

David Alcox, a teacher at Milford High School and District Coordinator, also deserves special recognition for helping these students prepare for the intense constitutional testing. Kirsten Hale, the State coordinator, also contributed a significant amount of time and effort to help the students reach the national finals. As a former teacher myself, I applaud all of them on their commitment to enriching the lives of these students.

The "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain an informed perspective about the history and principles of our Nation's constitutional government. We are proud to have them representing New Hampshire, and wish them luck as they prepare to be America's leader in the 21st Century.●

TRIBUTE TO GENE AND JIM BURDICK

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Gene and Jim Burdick of Redfield, SD. The Burdick brothers are being honored this week as the South Dakota Small Business Persons of the Year.

Gene and Jim understand what many business owners have learned. Owning a business requires some talents, some know how, and a lot of hard work and perseverance. Like many small business owners, their enterprise is a family effort for the brothers and their wives, Lucy and Deborah. I congratulate the families and the employees of this company on their years of achievement.

In 1984, the brothers embarked on a business partnership and founded Burdick Brothers, Inc. They built a business constructing trailers and custom equipment for area farmers, businesses, and individuals. Through the years, they cultivated a reputation as a company dedicated to innovation and customer service.

In 1987, the company purchased its first building. Three years later, their successes were adding up and Burdicks were adding to the size of their building. In 1998, they moved into a second building with 12,000 square feet. This new facility allowed for additional equipment and space that the company quickly utilized on a bridge project helping the community of Redfield rebuild a needed facility following disastrous flooding in the region.

Burdick Brothers, Inc. has been a valued member of the Redfield community for over 15 years. It is truly a South Dakota success story. I know that all those who contributed to the company's many achievements take great pride in the personal and collective accomplishments celebrated and recognized through this honor.

It is with great appreciation that I join with the community, the employ-

ees, the customers, and the many people who interact with the company, to congratulate Burdick brothers on their years of service and success. I wish Burdick Brothers, Inc. enduring good fortune and prosperity in the continued pursuit of excellence.●

TRIBUTE TO THE 2000 AIR FORCE ACADEMY FOOTBALL TEAM

● Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the 2000 Air Force Academy football team and their outstanding head football coach Fisher DeBerry.

On May 4th, President Bush will present the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy to the members of last year's football team at the White House. The Commander-in-Chief's Trophy is the most prized possession of the three service academies. It is given annually by the President of the United States to the service academy with the best record in the three-team competition between Army, Navy and Air Force. I am proud to say this is the fourth year in a row the Air Force Academy has captured the trophy and they have won 10 of the last 12 seasons.

The most important aspect of the 2000 Air Force Academy Football Team is each athlete on this team is a student first, and an athlete second. They play the game of football not to become an NFL star one day, but because they love the game of football.

Their leader is a modest southern gentleman named Fisher DeBerry whose life is driven not by football, but by his Christian faith and his family. In his 17 seasons as head football coach at the Air Force Academy he has guided his teams to an overall record of 135-72-1. He has won more football games than any other coach in service academy history and has taken the "fighting falcons" to an amazing 11 bowl games. In 1996, he served as president of the prestigious American Football Coaches Association.

The 2000 Air Force Academy football team demonstrated that hard work can overcome any obstacle. Despite being picked to finish in the lower half of their conference, they finished with an overall record of 9-3 and won a thrilling victory over Fresno State in the 2000 Silicon Bowl. Their perseverance is an inspiration to all us.

I commend the Superintendent of the Air Force Academy, General John Dallager and the Director of Athletics, Colonel Randy Spetman, along with all the coaches and players of the 2000 Air Force Academy football team for a job well done. You have set a standard of excellence that all of us should strive to achieve.●

TRIBUTE TO JIM O'NEIL

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Jim

O'Neil of Merrimack, NH, on the occasion of his 30th anniversary as Superintendent of Schools in Merrimack, NH.

As a former teacher myself, I commend Jim's commitment to the young people of New Hampshire and the nation. Jim has been a dedicated member of the educational community for many years, beginning his teaching career in 1963. He has contributed selflessly to the betterment of education in New Hampshire, serving in teaching, athletic coaching and administrative positions for many years.

An exemplary community contributor, Jim has been actively involved in many educational associations and organizations. He has been a board member for the National Elementary Principal's Association, the New Hampshire School Administration Association, the New England Association of School Superintendents and was a member of the Governor's Commission on Public Education. He has also been faithful volunteer in Pop Warner football and Babe Ruth baseball in Merrimack, serving as a coach.

Jim received a Bachelor of Science degree from Boston College in Chestnut Hill, MA, and later earned a Master of Education degree from the State College at Boston.

Jim and his wife, Reggie, have four children and two grandchildren and have resided in the town of Merrimack, NH, for over thirty years.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve Jim O'Neil in the U.S. Senate. I wish him and his family Godspeed in his retirement and in all of their future endeavors.●

JUDGE WALTER M. HEEN—A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise today to share with my colleagues the contributions of a fine jurist, tireless community leader, and native son of Hawaii. Nearly 50 years of public service excellence have made Walter Meheula Heen an acknowledged leading citizen, a "special treasure" of the State of Hawaii.

Judge Heen's dedicated drive to build a better Hawaii was awakened as a law student at Georgetown University in the mid-1950s. The seeds of his commitment and service were planted in childhood by his father and his uncle, Ernest and William Heen, respectively, two patriarchs of social reform in plantation-era Hawaii. It was the Heens, along with Johnny Wilson and David Trask, Sr. Who formed the core of the early Democratic Party in Hawaii.

Walter Heen's career as an elected official, state judge and U.S. district court judge includes remarkable accomplishments and historically significant achievements. Elected to the Territorial House of Representatives in 1958, the year before Statehood, Judge