CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE
June 7, 1999

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise to commend the sesquicentennial celebration of the founding of McDonald County, Missouri, on May 3, 1999. In 1842, the Missouri State Legislature established McDonald County, which was named in honor of a hero of the Revolutionary War, Alexander McDonald.

McDonald County is rich in hospitality, heritage, and history. During the Civil War, McDonald County was the scene of many battles, including battles at Pineville on November 19, 1862, and August 13, 1863. Through the hardships of the war, and through the challenges of peace, the good people of McDonald County stood fast for the values of faith, family, freedom, and hard work. Today, the county celebrates 150 years of history.

An exciting time came in 1938, during the Great Depression, when Hollywood came to McDonald County to make the movie “Jesse James,” which starred Tyrone Power, Henry Fonda, and Randolph Scott.

Each Christmas, the city of Noel in McDonald County receives thousands of carolers from across the country, and affixes the “Christmas City” message on cards that wish the joy of the season to family and friends all over the U.S.

In addition to agriculture and industry, McDonald County is a paradise for fishing, hunting, and hiking. Its rugged hills and valleys, watered by springs, rivers, and streams, attract thousands of anglers, boaters, hikers, and others.

It is an honor to join with the people of McDonald County in celebrating 150 years of history. Mr. President, I ask that members of the Senate join me in recognizing this historic milestone for McDonald County, Missouri.

RECOGNITION OF WV JUVENILE JUSTICE COMPLIANCE MONITORING BY DCJS

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, it is my honor to commend the West Virginia Division of Criminal Justice Services for its outstanding compliance monitoring program. The exceptional quality of this program has been recognized by Attorney General Janet Reno and the Department of Justice as an example of how a monitoring program should work. All new Juvenile Justice Compliance Monitors will travel to West Virginia to be trained by DCJS staff.

Mr. President, I rise today to honor the 55th anniversary of the Allied invasion at Normandy. On June 6, 1944, courageous members of our Armed Forces defended the world from assaults against humanity. During that misty and chilly day, 156,000 Allied soldiers crossed the English channel in one of history’s greatest military operations. Every soldier, every sailor, and every airman united to challenge the injustices that terrorized and enslaved Europe. With soldiers from other Allied nations, West Virginians are right to be proud of the efficient, organized system in use by DCJS, and we can take even more pride in the fact that the DCJS compliance monitoring program will serve as a guide for compliance monitors throughout the country. West Virginians are proud of the role that will be instrumental in streamlining juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs.

The recent acclaim for West Virginia’s compliance monitoring program is a reflection of the many other virtues within the Division’s purview. The success of the Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition plan has prompted other states’ juvenile justice agencies to model their programs after West Virginia’s. In her speech, Attorney General Reno noted our state’s Underage Drinking Plan as a possible approach for other jurisdictions. To their credit, the staff and management of DCJS do not invest these laurels with more importance than they have. The hard-working people of DCJS understand that one of their agency’s greatest strengths is the sharing of responsibility and expertise among DCJS, state juvenile justice facilities, and other state agencies in complying with regulations rather than imposing its will on the agencies with which it works. DCJS builds lasting relationships with correctional facilities to help meet statutory and administrative mandates in a cooperative fashion.

Further, DCJS operates with a definite purpose and an open mind. The agency is firmly grounded in law, yet remains flexible with respect to improvements and changes in regulations. Such a balance is particularly important in the juvenile justice and delinquency prevention context, where frequent governmental experiments result in the involvement of new agencies and new personnel, and increased societal vigilance adds even more members to the pool of at-risk youth. Finally, through its carefully organized and straightforward monitoring program, DCJS strives to teach while it continues to serve. In so many respects, the West Virginia DCJS juvenile justice program is a model for nation.

I wish to express my sincere admiration and heartfelt thanks to the Division of Criminal Justice Services for making juvenile justice services in West Virginia, and now the rest of America, more efficient and effective.

CHARACTER COUNTS!

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Character Counts! initiative introduced by Senator Domenici and others on May 6, 1999. I avidly support education in West Virginia and the United States, and I believe this should include an emphasis on basic character and good citizenship. In the words of Theodore Roosevelt: “To educate a person in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.”

Character Counts! recognizes and addresses that there is a connection between one’s personal life and one’s business or political abilities. Character Counts! understands that morals and character development go hand in hand, and that it is never too late to teach the tools to help develop personal character. The promotion of healthy character development is a necessary precursor to reaching the ultimate goal of teaching people to take personal responsibility.

The Character First! training series is based in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.