

the nation concerning the problems of youth violence and the cultural influences on American youth. I am honored that Evan took the time to write to me and I ask that a copy of Evan Todd's letter to his fellow Scouts and a copy of a speech he delivered at "The Gathering," a meeting of victims of school violence, be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The material follows:

Dear Fellow Scouts, I have been told that into each life some rain must fall. Some get rained on more than others. The rain that came down on us at Columbine High School was a cloudburst of epic proportions. This act was senseless, tragic and without justification, whatsoever. 13 murdered 25 wounded and 1,951 students youth destroyed. As a student who was shot and wounded in the library, it has changed my life, forever.

I believe that the children of a society are nothing more than the reflection of the society that they are brought into. The event here at Columbine in Littleton Colorado, and the events at Moses Lake Washington, Pearl Mississippi, Jonesboro Arkansas, Edinboro Pennsylvania, Fayetteville Tennessee, Springfield Oregon, Richmond Virginia, Conyers Georgia, Los Angeles California and elsewhere indicate to me that our nation has a serious character flaw. Since the Columbine tragedy, I have tried to stay abreast of the "adult society" debate as to the "why" and "how" of these terrible incidents. The adults debate and argue over what constitutes good and what constitutes evil; what is right and what is wrong. At the time of the Columbine tragedy, our national leader, the President, stated the youth of this nation need to learn to resolve our differences with words, not weapons. At the time this statement was made, we as a nation, were bombing Yugoslavia. They tell us that the youth of this nation need to be more tolerant, kinder, gentler, more understanding. Yet our entertainment, music, TV, movies, games (and actions of) the adult world provides for our consumption are all too often filled with violence, sex, death and destruction. If we were to take into our lives what is provided to us by our society, our actions would also violate the Scout Oath & Law. Other solutions to school violence have been nametags to be carried around our neck as millstones, metal detectors, increased video surveillance, etc. Our nation has always had guns. Our nation has always had children. What our nation hasn't always had is children murdering children and their parents, and parents murdering their children. The ingredient that has made America different is the last couple of 'adult generations', and their changes towards what is right & wrong, good & evil. It appears to me that our society is confused. The adult world seems as a ship with no rudder being cast around by the wind and storms of our times, with no control or understanding as to why. Many of these storms appear to have been caused by their own accord. It's as if our adult society has no compass, no bearing, no standards for our society. I have found them confused. Even at our age, we can discern the difference between what you say and what you do. . . .

In regard to the solution of watching what comes out of us by monitoring closely our world with surveillance cameras, what we say, how we look, etc., our society needs to watch carefully what goes into us. In my room is a picture of the Grand Teton mountain range in Wyoming. Below the picture is the following:

"THE ESSENCE OF DESTINY"

"Watch your thoughts, for they become words. Choose your words, for they become actions. Understand your actions, for they become habits. Study your habits, for they will become your character. Develop your character, for it becomes your destiny."

The good news for those of us that are Scouts is that we are privileged to be a part of an organization that provides us the tools and instructions to put into us that which builds a better person, a better nation. Those tools are called the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Robert Gates, former Director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and our current President of the National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) recently stated that there is a war going on for the souls of our boys and young men in this nation. He sees clearly. If you are to be a scout, don't be a scout in word only. Learn and practice the Oath & Law in everything you think, say and do. I understand well how hard that can be, but "Do Your Best." To the Boy Scouts of America, thank you for defending our 90-year record and not allowing the Oath & Law to be redefined. As you say, it has stood the test of time. The generation that wants to change the Oath & Law has not stood the test of time. To all the scouts across America that sent me & my troop cards, letters, posters, your thoughts and prayers, thank you from the bottom of my heart. To you here tonight, I bid you *vaya con Dios mi amigos*, God Bless you and God Bless the work you do. Thank you.

GLASTONBURY YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Glastonbury Youth and Family Services on its thirtieth anniversary. For a generation, this agency has provided a much needed service to the families of Glastonbury, Connecticut.

The children of Glastonbury are the future leaders of our state and nation, and it is critical to our continued success that they obtain the social and educational skills necessary to compete and succeed in the twenty-first century. The many programs offered by Glastonbury Youth and Family Services helps ensure that the town's children are exposed to the very best role models both inside and outside of the home. Because of the hard work and dedication of the parents, children, and workers in this program, the future of Glastonbury is very bright indeed.

