

school program and the Job Corps Training Center program.

Currently, the MACAA serves individuals and families in Baltimore City and 23 counties throughout Maryland. Working with 1000 agencies nationwide, CAA's serve 98% of our Nation's cities and counties and are a primary source of support for the more than 38 million Americans living in poverty in rural and urban areas. Services provided by CAA's and their dedicated volunteers include employment training, adult and child educational services, senior assistance, income management, housing and rental assistance, emergency services and food and nutritional relief. Whether it is through the exchange of information on poverty issues, the provision of services and assistance, the development of funding resources, or the effort to influence public policy, the ultimate mission of these agencies and volunteers is to assist low-income citizens to achieve a higher level of self-sufficiency.

Mr. President, for more than 30 years, MACAA has sponsored this annual conference which brings together hundreds of individuals involved in the effort to eliminate poverty. Appropriately, this May has been designated National Community Action Month, and May 4-10 has been designated National Community Action week to publicize the achievements of CAA's and to emphasize their continuing importance in our communities. This is a most fitting occasion to celebrate a coalition such as MACAA, which is so integral to the health and well being of citizens throughout Maryland. I am pleased to congratulate the MACAA for thirty years of invaluable service, and for their efforts to, to borrow the CAA credo, provide a "hand up, not a hand out."●

TRIBUTE TO RITCHIE BERNARD, THE 1999 LONDONDERRY BUSI- NESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Ritchie Bernard of Londonderry, New Hampshire, for being named the "1999 Business Person of the Year" by the Londonderry Business Council. I congratulate him for his record of excellence in business and community development.

Ritchie owns the House of Samurai in Londonderry, New Hampshire. Dedicated to educating the youth of Londonderry in the martial arts, the House of Samurai is currently celebrating its 25th anniversary.

As a devoted contributor to the Londonderry business community, Ritchie has served on the Board of Directors of the Londonderry Rotary Club, the Londonderry Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Derry Boys and Girls Club. His activism extends far beyond the business realm and is evident by his

participation in various community organizations and causes. Ritchie is highly regarded in the Londonderry community and across the state for his karate school programs, his support of town programs, and his involvement in many volunteer organizations.

Small business is the backbone of our economy in the United States. I am proud to honor Ritchie for preserving and establishing a thriving business in New Hampshire. He has devoted himself to working toward the betterment of the community through his activism and his desire to educate the youth of New Hampshire in the martial arts.

Mr. President, as a former small business owner myself, I understand the demands of running a business. I commend Ritchie for his diligent work in his business as well as the devotion he has shown to the community. I wish to congratulate Ritchie on receiving this distinguished award, and it is an honor to represent him in the United States Senate.●

RECOGNIZING NEVADAN JERRY CRUM

● Mr. BRYAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Nevadan for his exemplary volunteer service to the disabled community both in Northern Nevada and across the United States. Jerry Crum has become a recognized leader through his advocacy on behalf of people afflicted with Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome, CFIDS. Since being diagnosed with CFIDS himself in the mid 1980's, Jerry has worked to increase awareness of this often misunderstood disease, and to improve the lives of those who suffer from it.

Jerry was incapacitated through much of the 1980's. After several years in and out of hospitals, however, he made a strong, though not complete recovery. As his strength increased, so did his efforts to help others with this debilitating condition. At the same time, he also saw that people with other disabilities and chronic illnesses had encountered many of the obstacles he had. He then sought to share his story with others, and to teach others with disabilities how to be effective advocates for themselves.

In 1990, Jerry became a charter member of the CFIDS lobbying organization called CACTUS. In 1992, he helped start the CFIDS Association of America's Public Policy Action Committee, and later founded "Lobby Day," an opportunity for people with CFIDS to travel to Washington, DC to meet with their federal representatives and advance funding and policy needs of CFIDS. Since then, he has testified at a Senate hearing examining the affects of this illness.

Although Jerry has always spoken on behalf of all people with disabilities, he specifically expanded his focus in 1998

to include people with lymphoma when he was diagnosed with this rare form of cancer himself. He became active in the Carson Advocates for Cancer and was the Nevada co-chair of the 1998 National Cancer March. He came to Washington again, and marched along-side cancer survivors such as Norman Schwarzkopf as they crusaded to encourage research to find a cure for this terrible disease.

Jerry has been a catalyst in bringing advocates together to achieve victories for the disabled. I thank him for his service to Nevada and to all who suffer from chronic, disabling conditions such as CFIDS. He has made Nevada proud.●

TRIBUTE TO RE/MAX 1ST CHOICE OF LONDONDERRY, NEW HAMP- SHIRE

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to RE/MAX 1st Choice of Londonderry, New Hampshire, for being named "Company of the Year" by the Londonderry Business Council. It is indeed a prestigious honor.

RE/MAX 1st Choice is a fast growing real estate business that has recently opened in Londonderry. Under the direction of Arlene Hajjar, RE/MAX 1st Choice has worked hard to establish itself within the real estate market of Londonderry.

RE/MAX 1st Choice has worked hard for the community. It has sponsored a number of activities to benefit both charities and the community as a whole. Admirable business practices, community involvement, and charitable donations and sponsorships have made the company a rising force in the Londonderry business community. Its dedication to the town has been admirable and gracious.

Arlene has been one of the main reasons behind RE/MAX 1st Choices' success. She is a member of the Londonderry Business Council and works diligently to represent the business community. She has helped shape not only her company, but also the community through her activism with the town.

As a former real estate business owner, I understand the demands and the trials associated with owning and operating a real estate business. I commend Arlene Hajjar and the staff of RE/MAX 1st Choice on their success. I wish them the best of luck and congratulate them once again for receiving this award. It is an honor to represent them in the United States Senate.●

CONGRATULATING VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the students and teachers from Valley High School in West Des Moines, IA for achieving the top score in the 1999 National GRAMMY Signature School Competition.