

Forest. When the President issued his "roadless" initiative stripping the people of New Hampshire and New England with the opportunity to have a voice in the management of their public lands, Eric was there to ensure we took this measure to task. This time we were not successful, but we were very close to creating an exemption for the White Mountain National Forest from this heavy-handed proposal.

Eric also rose to the occasion in the face of destruction from Mother Nature's wrath. The Ice Storm in January 1998 brought unprecedented challenges to New Hampshire's forest lands. Hundreds of thousands of acres were significantly damaged. Eric worked closely with me and my colleagues to help us turn this tragedy into an opportunity. Today, not only has the federal government provided resources to help recover from the storm, but we have a record number of acres under forest stewardship plans.

My staff and I have worked with Eric on a wide variety of other issues during his time at NHTOA, and have always been impressed with his dedication and the depth of knowledge he displayed on issues ranging from estate tax reform to rural economic development. He has always been an effective and honest advocate for the causes he holds close to his heart, and I know he will be greatly missed by me and NHTOA's 1,500 members.

I wish Eric well in all his future endeavors, and am confident he will succeed in whatever pursuits he chooses. It is an honor to represent him in the U.S. Senate.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BEDFORD

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Barbara Bedford of Etna, New Hampshire, on her fine performance at the Sydney Olympic Games. Her hard work, dedication and perseverance in making her Olympic dream a reality are an example for us all, and the people of New Hampshire are so very proud of her excellent performance.

Barbara, along with Jenny Thompson, was part of the gold-medal winning 4x100 medley relay that shattered the world record. It was so great to see Barbara fly through the water during the backstroke leg of the relay with her extremely patriotic red, white and blue-dyed hair. Her Olympic moment was years in the making, as she finally made her first Olympic team at the age of 27 after disappointments at the 1988, 1992 and 1996 Olympic Trials. After those heartbreaking defeats, Barbara could have easily given up her dream of making an Olympic team. However, with the help of her family and coach, Barbara did not retreat. Instead, she worked tirelessly toward her dream and was rewarded at this year's Olympic trials, where she placed first in the

50-meter backstroke. Barbara was able to keep her focus squarely on making the team this year and reach her goal, and this is an inspiration to all of us and proves once again that if we work hard, we can do just about anything. Her positive attitude and passion for her sport is so refreshing in an age when far too many athletes seem more interested in endorsements than their sport.

Once again, I want to congratulate Barbara on her accomplishments, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors. It is an honor to represent her in the U.S. Senate.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JENNY THOMPSON

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Jenny Thompson of Dover, New Hampshire on her magnificent performance in the Sydney Olympic games. Her hard work and dedication through three Olympics is an example for all of us, and the people of New Hampshire are extremely proud of her success.

Jenny has done so much throughout her career to make the people of Dover and New Hampshire proud during her distinguished career. Whether it was breaking records at Stanford University or winning numerous competitions, Jenny has set the standard for women's swimming in the United States over the past decade. Jenny's Olympic teammates often cite her achievements as their inspiration for striving for excellence in the pool.

During the Sydney games, American swimmers brought home an impressive 33 of a possible 96 swimming medals, more than any other nation, and Jenny played a key role in that amazing success. She anchored two gold medal-winning relays and brought home her first individual Olympic medal, a bronze in the 100-meter freestyle. These blistering performances brought Jenny's individual Olympic medal count to nine, breaking Bonnie Blair's record for Olympic medals won by an American woman. Jenny performed beautifully under amazing pressure and against tough competition, and she will always be a champion in the eyes of the people of New Hampshire.

As Jenny ends her Olympic swimming career, I wish her all the best as she heads to medical school. I am confident her amazing work ethic and dedication to excellence will serve her well in her career in medicine and any other endeavor she pursues. It is truly an honor to represent Jenny in the U.S. Senate.●

#### TRIBUTE TO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OF MERRIMACK

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Knights of Columbus Number 6725 of Merrimack, New Hampshire as

they gather to celebrate their 25th anniversary. This is a milestone of which they and the community of Merrimack should be extremely proud.

Throughout its quarter-century of existence, the Knights of Columbus has been a major presence in the Greater Merrimack Area. They have donated their time and energy to making their entire community a better place through public service. Whether it is manning a soup kitchen in Nashua, making annual donations to the New Hampshire Kidney Fund or recognizing Families of the Year, K of C 6725 has shown their dedication to their core values of family, Church, council, and community.

Furthermore, the K of C 6725 has worked to help those who do not have a voice, including the needy, the handicapped, and the unborn. They have donated countless items of clothing to people in need, worked tirelessly to help WMUR-TV with its annual presentation of the Jerry Lewis Telethon and purchased and maintained concession trailers to help generate donations for many charitable organizations. Furthermore, they have sponsored an annual folk music night for Birthright, a group dedicated to protecting the unborn.

The K of C 6725 has shown dedication not only to its community and those in need but to the Catholic Church as well. They are a constant presence, holding an annual Palm Sunday Breakfast, an Easter celebration known as "Birthday Party for Jesus," and setting up an Memorial Mass at Last Rest Cemetery in Merrimack.

In a world where far too few people take the time and opportunity to get involved in their churches and communities, the K of C No. 6725 is an example of the good things we can accomplish when we work together to help others. I congratulate them on this wonderful anniversary, and I wish them all the best as they continue their fantastic work. It is an honor to represent all of K of C 6725's members in the U.S. Senate.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)