Glastonbury Youth and Family Services has already helped open doors for countless young people, and I am confident that the children of the community will continue to benefit from its services far into the future.

Mr. President, I ask that you and all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Glastonbury Youth and Family Services on this very special anniversary. •

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORWEGIAN CLUB OF DETROIT

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Norwegian Club

of Detroit, which will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in Orchard Lake, Michigan, on October 14, 2000. Only Ireland has had a larger percentage of its population immigrate to the United States than has Norway. As Norwegians arrived in Michigan, the Norwegian Club of Detroit was there to help them adjust to their new homeland, while at the same time continue to celebrate the familiar traditions of home.

The Norwegian Club of Detroit was organized in 1925. Originally consisting of only engineers, it quickly expanded to include Norwegians from all walks of life, providing an important cultural, social and professional network for Michigan's Norwegian community.

An example of the Club's importance to the Norwegian community can clearly be seen during World War II, when members managed to mobilize and ultimately provide support to Norwegian military forces who escaped the Nazi invasion. Members also organized training in Canada to assist in the war effort of the Allies.

The Norwegian Club of Detroit remains an important factor in celebrating and promoting Norwegian and Scandinavian cultural, political and economic ties to the State of Michigan. One of the first groups to participate in the Ethnic Festivals in Detroit, the Club also has helped support performances by the Scandinavian Symphony, a visit by the Hjemkomst Viking ship reproduction, as well as various Norwegian performers and artists.

Mr. President, 2000 is an extremely important year in the Norwegian-American community. It is the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Oslo, Norway's capital city, as well as the 1000th Anniversary of the Viking discovery of North America. This year also marks 175 years of Norwegian immigration to the United States. Amidst all of this, and on behalf of the entire United States Senate, I wish the Norwegian Club of Detroit a Happy 75th Anniversary, and continued success in the future. •

HONORING SHIRLEY RAGSDALE

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to publicly commend Shirley Ragsdale, the editor for the Sioux Falls, South Dakota Argus Leader newspaper, on her receiving the national Casey Journalism Center Awards 2000 Casey Medals for her outstanding coverage of the plight of South Dakota's children in the Juvenile Corrections facilities.

The Casey Medals for Meritorious Journalism honor distinguished coverage of disadvantaged children and family, and the institutions and agencies charged with serving them. The Casey Journalism Center serves as an independent national resource center for professional journalists and it is operated by the University of Maryland

and funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Shirley Ragsdale is a talented journalist, an advocate of children's rights, and a dedicated citizen of South Dakota. This honorable award is a reflection of her extraordinary talent, creativity, and ability to convey depth and originality supported by thorough research and consistent documentation. Her unremitting and well-reasoned editorials pressed for changes in the unacceptable practices, as indicated by substantiated reports of abuse, occurring within the South Dakota juvenile correction system.

Shirley Ragsdale truly deserves this prestigious award. It is an honor for me to share her impressive achievements with my colleagues and to commend her on her journalistic success. ●

OLYMPIC SWIMMER JENNY THOMPSON

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate one of our nation's finest Olympians, Jenny Thompson. This week, Jenny set herself apart from the rest of the world. With 10 Olympic medals, 8 of which are gold, Jenny has become the most decorated Olympic female swimmer of all time. As an American, I am very proud of our U.S. Olympic athletes, but I am especially proud of Jenny Thompson, from my home state of New Hampshire.

Jenny first appeared on swimming's national stage in the mid-1980's when she began swimming for the Seacoast Swimming Association in Dover, New Hampshire for coach Mike Parratto. At the age of 15, Jenny just missed making the 1988 U.S. Olympic Swim Team, but her success as a young athlete drew the attention of college swimming programs from around the country. Jenny began attending Stanford University in 1991, and in 1992, she became the first woman in 61 years to set a world record in the 100 meter freestyle event. She followed up on her new world record by leading Stanford to a 27-0 dual-meet record, four PAC-10 titles and four consecutive NCAA Championships. Through her leadership and her firm sense of teamwork, Jenny Thompson was elevated to team captain and served as a mentor for Stanford's more recent arrivals to the natatorium.

