

has set for others, his employees are also deeply committed to high quality service and products.

Jay's sharp business skills and telecommunications experience prove to be just the right combination for a business that shows its success not only in dollar figures, but in the contributions it makes to leading new technologies. His commitment to the advancement of New Hampshire's technological economy is truly commendable. It is companies like Jay's that prove New Hampshire's true competitiveness in the technological field. Jay, it is an honor to represent you in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO KRISTINE WEST—  
AMERICAN LEGION LADIES AUXILIARY NATIONAL PRESIDENT

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Kristine West for her recent selection as National President of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Kristine's commitment to public service as a member of the American Legion Auxiliary is evident through her long list of accomplishments. In a time where civic duties seem to be waning, Kristine exemplifies true civic pride and involvement. Not only has she been an active member of the Ladies Auxiliary for over 20 years, she has given freely of her time to the town of Sutton as a member of the North Sutton Improvement Society and the Sutton Historical Society; working to better New Hampshire's scenic and historic heritage for all Granite Staters.

Kristine was a member of the American Legion Department of New Hampshire for five years before moving on to national level work. Her ten years of experience as chairwoman of various national committees proves that she is more than capable of handling the position of President. Her commitment to such organizations as Habitat for Humanity, the Education Committee and the Community Service Committee prove her strong dedication to helping surrounding communities and individuals in need.

Kristine's hard work, determination and energy are truly commendable. Her deep concern for the common good is admirable. She has truly demonstrated the qualities of strong leadership which will take her far in her new position. It is an honor to represent her in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO LAUREN E. SIROIS ON  
BEING NAMED PRESIDENTIAL  
SCHOLAR

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Lauren E. Sirois, of Salem, NH, for being selected as a 2000 Presidential Scholar by the U.S. Secretary of Education.

Of the over 2.5 million graduating seniors nationwide, Lauren is one of

only 141 seniors to receive this distinction for academics. This impressive young woman is well-deserving of the title of Presidential Scholar. I wish to commend Lauren for her outstanding achievement.

As a student at Phillips Academy in New Hampshire, Lauren has served as a role model for her peers through her commitment to excellence. Lauren's determination promises to guide her in the future.

It is certain that Lauren will continue to excel in her future endeavors. I wish to offer my most sincere congratulations and best wishes to Lauren. Her achievements are truly remarkable. It is an honor to represent her in the U.S. Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO MARK F. LEVENSON,  
DIRECTOR OF THE MANCHESTER  
VA MEDICAL CENTER

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mark Levenson upon being appointed the Director of the VA Medical Center in Manchester, NH.

As director, Dr. Levenson will have the responsibility of leading the VA Medical Center into the 21st century. The level of dedication and commitment required by such a prestigious position would seem overwhelming to many, yet Dr. Levenson has proven himself willing and capable of providing the best leadership for the center.

Prior to his appointment as the director for the VA Medical Center, Dr. Levenson served as the acting director of the center. During that 22 month period, Mark dedicated his time to improving medical care access for veterans. His efforts to expand clinics in Manchester and Portsmouth are just some examples of his loyalty and commitment to America's veterans.

Dr. Levenson has used each and every day of his career with the VA Medical Center to remind his peers and the surrounding community of their commitment to those men and women who served our great nation.

As a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces and a friend of the VA Medical Center, I salute the selfless efforts of Dr. Levenson. His leadership will prove invaluable as he assumes the position of director, and I wish him all the best in his endeavors. It is truly an honor to represent Dr. Levenson in the U.S. Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO MARY NOUCAS—  
OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Nocas, for her recognition as an Outstanding Volunteer by the New Hampshire Partners in Education.

In a world full of waning civic responsibility, it is always heartwarming

to hear of selfless citizens devoting time to their communities. Mary's tireless dedication to Portsmouth schools has garnered her state-wide recognition for her efforts. She initially started working at the Dondero Elementary School when her children started kindergarten seven years ago in order to become more fully involved in their education. She offered to sign up for everything to get to know the teachers and the parents better, and hasn't stopped since. Her work now stretches to other schools in the area as well.

Mary has established a number of successful programs at the school, such as the Class Popcorn Giveaway and the Magical Mailbox program, heads numerous committees, and has overseen countless art shows, bake sales and book fairs. She puts together the middle school newsletter and continues to do publicity for the elementary school. She truly enjoys volunteering and cites her love of children as the driving force behind her efforts.

Mary's work is truly inspirational and typifies what is good about American citizens today. Without the help of dedicated volunteers, our schools would not be able to run smoothly, and it is the children who ultimately would suffer. It is truly an honor to represent her in the U.S. Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO MCLANE, GRAF,  
RAULERSON AND MIDDLETON—  
NH BUSINESS IN THE ARTS  
AWARD WINNER

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to McLane, Graf, Raulerson and Middleton upon their recognition as a 2000 New Hampshire "Business in the Arts" award winner in the medium-sized company category.

The firm has been a long time contributor to the development of the arts in New Hampshire. They not only donate time and money to various arts events, but they have established themselves on numerous boards and sponsorships and are well-known for distributing complimentary tickets to clients and friends. This extensive sponsorship of different arts programs is carried out on a more personal level by the firm's employees, whose individual contributions of time and money make a significant impact on the organizations they support.

The firm has placed a considerable interest in promoting musical events throughout the State, and avidly supports the Opera League of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Symphony Orchestra, the Portsmouth Music Hall, the Concord Community Music School and the Nashua Symphony, to name a few. Their list of achievements stretches even further to other venues of the arts as well, such as the Palace Theater in Manchester, the Currier

Gallery of Art and Strawberry Banke, a historical site in Portsmouth.

