

Orchestra performs in the Abilene Civic Center with crowds averaging 2,000. I would not only like to acknowledge this organization for their 50th anniversary, but also the enormous impact they have had on the Abilene community.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHAEL BLOOMFIELD, USAF

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Michael Bloomfield, USAF. Lieutenant Colonel Bloomfield was the pilot of the space shuttle Endeavor during its recent 11-day mission to make repairs to the International Space Station Alpha. One of the highlights of this mission was the installation of new solar wings to provide electricity for the astronauts and cosmonauts who live and work there. These solar panels are 240 feet from tip to tip, the longest structure deployed in space.

Lieutenant Colonel Bloomfield was born in Flint, Michigan. He graduated from Lake Fenton High School, and still considers Fenton, Michigan, as his hometown. He attended the United States Air Force Academy, where he was captain of the United States Air Force Academy Falcon Football Team. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering Mechanics from the Air Force Academy, and a Master of Science Degree in Engineering Management from Old Dominion University.

Lieutenant Colonel Bloomfield was trained as an F-15 Fighter Pilot, and has been assigned to NASA since 1995. This was his second space flight. His first flight was a mission to rendezvous and dock with the Russian Space Station Mir to exchange U.S. crew members.

Mr. President, we in Michigan are proud of Lieutenant Colonel Bloomfield's record as a NASA astronaut. I know my Senate colleagues join me in congratulating Lieutenant Colonel Bloomfield for his outstanding service to our nation.●

CONRAD N. HILTON AWARD FOR CASA ALIANZA

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to bring to the attention of the Senate the excellent work that an impressive organization in Costa Rica is doing to address the tragic problem of street children in Central America. The organization, Casa Alianza—a subsidiary of Covenant House in New York—is headquartered in Costa Rica. It was founded in 1981, and provides services for thousands of homeless children, ages six to eighteen, offering shelter, food, medical care, and educational opportunities.

The extraordinary work of Casa Alianza was recently honored by the

Hilton Foundation, when it received one of the world's most prestigious humanitarian awards, the Conrad N. Hilton Award.

At the ceremony in Geneva, Switzerland to present the award, Queen Noor of Jordan praised Casa Alianza. As she stated, "The phenomenon of street children is global, alarming and escalating. Estimates are that today are 100 million children living on the world's streets. Casa Alianza deserves the Hilton Humanitarian Prize for being the voice and the defender of this helpless and unprotected segment of society and for its important work to stop the human rights abuses inflicted upon them."

In accepting the award, Bruce Harris, executive director of Casa Alianza, said, "Street children are often the victims of violence, but what is even more hurtful to them is society's indifference. . . . The prize money will feed and shelter many more abandoned children, but the recognition will feed their souls."

Mr. Harris was recently profiled in the book *Speak Truth to Power: Human Rights Defenders Who Are Changing Our World*, by my niece, Kerry Kennedy Cuomo.

I join in commending Casa Alianza for this well-deserved award and for its pioneering work. These children desperately need help, and Casa Alianza is providing it. At great risk, including facing death threats and armed on its facilities, Casa Alianza and Bruce Harris are acting effectively on behalf of these needy children. They deserve our praise, our thanks, and, most importantly, our support. ●

HONORING GERVASE MILLER

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, as America honors and remembers those who have served in our armed forces, I want to recognize the service of Mr. Gervase Miller, a North Dakota native who served his country during World War II. Mr. Miller was drafted into the Army in September 1942 and was away from home while his wife was pregnant with their first child. Although deaf in one ear, Mr. Miller served with distinction for more than three years in China, Burma, and India.

Mr. Miller was a part of the 1575th Heavy Shop Engineers, a group of men who helped to build roads in Burma and then drove heavy supply trucks in this dangerous territory. Throughout his service in the Army, Mr. Miller earned three Battle Stars and one Bronze Star for his heroic actions.

He finally came home for good in December 1945. He was discharged as a Technician, 5th Grade. It is men like Gervase Miller who won World War II for the Allies and helped to guarantee the rights and freedoms that we all enjoy today.

Today, Mr. Miller lives in Parshall, North Dakota, with his wife Bernice.

They have four children and 9 grandchildren. As his family gathers for Christmas this year, I want to send out warm holiday greetings to him and a word of appreciation for his service to our country more than 50 years ago.●

THE NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDAL FOR VIRGINIA DRIVING HAWK SNEVE

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve for being awarded the National Humanities Medal for 2000 presented to her by the President of the United States. Virginia is the first South Dakotan to receive this prestigious award, and I am pleased that she is being recognized for her extraordinary contributions as an author, a counselor, and a teacher.

As you know, the National Humanities Medal honors individuals whose work enhances the nation's understanding of the humanities while also preserving Americans' access to important resources about their history and society. The humanities preserve the voices of generations through history, literature, philosophy, religion, languages, and archaeology. However, the humanities are not simply records of past eras; they are an essential part to the development and understanding of our current culture and definition of who we are as Americans.

Born on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve has become one of the nation's preeminent storytellers. Virginia's stories often come straight from her experiences growing up on the reservation and help give an accurate portrayal of her ancestors' lives in the Dakotas. Her children's books have won numerous awards, including national competitions for minority children's books, because of their unique and poignant mixture of recorded events and imagination.

Virginia has also given us valuable works of literature about the American Indian written from the female perspective. In her award-winning work, *Completing the Circle*, Virginia breaks the historic mold of denoting Native American women either as "princesses like Pocohonta or noble savages like Sacagawea." The result is an educational account of the strengths and weaknesses of the Sioux culture from the female point of view. Virginia's research and writings have helped others to understand the high level of esteem held by the Sioux for women—a lesson from which Native American society and non-Indian cultures can draw guidance and appreciation.

I applaud Virginia for the literary works she has given us and for her continued teaching, counseling, and mentoring in South Dakota. Virginia's words, either on paper or in person, have opened a nation's eyes to the lives