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alone. Whether it’s your parents who offered financial support, the coach who served as father figure, or the professor who spent the extra time, the unknown person was created the scholarship you received, the friends who offered unending support, or the organizations which offered the opportunity for personal growth. When someone says “congratulations” we should each respond with “Thank You,” thanking those who have allowed us to achieve our goals.

Thank You.

HONORING MOKAN KIDS NETWORK

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I stand before you today to recognize the accomplishments of the MoKan Kids Network and to congratulate it for winning the 21st Century Award from the Association of America’s Public Television Stations. The 21st Century Award is given to public television stations that demonstrate extraordinary involvement in long-range planning, collaboration with others, experimentation with new technologies or the creation of programs for underserved communities. The MoKan Kids Network, a service of Kansas City Public Television, Smoky Hills Public Television, and 350 Missouri and Kansas school districts, has helped move classroom instruction into the 21st century. The MoKan Kids Network provides instructional television, online networking and professional development and teacher training for 30,000 teachers in Missouri and Kansas. The network offers teachers more than 700 hours of educational video materials for classroom use and provides teachers with Internet access and curriculum-based web browsing capabilities. MoKan also makes available to teachers special training through its National Teacher Training Institutes, online conferences, and hands-on training in computer labs. MoKan’s generous resources have allowed teachers to offer an enriched learning experience to 350,000 elementary and secondary students in Missouri and Kansas.

Mr. President, please join me in congratulating the MoKan Kids Network for being honored with the 21st Century Award. We thank MoKan for its fruitful efforts supporting educational broadcasting, and we hope its example will influence 600 others around the country to establish similar programs.

RETIREE OF DEE LEVIN FROM THE FBI

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute today to Special Agent Donald (Dee) Levin on his retirement from the Federal Bureau of Investigation after 29 years of service. In 1967, shortly after graduating from the University of Minnesota, Dee joined the Marine Corps, where he served in Vietnam. Dee began his career with the FBI in 1971, starting out in the Indianapolis and Detroit offices before moving to Minneapolis in 1980. Since then, he has worked in the Minneapolis field office as the technical coordinator.

The FBI is a worldwide leader in crime investigation and crime solving. The respect commanded by the FBI is due in large part to the individual agents, like Dee, who serve with honor and integrity in their duty to make the United States a safer place to live.

Dee will be very busy in his retirement. As his grandchildren, Dee and his wife Judy look forward to spending time with their family and remaining active in their church, Galilee Lutheran.

I admire Dee’s dedication to the FBI and on behalf of all Minnesotans, I thank him for his service.

DAIRY OF DISTINCTION AWARD

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the 99 Vermont Farms that have been recognized by the Northeast Dairy Farms Beautification Program and received the Dairy of Distinctions Award. The Dairy of Distinction Awards are given in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Vermont. The award was originally designed to help boost confidence in the quality of the milk, therefore increasing the milk sales. This is the fifth year that the honor has been bestowed on Vermont.

The criteria each farm must meet in order to receive this award are extremely stringent. According to the Vermont Department of Agriculture, Food, and Markets, the farms must include: clean and attractively finished buildings; neat landscaping, ditches, roads, and lanes; and well-maintained fences. Also taken into account are the conditions of other aspects of the farm, such as cleanliness of animals, the barnyard, feed areas and management. This is a great feat considering that the average farm in Vermont is 217 acres. Vermont is fortunate to have so many citizens who hold such pride in their accomplishment.

The Dairy of Distinction Awards are given to the owners of the farms, the landlords, the farmers and the people who make that farm a successful business.

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THE 60TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. ROBERT GILLETTE

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on June 16th, 2000, a very dear friend of mine, Mr. Robert Gillette, will celebrate his 60th birthday. I rise today to commemorate this occasion, and to honor a wonderful man who has worked extremely hard to improve living conditions for seniors throughout the State of Michigan.

Mr. Gillette is the president of American House, an organization that owns and operates 24 housing facilities for seniors in the metropolitan Detroit area. American House strives to be the most outstanding affordable senior

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housing organization in the State of Michigan, and to provide all seniors, regardless of their income, with quality services. The organization is founded on the principle that individuals are entitled to living with dignity and with freedom as they enjoy the later years of their lives.

Recently, I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Gillette on an issue that is of utmost importance to the seniors of Michigan—affordable senior housing. At certain American House locations, a program has been developed which utilizes two assistance programs available to seniors. A Michigan State Housing Development Authority tax credit provides qualified applicants with a tax credit and rent subsidies, based on income limitations. In addition, the federally funded Medicaid Waiver Program, which has been in effect since the early 1990’s assists qualified applicants in paying for housework, meals, and personalized care services in a home environment.

Mr. President, taking advantage of these two government subsidy programs has the potential to narrow the gap in housing prospects that exists between low, middle, and high-income seniors. It will provide many seniors, who otherwise would be forced to move into publicly-funded nursing homes, with the ability to remain in assisted living programs like that which American House offers. It is a wonderful program with enormous potential.

