

the Natrona County School District #1 Student Support Services and the Parent Resource Center. The campaign has generated significant activity among local officials and is responsible for a variety of training, educational and interactive activities related to raising disability awareness in the broader community. In addition to engaging local officials and the general public, the campaign has worked successfully with the business community and numerous media outlets to ensure a diverse yet unified front in heightening awareness about the reality of living with a disability.

I am particularly proud of the campaign's special effort to include activities targeted towards raising awareness among children. Not only will the public library host a reading hour on disability awareness, with awareness bookmarks available for the public, but public school buses and other public transportation will display the campaign's trademark silver ribbon during the month of March.

The campaign has issued the silver ribbon as a pin, and since its inception in 1998, more than 250,000 pins, along with thousands of balloons and displays, have been used to raise awareness around the State of Wyoming. As I mentioned before, similar activities are being duplicated nationwide.

I am honored but not surprised to once again have the opportunity to highlight a community-based effort invented in Wyoming that other communities are modeling. I hope hearing me today will encourage my colleagues to introduce their own State to the Silver Ribbon Campaign and further raise disability awareness in this country. This is a critical effort that every community should embrace.

EVERYBODY WINS!

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, Everybody Wins! is an innovative literacy improvement program that pairs adults with children for one hour a week to share lunch, a good book and friendship. The U.S. Senate launched Everybody Wins! at the Brent Elementary School in 1995. Today, this program serves 4,500 children in the Washington area.

Last night, I had the honor of attending a reception to celebrate the Everybody Wins! program. I was joined by my colleague Senator JIM JEFFORDS who I commend for his leadership in making the Everybody Wins! program such a success in the U.S. Senate, and Art Tannenbaum, the visionary behind this wonderful program.

I was especially honored to join First Lady Laura Bush at last evening's event. Mrs. Bush's passion for reading and strong commitment to early literacy touched the lives of thousands of families in Texas, and it is clear from last night that she brings that same

commitment to children all across the country.

I was deeply moved by her remarks last night and her real passion for children and their needs, and I believe my colleagues would appreciate her thoughtful statement as well.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print Mrs. Bush's remarks from last evening into the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FIRST LADY LAURA BUSH'S REMARKS,
EVERYBODY WINS! EVENT, MARCH 20, 2001

Thank you very much, Dr. Billington.
First I want to thank Lisa Vise.

Lisa, you are a remarkable girl. You remind us that one person's work can make a difference in a lot of other people's lives.

Senator Jeffords, Senator Kennedy, Mr. Chabreja, Mr. Cole, Mr. Woodward, distinguished guests, I'm pleased to be with you tonight.

Everybody Wins is the largest children's literacy and mentoring organization in the District because you understand the value of spending quality time reading to children.

I am fortunate because someone spent time reading to me as a child—my mother. Thanks to her I developed a lifelong passion for reading, and I grew up to become a teacher. As much as I loved being read to as a child, I love reading to children even more.

The Everybody Wins volunteers will agree reading together has tremendous results. Children who are read to by an adult learn two things: First, that reading is worthwhile, and second, that they are worthwhile.

Reading is the foundation of all learning. Children must have good reading skills to succeed in every subject in school. Those who do not read well by the end of the third grade often have a difficult time catching up. Sadly, thousands of children can't read well in America.

According to a 1998 study, 68 percent of fourth-graders in our nation's lowest-income schools were unable to read at even a very basic level.

We may grow numb to statistics, but we cannot grow numb to our children. That so many children can't read is a clear indication of a fundamental failure of adult responsibility for children's lives and futures.

I know we can turn those numbers around. With caring Americans like you, we will turn those numbers around.

George's defining commitment to children is a quality education. His budget includes \$5 billion over the next five years for reading initiatives. Through his Reading First program, he wants to give states and schools the funding and tools to implement sound reading programs in Kindergarten through second grade.

While government does its part, it's up to us as parents and citizens to help children read and succeed in life. Children need more than a program; they need a voice. They need strong role models to put loving arms around them and read to them. You recognize that need. I'm proud you are lending your voice and a hand to Everybody Wins.

Please continue supporting this worthy endeavor. Because of you, Everybody does win.

Thanks to the Senators for demonstrating your commitment to children and sharing your common love of reading. Reading is common ground for all of us. Thank you all so much.

COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PERSIAN GULF WAR

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, today I wish to add my voice to the many who have come before the Senate to honor the brave men and women who served our nation so honorably in the Persian Gulf War. March 3, 2001 marked the tenth anniversary of the end of the Persian Gulf War. I pay special tribute to the families of those who gave their lives in this effort.

I would like to draw my colleagues attention to an important event that will be taking place this Sunday, March 25th, 2001, in Manchester, NH. A group of dedicated Americans is gathering to observe the 10th anniversary of the Persian Gulf war, to honor those who served, and to evaluate the fulfillment of our promise to care for those who suffered as a result of their service. A driving force behind this event is the New England Persian Gulf Veterans Inc., NEPGV, and its dynamic founders, David and Patricia Irish. Since the NEPGV's inception in 1996, David and Trish have worked tirelessly to promote the issues and challenges of Gulf War Veterans in New England and beyond. I want to publicly thank them for their efforts and let them know that I will be with them in spirit on the 25th of March.

This is an appropriate time to remember the outstanding job our service men and women did in liberating Kuwait from occupation. Together with our allies, this action stated that in the post Cold War world, the unprovoked conquest of one's neighbors would not be tolerated. The unprecedented coalition of twenty six nations rolled back a tyrannical dictator and a military ill prepared for the determination of the United States and its allies, nor the might and professionalism of the soldiers involved. In the face of the poor performance of old Soviet equipment, the Gulf War firmly established the military superiority of the United States and confirmed our status as the world's lone superpower. Our willingness to work together with our friends in the Arab world set a new tone in the region and ushered in a new era of respect for international cooperation.

The Gulf War coalition also laid a foundation for a remarkable United Nations operation that for the first time, aggressively sought to identify and destroy any potential capability for development of weapons of mass destruction or manufacture of chemical or biological agents. While UNSCOM had a very difficult time carrying out its mission and was eventually forced to leave Iraq, the world community learned a great deal from the experience, and set any potential future proliferations on notice that these types of actions will not be tolerated.

While peace process in the Middle East is at a low ebb right now, it is also