This strong commitment by the firm to providing the opportunity for arts programs to come to the State is truly commendable. The firm understands the true importance of the arts in communities, and without their generous support, these programs would not be possible. The firm has taken on new projects, most notably a year 2000 celebration with cultural activities such as a Black Heritage Trail and a YMCA art auction. These sort of events enrich the lives of the entire community and prove that private businesses can indeed make a huge impact on bringing the arts to all citizens. It is an honor to serve the firm and its employees in the U.S. Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO J. MICHAEL HICKEY,  
2000 YANKEE AWARD RECIPIENT

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Michael Hickey, for his recognition by the Yankee Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America as the 2000 Yankee Award Recipient.

Mike is the president and CEO of Bell Atlantic New Hampshire, a company that faithfully upholds the ideals of corporate responsibility, good citizenship and core values. Mike has taken the role of CEO to a whole new level of relationship building by embracing those around him, not only within his company, but within the surrounding community as well. He consistently works hard to ensure that all employee and business concerns are met and addressed. It is his dedication to relationship building that exemplifies what public relations is all about.

Mike is an extraordinary leader who leads by example, most notably by his involvement with numerous non-profit organizations. As chairman of Kids Voting New Hampshire and the former campaign chairman of the Greater Manchester United Way, Mike demonstrates the importance of civic responsibility and giving back to the community. He listens carefully to others and diligently tries to bring the disenfranchised into the inner circle. He makes people feel included and valued. His board membership in the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the NH Business & Industry Association, and the NH High Tech Council prove his true commitment to the advancement of New Hampshire's businesses and economy. He is the type of leader who encourages those around him to give above and beyond one hundred percent of themselves. As a result, Bell Atlantic sponsors a number of community events aimed at educating and guiding youths and adults throughout the state, such as the Smithsonian Folklife Exhibit from New Hampshire and the Celebrate New Hampshire Culture Festival.

Mike's hard work, determination and ability to motivate those around him to reach greater heights are truly commendable. His strong concern for the common good is admirable. He has truly illustrated the qualities of strong leadership and interpersonal relationship skills. Mike, it is an honor to represent you in the U.S. Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO LAUREN JENNIFER  
MEEHAN—MISS NEW HAMPSHIRE  
2000

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a young woman who has given selflessly to her community, inspired her peers and has been chosen to represent the great state of New Hampshire in the Miss America pageant in 2000, Lauren Jennifer Meehan.

Lauren, crowned both Miss Lakes Region and Miss New Hampshire, is a 1998 graduate of Nashua Senior High School. Not only did she graduate in the top ten percent of her class, she went on to continue her education at the University of New Hampshire, where she is a sophomore majoring in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology. In addition to her premedical program course work, she minors in English as well.

Despite a double major and challenging courses, Lauren finds time for her singing passion, performing with the All-State Classical Choir for the past 3 years, and she gives back to the surrounding community through her involvement as a kindergarten catechism teacher at St. Thomas Moore Parish, as well as a Wentworth Douglas Emergency Room volunteer.

Her platform of attachment and adjustment disorders in children is especially poignant in an age where violence and mental disturbance with America's youth is all too common. Her dreams of entering the field of Pediatric Neurology will surely allow her to further research this field of study.

Lauren is an excellent student who cares about her community and the state. Her talents, hard work and dedication are truly commendable, and it is an honor to represent her in the U.S. Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO THE MOUNT  
WASHINGTON HOTEL AND RESORT

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Mount Washington Hotel and Resort for their designation as one of the Businesses of the Decade by Business New Hampshire Magazine.

For the past ten years, under the direction of partners Joel and Cathy Bedard, the Mount Washington Hotel and Resort has become a cornerstone of the White Mountain Community, providing not only a place for the people of New Hampshire to rest and relax,

but giving back to the surrounding community as well.

The Mount Washington Hotel and Resort had not been locally owned until 1991, after several failed business ventures attempted to capitalize on the property. The hard work and dedication of each individual who worked on renovating and revitalizing the hotel is truly commendable. As a result, the Mount Washington Hotel and Resort was saved from demolition and currently thrives as one of New Hampshire's greatest treasures.

The Mount Washington Hotel and Resort is the largest employer in the local economy, providing 450 jobs in the summer months and 550 throughout the winter season. They are also an active member of their community, lending their support to programs such as New Hampshire Public Television, the Littleton Regional Hospital Auxiliary and other worthy programs and causes.

The Mount Washington Hotel and Resort is a true friend to the people of New Hampshire. Their efforts over the past ten years are truly commendable, and it is an honor to represent them in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO OLDE PORT BANK—  
NH BUSINESS IN THE ARTS  
AWARD WINNER

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Olde Port Bank for its recognition as a 2000 New Hampshire "Business in the Arts" award winner in the small company category.

Olde Port Bank proves that time and money are not the only key factors necessary for the successful continuation of arts programs. They have provided exhibit space in its offices and lobbies and promoted the activities of employees and customers who are artists as well. It is this sort of personal attention and support that make various programs available to the local community. The bank also understands the importance of a strong financial backbone, and helps to secure loans and credit lines so that the arts can remain part of the seacoast community.

The Children's Museum of Portsmouth is one such grateful recipient of Olde Port Bank's efforts. The bank has given generous financial support for an endowment fund to the museum and established corporate membership and sponsorship. Bank employees spend countless hours assisting the museum in many of its events and activities. This sort of high participation is a testament to the staff's deep dedication to making the arts more accessible to the Portsmouth community.

Olde Port Bank recognizes the importance of arts in education and the community. Forty percent of the bank's contributions budget is earmarked for arts organizations in the Portsmouth area, and this support is consistently