In addition to Jenny's team accomplishments, she managed to swim her way to 19 NCAA titles, the most in women's collegiate swimming history. Having also captured 23 U.S. national titles, Jenny is the most successful active swimmer in the United States.

When Jenny arrived in Sydney, Australia, she did so with five gold medals and one silver medal. She has now added to her Olympic success by again leading the U.S. women's relay team to gold in the 4 x 100 meter freestyle relay, setting another new world

record, and the 4 x 100 meter medley relay. Additionally, Jenny continued to show her competitive edge as an individual by medaling in the 100 meter freestyle, winning the bronze.

Jenny Thompson's performance at the 2000 Sydney Olympics has made her the most decorated female Olympian in the United States and the most successful female Olympic swimmer in history. Aside from her achievements at the Olympics and Stanford University, Jenny has won numerous World Championships and accumulated countless awards and honors as an athlete. She has always displayed team spirit and professionalism in and around the pool, showing that character is one of her finest assets. Her contribution to the sport of swimming is unmatched and has left a lasting impression in the minds and hearts of all who have watched her represent the United States throughout the years. Jenny Thompson has inspired a generation of young swimmers to dream and achieve their goals, to think positively and to work hard.

Jenny Thompson will enter Columbia University Medical School next fall, where I know she will be successful. Her drive and desire will surely allow her to achieve her goals as she makes her way into a different stage of her life. I am confident that Jenny will continue to be a role model for all, and I hope that she knows we are proud of her. New Hampshire is proud of her, our nation is proud of her, and we wish her nothing but the best in her future endeavors. ●

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA'S HOUSE OF HEROES PROGRAM

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, there is a great outpouring of human generosity taking place in our great country that I must speak about here today. I was honored to be with my friends and colleagues, including the late Senator Coverdell, Representatives MAC COLLINS and SANFORD BISHOP, Columbus Mayor Bobby Peters, Col. Frank Helmick, along with Wayne Anthony of Hands On Columbus and many, many other volunteers, as we embarked on the historic event of initiating the House of Heroes program. This program should serve as a model to communities all across the country to provide needed assistance and support for aging veterans who bravely served their country and their families.

It is often said that "Poor is the nation who has no heroes. Poorer still is the nation which has them but forgets them." The House of Heroes project makes sure we don't forget this adage by having volunteers take up shovels, paint brushes and brooms to show not only our veterans, but also their families, that they are not forgotten. This past May at the home of Betty Cook of Columbus, in my state of Georgia, the

House of Heroes was inaugurated by federal, military, and local officials to help serve as a reminder to younger generations of Americans how our nation's older men and woman veterans have proudly served and sacrificed for their country to help preserve our freedom. The inauguration ceremony reminded us all that honor, valor, and sacrifice come not only from service members, but from their spouses and family as well. While Mrs. Cook's husband served his country as a medic in World War II, she fought the war at home. She supported their family on her own, while encouraging her husband to press on in battle overseas. Hundreds of thousands of G.I.'s fought for their families, sustained by the love they were getting from home. Victory was never won alone.

The House of Heroes program relies on people who volunteer their services to repair and improve the home of a veteran and/or their spouse as an act of appreciation from the Congress of the United States and people of this nation. I am especially proud of those who contributed their time, effort and energy to help bring this project to fruition. It was especially uplifting to have witnessed the hard work that was put into the project. I would like to express my gratitude to each and every volunteer who made this worthy event the great success that it was.

I strongly support H. Con. Res. 395 that expresses the sense of the Congress that the House of Heroes project in Columbus, Georgia, should serve as a model for public support for the Nation's veterans and strongly agree with everything this resolution represents. I especially thank Representative MAC COLLINS for introducing this worthy legislation.

Today, Columbus, Georgia, remains home to thousands of service members and their families stationed at Ft. Benning and Columbus has always been a critical area for our nation's defenses, both past and present. The initiation of the House of Heroes program proves that from beginning to end, this remarkable city is home to some remarkable people. This event is only the beginning for the House of Heroes program as communities across the nation will begin to undertake their own House of Heroes programs modeled after the great program that the fine people of Columbus started. ●

A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM JAMES BUSHAW

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Captain William James Bushaw, who is retiring from the United States Navy after nearly 30 years of service. Captain Bushaw leaves behind a legacy of versatility and consistency, as he has consistently been successful in whatever area he has been asked to perform.