Combining these programs to assist seniors was the idea of Bob Gillette. This is the kind of work that he does every day. He is always thinking about how to make the lives of people around him better. His enthusiasm for his job and his genuine interest in the people around him make others want to help him.

Anyone who knows Bob will tell you that he is a wonderful person. I consider it a privilege to have him as a friend. He is truly a remarkable man. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I wish Bob Gillette a happy 60th birthday, and best of luck in the future.

TRIBUTE TO THE TELEPHONE PIONEERS OF AMERICA
- Mr. L. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to pay tribute to the Telephone Pioneers of America. This tremendous volunteer organization has provided 40 years of volunteer labor service to the repair of talking-book machines for the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. Since 1960, the Pioneers have provided over $70 million worth of volunteer labor and have repaired nearly 2 million machines. More than a half-million blind and physically disabled individuals benefit from this outstanding volunteer repair service. In Rhode Island alone, Pioneers have volunteered 27,186 hours and repaired 17,146 machines since 1952.

The Pioneers are a good-will organization of a million people. This international organization is led by President Irene Chavira of U.S. West, Senior Vice President, Harold Burlingame of AT&T, and Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer James Gadd of Bell South. The organization is further supported by countless special people who make up the association, headquarters advisory board, and sponsoring companies.

Concerning the talking-book program itself, there are 1,500 Pioneer men and women who work on talking-book repair. They consist of volunteer personnel from AT&T, Bell Atlantic, Bell South, Lucent Technologies, Southwestern Bell Corporation, SBC Communications, Inc., and U.S. West. They are ably supported by their Pioneer Vice Presidents and are also ably assisted by regional coordinators. Throughout the length and breadth of the sponsoring companies, talking-book repair Pioneers are provided facilities in which they repair the equipment. Further, they are provided funding for tools, while the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provides testing equipment and parts for necessary repairs. The Pioneer organization also ensures talking-book coordinator leadership, including administrative support, management support for the program, and funding for travel to training and for recognition events.

The talking-book machines provided by the National Library Services to blind and visually impaired Americans are nothing less than a life line. Found vision loss and blindness can seem like an insurmountable obstacle to what most of us take for granted, reading. We live in the information age, but for blind and visually impaired individuals, most information would be out of reach if it were not for the availability of specially designed talking-book machines. With talking-book machines, and other forms of assistive technology, blind boys and girls, men and women are reading for pleasure, for academic achievement, and for professional advancement.

Volunteerism is one of the greatest of all American virtues, and most who given their time for the benefit of others, do so without hope of fanfare. The Telephone Pioneers of America truly embodied a clarion call for all other volunteer organizations to follow by responding to those in need, and I commend them for it.

DEATH OF JEFF MACNELLY
- Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, readers of the Chicago Tribune and newspapers across America suffered a great loss last Thursday when legendary political cartoonist Jeff MacNelly lost his battle with lymphoma. He was 52.

Jeff MacNelly was one of the giants of modern political commentary. In this era of multi-media communications, round-the-clock news, and ubiquitous political punditry, Jeff offered a fresh and witty perspective on local and national affairs.

It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. But Jeff MacNelly was a master, and his were worth more. No matter what the issue, no matter who the subject of his praise of caustic criticism, Jeff had a way of making his point and making you laugh at the same time. That was his gift.

Born in New York City in 1947, Jeff MacNelly knew he was meant to draw. He left college during his senior year in 1969 to pursue a career as a political cartoonist, and accepted a job with a weekly newspaper in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Jeff won his first Pulitzer Prize in 1972 and a second followed in 1978 and 1985. His legendary comic strip “Shoe,” which he continued for the rest of his life, was born in 1977. By the time Jeff passed away last week, “Shoe” was syndicated in over 1,000 publications nationwide. Jeff briefly decided to retire his pen in 1981, but, missing the excitement of politics and the daily news business, was lured back into action in 1982 by the Chicago Tribune. He worked at the Tribune until his death.

For nearly 30 years, Jeff MacNelly entertained and informed us with his unique blend of humor and political insight. He died young, but left his mark—literally and figuratively—on the entire world.

RECOGNITION OF MARK LAMPING
- Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mark Lamping, President of the St. Louis Cardinals. Today, the St. Louis Catholic Youth Council presented its Annual Achievement Award for the year 2000 to Mr. Lamping. His tenure as head of the Cardinals has seen a 1996 Central Division championship, a return to postseason play for the first time since 1987, and a complete renovation of Busch Stadium. In 1999, his dedication as President enabled the Cardinals to receive the honor of Major League Baseball’s Fan Friendly team by the United Sports Fans of America for the Cardinals’ outstanding efforts at making the ballpark a more enjoyable, affordable, and memorable experience for the paying public.

In February of 1994, after serving for five years as Anheuser-Busch’s group Director of Sports Marketing, Mr. Lamping was appointed Commissioner of the Continental Basketball Association. While in this position, Mr.