

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

on this important day, Charter Schools Day.●

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1999

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 4. I further ask that on Tuesday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day. I further ask that, following the prayer, Senator MCCAIN be recognized for 5 minutes for a closing statement, with the majority leader recognized immediately following Senator MCCAIN.

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

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday the Senate recess

from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. so that the weekly party caucus luncheons may take place.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the Senate will convene on Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. Following a brief statement by Senator MCCAIN, the majority leader will make a motion to table S.J. Res. 20. Therefore, Senators can expect the first rollcall vote of the day at approximately 9:35 a.m. If S.J. Res. 20 is tabled, the Senate will immediately begin debate on S. 900, the financial modernization bill, under the provisions agreed to this evening by unanimous consent. It is hoped that significant progress will be made on the banking bill. Therefore, Senators can expect further rollcall votes throughout Tuesday's session of

the Senate. The Senate will recess for the weekly party caucus luncheons from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCAIN. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:06 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 4, 1999, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate May 3, 1999:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROBERT RABEN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE ANDREW FOIS, RESIGNED.