

programs increase the value of education for all our children and enhance our communities. It is truly a privilege for students to attend schools like Kennerly.

So, I extend my congratulations to Kennerly Elementary School in St. Louis, Missouri, for its outstanding character education programs.●

IN RECOGNITION OF PROJECT ACORN

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to salute the charitable efforts of Project Acorn, a non-profit organization that works to place and fund children in two-year preschool scholarship programs. What started out as Stuart and Jill Lasser's individual act of kindness has become an expanded effort throughout Morris County and now across New Jersey to help families who cannot afford quality preschool education. The couple's lofty objectives and hard work enabled the organization to flourish over the past five years through partnerships with benefactors, volunteers, and area preschools.

Education has been, and continues to be, the cornerstone of opportunity and advancement in American society. Preschool education provides the foundation and many of the basic tools that children need to succeed. Study after study has shown a direct correlation between high-quality early childhood education and success in life. All of these studies on the effects of preschool education have shown higher short-term and long-term gains such as higher I.Q. scores and a greater likelihood of graduating from high school and college.

Project Acorn has provided hundreds of families with the critical resources necessary to place their children in a variety of preschool programs. These scholarships defray the costs of preschool education and thereby "plant the seeds for a better community, one child at a time."

Project Acorn has helped many young individuals in Morris County. It serves as an excellent example of what can be accomplished by concerned citizens who have identified an urgent need within their community, and it is an honor to recognize their vision and compassion.●

U.S. CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER OLIVER ANDERS RETIRES

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, the Senate will be diminished considerably when one of my favorite U.S. Capitol Police Officers, Andy Anders, retires at the end of this month.

When I first met Andy, the day I was sworn in as a Senator, he was one of the so-called Fearless Five. Those were the officers who were stationed just outside the entrance to the Senate

chamber near the elevators. That was his post for 19 years.

Even though he is called Andy, his real name is Oliver Anders. His hometown is Greer, South Carolina, and the first vote he ever cast was for Senator STROM THURMOND. As you can see, Andy is a man of very good judgment.

For the last five years Andy has been assigned to the fourth floor of the Capitol outside the Senate Security spaces. He is one of the most trusted and dependable members of the U.S. Capitol Police force.

He is also a well informed student of American history. When I learned he planned to visit my State during his vacation several years ago, I suggested some special sites for him to see in Vicksburg, Natchez and Jackson. My Administrative Assistant, at that time, Wiley Carter, who was also a great friend and admirer of Andy, went with him to the State Capitol and introduced him to the Speaker of the State House of Representatives and other officials and also arranged a tour of the Governor's Mansion. Of course, Andy enjoyed all of this special attention. But, he deserved it.

We don't do enough in my opinion for those who work hard and faithfully every day to make the Senate a safe and secure place to work. Since he began his career with the U.S. Capitol Police on November 4, 1974, Oliver Anders has been one of those you could always count on to be at his post, carrying out his important responsibilities, with a smile and kind greeting for all Senators, and their constituents.

We will miss him greatly, but we won't forget him or the excellent way he performed his duties. I wish him much happiness and satisfaction in the years ahead.●

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF VISTA

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I am very proud that VISTA is celebrating its thirty-fifth anniversary this year. VISTA is special for me because it was my work in VISTA that brought me to West Virginia and changed the course of my career.

Because of my work in Emmons, WV, as a VISTA worker, I decided to make West Virginia my home and public service in government my life. In Emmons, I worked for a community center, preventative health care, and fought to get a school bus so those teens would get a high school education. From the grassroots, I learned how government can improve the quality of life in a community. I pursued a career in government, beginning with a seat in the West Virginia House of Delegates. My work in Emmons was very meaningful, and it changed me. I have stayed in touch with the people of Emmons and joined them this summer to celebrate the community finally getting clean water.

I have also stayed in touch with VISTA and was delighted to participate in the VISTA anniversary events, as many former VISTA workers did.

Mr. President, I ask to print in the RECORD, the remarks of John E. Gherty, president and CEO of Land O' Lakes, Inc., and more importantly a former VISTA worker. His remarks outline the history of VISTA and capture its vision for the future.

The remarks follows:

OCTOBER 13, 2000

Good afternoon, and thank you for the opportunity to be with you to celebrate the 35th anniversary of VISTA—now a proud part of AmeriCorps.

I wanted to participate in this celebration for a couple of very important and very personal reasons.

First, because I truly believe in the principles behind VISTA and AmeriCorps. I take considerable pride in the program's 35 years of accomplishment—and in my own participation some 32 years ago. I'll tell you more about that in just a few minutes.

My second reason for being here is even more personal. It's because the youngest of my three daughters, ten-year-old Katherine, told me it was important for me to be here. Let me explain.

Originally, I thought I might be addressing this group on the weekend, and that I might bring Katherine with me. One evening about six weeks ago, I got home somewhat late and went up to her room to say goodnight. It seemed like the right time to ask her if she would like to take a trip to Washington, DC.

Like most ten-year-olds, she responded with a question of her own. "What for?"

I told her I was considering speaking to a group called AmeriCorps, which was the successor to VISTA.

Her response—and you parents will understand this, was another question of her own—"What's AmeriCorps or VISTA do?" I told her it was an organization formed to help people in need in the United States—and that it dealt with issues like poverty, hunger, health care and housing.

Her eyes lit up with understanding, and without hesitation, she said "Dad, you should go."

I tell you this story because I believe Katherine's almost instant understanding serves to reinforce the fundamental importance and value of what each of you has accomplished or is committed to accomplishing as VISTA alumni and AmeriCorps participants.

This afternoon's program brings together a unique mix of new AmeriCorps/VISTA participants and VISTA alumni.

As one of those alumni, I have a message for all of the new participants. What you accomplish during today's working sessions, and the work you put in during the coming year, will make a difference.

It will make a difference not just in the lives of those who benefit from the services you develop and provide—but in your lives as well.

That, in fact, is what this three-day celebration is all about . . . recognizing the ongoing difference VISTA has made in the lives of the millions of people who have been served by its programs, as well as in the lives of the 130,000 VISTA alumni who delivered those programs.

Let me take just a few minutes to reflect on my own VISTA experience.

I remember when President Kennedy announced the formation of the Peace Corps