation, charter school organizations report that most, if not all, schools have large waiting lists. These lists symbolize the healthy competition that charter schools have created within the public school system.

However, a charter school's primary mission is to educate its students. Standardized testing has revealed that a charter school education has a dramatic impact on its students. All public schools in Michigan, including charter schools, administer the Michigan Education Assessment Program test. Between 1997 and 1998, Michigan charter schools exam results kept pace or surpassed those of traditional public schools. In fact, half of all charter schools in 1998 doubled or tripled the number of students receiving satisfactory scores in one or more subjects. These results indicate that charter schools are truly improving education.

In closing, I wish to honor charter school students, who work day after day to develop their skills and gifts. These students are the future of our nation and contribute to the vibrant life found throughout the countryside and cities of America. I applaud them for their efforts and congratulate them