May 27, 1999

CELLULAR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SAFETY WEEK

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, in recent years the advent of the wireless phone began an extraordinary advance in the cellular telecommunications industry. As a result the cellular phone has become an accessory and a necessity in the modern technological world we currently live in. It has revolutionized communication, and has helped individuals to constantly stay connected. Today, there are over 98 million wireless phone users around the world. The wireless telephone gives individuals the powerful ability to communicate—almost anywhere, anytime.

With the ability of having a cellular phone comes responsibility. As National Wireless Safety Week comes to a conclusion, we must recognize the dangers of having and using cellular telephones, especially when driving. We must also recognize the benefits of having these phones in situations where they are desperately needed. Today, there are over 98 million emergency calls made daily by people using wireless phones—saving lives, preventing crimes and assisting in emergency situations. Furthermore, according to a recent government study, decreasing notification time when accidents occur saves lives—a wireless phone is a tool to reduce such a time.

The Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) is the international organization of the wireless communications industry for wireless carriers and manufacturers. It is also the coordinator of Wireless Safety Week, and promotes using phones to summon assistance in emergency situations to save lives. It also promotes the concept that when driving a car, safety is one’s first responsibility. The CTIA has six simple rules to driving safely while using a wireless phone, including:

1. Safe handling is one’s first responsibility. Always buckle up, keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road.

2. Make sure that one’s phone is positioned where it is easy to see and easy to reach. Be familiar with the operation of one’s phone so that one is comfortable using it on the road.

Use the speed dialing feature to program-in frequently called numbers. Then one is able to make a call by touching only on number keys. Most phones will store up to 99 numbers.

When dialing manually without using the speed dialing feature first, dial only when stopped. If one cannot stop,
or pull over, dial a few digits, then sur-
vey traffic before completing the call.

Never take notes while driving. Pull
off the road to a safe spot to jot some-
ting down.

Be a wireless Samaritan. Dialing 9-1-
1 is a free call for wireless subscrib-
ers, use it to report crimes in progress or oth-
er potentially life-threatening emergen-
cies, accidents, or drunk driv-
ing.

In a recent national poll, it was
found that over 60 percent of wireless
phone users have called for help in
cases of car trouble, medical emer-
gency, or to report a drunk driving
crime. Close to 90 percent of wireless
phone users polled said safety and secu-
ritv were the best reasons for owning a
wireless phone.

Mr. President. The bottom line is
that individuals need to assume re-
ponsibility while behind the wheel of a
no. Telephone call is important
eenough to risk the safety of the driver,
passengers, and others on the road. Cel-
ular phones can be a distraction while
one is driving. Large drivers use
common sense when driving, and ask
that drivers continue to act as
good Samaritans. I also want to recog-
nize the efforts of the Cellular Tele-
communications Industry Association,
and congratulate them for a successful
Wireless Safety Week.

TRIBUTE TO BOB CLARKE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I
rise to recognize Bob Clarke, who has
served for nearly 15 years as President of
Vermont Technical College in Ran-
dolph. Under Bob's leadership, VTC has
seen its annual budget quadruple, its
annual donations have increased
twelve-fold, and VTC's standing in the
business community has resulted
in increased opportunities for VTC stu-
dents and alumni alike, and VTC has
created a qualified pool of appilants to
meet the growing needs of
Vermont's high-tech industry.

Over the years, I have worked closely
with Bob and VTC on issues including
education, workforce retraining and
business development. I have been
most impressed with Bob's innovation
in addressing the evolving needs of the
business community. His work is truly
inspiring and the results have been felt
across the state. Bob has truly raised
the bar for technical colleges around
the country.

An article recently appeared in the
Vermont Sunday Magazine which de-
tails Bob's accomplishments during his
service as President of Vermont Tech-
ical College. I ask that this article be
printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

FROM Vermont Sunday Magazine, May 23, 1999

CUTTING-EDGE CLARKE

(By Jack Crowl)

Bob Clarke doesn’t exactly fit the central-
casting image of a New England college
president. He doesn’t have an Ivy League de-
gree; in fact he doesn’t have a traditional
academic Ph. D. at all. Neither does he have
a particularly deferial air toward the life of
the mind, nor the aversion to cozy rela-
tionships with businesses that many aca-
demic leaders fear might skew their prior-
ties and jeopardize their independence.

Instead, the Vermont Technical
College is best known for his impish
grin, the twang in his speech—he’s from the
Eastern Shore of Maryland, love of fast
cars, and ability to wrangle drivers into
getting things done. Pass him on the street unknow-
ingly and you’d likely say, “That guy must
be a salesman.”

Which is. He largely by selling himself
and his institution to a bevy of businesses,
Clarke has transformed Vermont Tech-
cola and lead it to new heights. The rest,
Clarke, giving him the charge to rescue the
state-college faculty union. “He does a good
job of making the college indispensable to
the business community,” he adds.

And Clarke’s boss, Chancellor Charles Bunt-
ingham, who has served for nearly 15 years as President
of the College, has listened to the concerns
of small businesses in the state. When
at meetings large and small throughout
the state, Clarke was a member of Vermont’s Higher
Education Commission, and raise money, then by God, he does the

But Clarke’s contributions to Vermont are
more significant than simply the upgrading
of a single institution, important as that
may be. In the process of selling VTC, he’s
also been selling the concept of higher edu-
cation to more and more people. He’s played
a big role in changing the tenor of public dis-
cussion about the importance of higher edu-
cation and helped move the debate from the
theoretical realm of ideas to the practical
world of jobs and profits.

At meetings large and small throughout
the state, Clarke continually chants his twin
mantras about the importance of technology in
our society and the crucial role that
higher education plays in a healthy
economy because of that. “We have to have
higher education as the centerpiece of our
economy,” he says. “We’re going to be in trou-
ble when the next recession hits,” he

Clarke was a member of Vermont’s Higher
Education Financing Commission, which last
winter urged substantial increases in state
funds for colleges and students, and whose
recommendations have been taken seriously
by both the governor and legislature.

In his acceptance speech, Clarke noted
that it was relatively rare for both an educa-
tion commissioner and a non-native Ver-
montian to receive the coveted award, and that he was
awed to be mentioned in the company of the
other honorees—most of them governors, state-
board members, or captains of industry. He
unsurprisingly reviewed his college’s accom-
plishments and thanked his colleagues. But