

of Elliston and those serving with him. It is these qualities upon which our nation depends.

The same Vrbovac resident said of Elliston, "The people in Montana must be proud because he is a great man." I am here today to say that the people of Montana are proud. We are proud of Elliston, and we are also proud of all the other men and women who serve overseas. These sacrifice and dedication of these individuals must be recognized and I call on my colleagues in the Senate to do so.

Thank you Mr. President.●

BOY SCOUT EAGLE SCOUT AND GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

● Mr. JEFFORDS. I rise today to recognize the young men and women of our great nation who have earned the honor of receiving the Boy Scout Eagle Scout Award and the Girl Scout Gold Award.

As a former Boy Scout, I have a great appreciation for the duties, obligations, and benefits that Scouting offers to boys and girls. Scouting helps to shape our nation's youth into proud and civic-minded adults. Recipients of the Eagle Scout and Gold Awards not only meet the challenges presented to them, but they surpass the expectations of their leaders and their peers.

In order to receive the highest honor, each Scout must design and execute a project that will benefit others in their community. Through initiatives such as teaching music to children, hosting an educational seminar, or building a neighborhood playground facility, the recipients display selfless commitment and integrity—qualities they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

The contributions that these youth have made to their communities, and to our nation, are invaluable. Their hard work and devotion warrants great commendation. I am grateful for this opportunity to offer my appreciation and my congratulations to the recipients of the Boy Scout Eagle Scout Award and the Girl Scout Gold Award.●

COMMENDING THOMAS ALESSANDRO

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise today to give praise and recognition to one of my fellow New Yorkers who has devoted his life to helping heal the wounds of crime. Thomas Alessandro recently received the Crime Victim Service Award from Attorney General Janet Reno. I rise today to echo that recognition and to briefly describe Mr. Alessandro's innovation and tireless work in this field.

The Crime Victim Service Award was given to Mr. Alessandro as part of the Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime's 20th annual observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, held this year from April 9 to

April 15. This week of observance enables communities across the country to recognize the millions of Americans who have felt the burdens of crime and those who have enabled them to navigate the difficult and often complex path to justice. This highlights the efforts of Mr. Alessandro and other outstanding individuals by drawing attention to their cause, and praising all citizens of the Nation who work toward this laudable ideal. As part of this week of recognition the Attorney General awarded the Crime Victim Service award to Mr. Alessandro, four other individuals, four organizations and two families. Mr. Alessandro was selected from 110 nominees for the award because of his outstanding progress and innovation in the field of crime victim service, the highest federal award for service to victims of crime. Mr. Alessandro is a shining example of how our law enforcement officials should protect justice and help victims of injustice seek healing.

Mr. Alessandro has dedicated the last 22 years of his life to the service of crime victims. One of his most astounding innovations was the development of the Victims Aid Services into a comprehensive program addressing the needs of all crime victims who come to the New York County District Attorney's Office. Additionally, Mr. Alessandro forged many public and private sector partnerships to strive toward the goal of justice. Among these partnerships and organizational enhancements, he established a counseling department and created a child victim specialist division. These additional tools allow the New York District Attorney's Office to protect the rights of victims not only in the form of conviction of criminals, but also in the form of healing the emotional scars of the victim especially the young victim. This second step is essential to making this society healthier and safer. The counseling staff is now made up of certified clinical social workers who provide individual and group therapy for victims. It is my honor to rise in recognition of this great man who actualizes this ideal.

In addition to counseling services, Mr. Alessandro has directed the development of new technology to increase the efficiency and availability of victim services, including protection order tracing and victim notification systems. He has forged partnerships with private sector organizations, including the AT&T Cell Phone Project, which, along with additional services, provides crime victims with 911 programmed cell phones for use in emergencies.

Mr. Alessandro's commitment to the needs of crime victims does not stop when he leaves the office. His tireless efforts continue into volunteer service. Beyond his professional role, Mr. Alessandro has been actively involved

with numerous other state and local initiatives, such as the development of the New York city Victim Information and Notification System. For these accomplishments and innovations in this heroic field I rise to thank Thomas Alessandro and to draw this institution's attention to his outstanding work in this field.●

RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CENTRALIA COLLEGE

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I take the floor today to honor one of the oldest and top community colleges in the great state of Washington. In honor, of their 75th Anniversary, I would like to say a few words about this fine academic institution.

Centralia College serves the citizens of Southcentral Washington, offering outstanding community service programs and a high quality of student life. Centralia College, however, extends beyond traditional instruction of its students and participates in the greater-Centralia community, providing residents with informative and interesting public lectures, art shows and cultural events. Clearly, Centralia College is an integral part of the surrounding community.

Students at Centralia College study a variety of disciplines from accounting and nursing to computer and forestry technology, receiving a well-rounded education that will prepare them for a bright and challenging future.

Furthermore, Centralia College offers students an international experience. Students have the opportunity to study in a number of foreign countries or learn from the many international students that attend Centralia College. I applaud Centralia College for its commitment to expanding its students' horizons and exposing them to new ideas and different ways of life.

The faculty at Centralia College are extremely dedicated to giving their students a balanced education and emphasize the importance of critical thinking skills, writing, oral and visual communication as well as fostering in their students a sense of resourcefulness and responsibility.

I believe that the faculty's continuous hard work and dedication to these goals has made their students successful and contributing citizens of Washington state. Education is more than merely memorizing facts and Centralia College teaches its students vital problem solving and communication skills that will lead our country in the new millennium and give them a solid foundation to help Washington state continue in its prosperity.

I wish Centralia College another successful 75 years. It is institutions like Centralia College that make Washington state one of the best places to live.●