

hand experience in how the stock market works.

I hope you will all join me in wishing these students good luck with their investments and thank them for their show of confidence in our economy.●

HONORING TERESA POOLE

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service of one of my staff members, Teresa Poole, who works in my Springfield District Office in Missouri. On January 3, 2002, Teresa will celebrate her 25th anniversary of working for the Senate. When Teresa started her career, Senator STROM THURMOND was a mere 74 years old. Teresa has worked for three U.S. Senators during her career. She began working for Senator John Danforth's office in 1977 until he retired in 1993. In 1987 she started working with my office and continues that service today. When John Ashcroft came to the Senate in 1995, Teresa worked for both of our offices until 2001 when Ashcroft became Attorney General of the United States.

When I look back at Teresa's career two words come to mind, commitment and loyalty.

For the past 25 years Teresa has been committed to handling the entire military academy nomination process for this office. Teresa has set a high standard for this process and fields numerous calls from other congressional offices throughout the State and country when they have questions about academy nominations. Teresa is committed to helping students who are interested in military careers receive all the information they need to complete their applications, and spends hours each week answering questions from parents and applicants about their files. Teresa loves to make those phone calls informing individuals of their acceptance into the various service academies.

For the past 25 years Teresa has been loyal to the Senators she has served and the constituents they represent. Teresa has worked tirelessly on behalf of each of us ensuring that our positions are known and communicated in an accurate and precise manner. Teresa is a true public servant and a faithful and constant part of this Senate office. Attorney General John Ashcroft said, "Congratulations are in order for Teresa Poole, who has served 25 years as staff in the U.S. Senate. Mrs. Poole was a great help to me during my 6 years in the Senate. My wife, Janet and I wish her all the best as she celebrates this milestone in her life."

It is an honor for me to join with my staff in Washington, DC, and in the great State of Missouri to recognize Teresa Poole for the 25 years of distinguished service to the people of Missouri and three U.S. Senators.●

HONORING JOHN O'CONNOR

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, all of us in Massachusetts continue to mourn the loss of one of our State's most passionate, committed, and effective activists, John O'Connor, who died on Friday, December 7. John brought an enthusiasm and commitment to civic life that inspired everyone around him. His legendary appetite for life was bound by a steady moral compass, one that envisioned a world where water, air and land are free of pollution and every individual, from all walks of life, has access to the full measure of the American Dream.

After John disclosed the fact that a small baseball field in his neighborhood of Stratford, CT, was actually built on the waste site of asbestos manufacturer Raybestos, he embarked on a journey that spanned from the fight to clean up sites like it all across the country to advocating for universal health care. That early spark of environmental awareness proved to be a model for all the struggles he engaged in throughout his life. As a young graduate of Clark University, he organized the poor neighborhoods of Worcester so that they could have a stronger voice in their community's policies, and joined up with Massachusetts Fair Share, a grassroots group that was pursuing the same goal statewide. His humor and enthusiasm gained traction in the group's newsletter, 'The Squeaky Wheel,' as well as the street organizing and guerilla theater strategy that helped illuminate the organization and its mission.

These community and State-wide efforts led to larger pursuits on the national stage. One of John's crowning achievements, one that will reach generations into the future, was his work on the National Toxics Campaign. This watershed moment in the environmental movement resulted in the \$8 billion Superfund legislation that turned the tide in cleaning up industrial waste sites, and it echoed back to the ballfield that ushered John into the activism that defined his life. His campaign for environmental protection inspired him to write two books, "Getting the Lead Out," and "Who Owns The Sun," both of which elevated the dialogue surrounding the environmental issues that impact communities across the country. Throughout all of this he realized the potent force the market could be in the struggle to protect the environment, and towards that end he founded Greenworks in 1991, which provided financial backing for fledgling environmental businesses.

John's national focus never took his attention far away from the communities he came to love. Along with his wife, Carolyn Mugar, he reached out to countless organizations in Watertown, Cambridge and Greater Boston, nourishing them with resources and copious amounts of his own time and energy.

He served on boards and fund-raising committees for shelters, after-school programs and local youth programs, and was a fixture at City Year events. He helped start the Irish Famine Memorial Committee, which honored the victims of the Irish famine with a statue in Cambridge Common that was unveiled by former President of Ireland Mary Robinson. This work, as well as his commitment to other organizations like the Irish Immigration Center, reflected a deep love of his own history, but for John it was larger than an effort just for the Irish. His commitment to immigrant advocacy evidenced a deep belief in this country's ability to improve and re-create itself through the welcoming of people from all over the world.

Nothing carries more grief than the loss of a young man of such talent, full of life, brimming with the truly American notion that everyone can and must improve life for themselves and their community. Surely John O'Connor accomplished this and more—and that legacy, the fact that he filled 46 years with more than many achieve in many lifetimes will, I hope, make his family's sorrow today a little lighter and leave them knowing that his work lives on in the countless acts of goodwill John performed before he was taken from us.

Even though John was taken from us long before nature intended, I think an activist of his deep commitment would know that he leaves us with more than just his record of good work—he leaves us with a challenge, one that was presented to us over the course of his 46 years. John's challenge to all of us is to expand our world and expand the circle of people we care for and love. The compass that pointed him in the direction of taking on polluters and fighting for access to health care is with us still, pointing to the world he envisioned and began to realize through his work. Our mission now is to follow that compass, take up those battles, and complete the work that John challenged us with in his life and inspires us with in his death. We are better people for his time here, but, as he surely would remind us, there is much work to be done. Now, we will set about doing it with John O'Connor as guide and inspiration.●

MAINTAINING HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, during these troubled times, our need to connect and communicate with family and friends becomes all the more important. The tragic events of the last four months and questions about the security of mail may cause some hesitation about continuing long-held traditions in which we typically participate at this time of the year. But now more than ever, renewing and maintaining ties to others is vital.