

and U.S. international broadcasting has historically played, and continues to play, a critical role in disaster relief. It is in this regard that I wish to recognize the Broadcasting Board of Governors, and VOA in particular, as well as all U.S. civilian, military, and volunteer response teams for their invaluable service in Haiti. Their efforts demonstrate the best of America's generous spirit, and their compassion and dedication is making a difference to the millions of people in Haiti affected by this terrible tragedy.

#### TRIBUTE TO JO ANNE GOODNIGHT

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I recognize Jo Anne Goodnight, an extraordinary member of my staff who will shortly be leaving the Hill to return to her position as division of special programs director and SBIR/STTR program manager at the National Institutes of Health, or NIH. Jo Anne has brought tremendous enthusiasm, insight, and expertise to her position as a detailee for the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and I am sad to see her leave.

Jo Anne joined my committee staff in June 2009 to help me shepherd the reauthorization of the Small Business Innovation Research, or SBIR, and Small Business Technology Transfer, or STTR, programs through the Senate. These critical initiatives help move innovative ideas from mind to marketplace, and there is probably no one who understands the details of these programs better than Jo Anne. A recognized expert in her field, she began her present position at NIH in 1999, where she manages and coordinates the SBIR and STTR programs for the Department of Health and Human Services' public health agencies, such as NIH, the Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In her capacity as program manager, Jo Anne has appeared as a witness before many congressional committees, which is why I had the utmost confidence that she would hit the ground running upon her arrival at the committee—and she did!

From her first moment here, Jo Anne established a reputation as a hard-working, intelligent, and dedicated staff member. She dedicated countless hours preparing me to work towards a consensus to reauthorize the SBIR and STTR programs with my colleagues, and she was a vocal leader at staff-driven meetings. She had no shortage of ideas on how best to advance our interests, and was open and honest about the best approach to take in forging a compromise. While our work is not complete regarding a long-term reauthorization of these initiatives, Jo Anne has laid a tremendous foundation for our future negotiations.

As time went on, Jo Anne demonstrated a strong capacity for devel-

oping new ideas, and she began aiding me with other issue areas, such as innovation and technology. Her assistance was essential in helping to move a critical bill I introduced with Senator MARK PRYOR on science parks through the Commerce Committee. Additionally, Jo Anne helped me add language to the bill encouraging the development of science and research parks on bases closed by the Base Realignment and Closure process. I am hopeful that this language, if passed by the full Senate, will help communities like Brunswick, ME, redevelop quickly.

Jo Anne has had a remarkable career in and out of government. In addition to her most recent service at NIH, she worked for several years at the National Cancer Institute, or NCI, as its SBIR/STTR program coordinator and the special assistant to the director of the division of cancer biology. She also has extensive research experience at the NIH, the FDA, the University of Southern California, and, as an undergraduate cooperative education student from Virginia Tech, at the Department of Agriculture's Animal Parasitology Institute in Maryland.

Throughout her lengthy career, Jo Anne has been the recipient of numerous awards, including three NIH Director's Awards and five more NIH Merit Awards for dedication, initiative, and exemplary contributions to various projects. Jo Anne has also won the 1996 Outstanding Performance Award from the NCI's division of cancer biology, and the 2007 Federal Executive Institute's Certificate of Achievement.

What is most striking about Jo Anne—aside from her remarkable intelligence and passion for her work—is her easygoing and humorous nature. A true joke teller, Jo Anne loves to laugh and make others laugh with her. She is a kind and generous person who is constantly willing to help her coworkers in any way possible. Jo Anne always has a smile on her face, and her upbeat personality makes her a pleasure to work with.

Additionally, Jo Anne and her husband Will have a home in Lamoine, a small coastal town near Maine's beautiful Acadia National Park. They find themselves driving to Maine at least once a month, and Jo Anne hopes to relocate there in the coming years. It is wonderful talking with her about all of the great and unique places to visit in the area, and I am thrilled that she has fallen so deeply in love with my home State.

Jo Anne also enjoys spending time with her colleagues off the Hill. In October, she organized an office chili cook-off, where members of my staff brought pots of their homemade chili to Jo Anne's home. There, they enjoyed a wonderful afternoon dedicated to getting to know one another better while consuming numerous varieties of chili. Jo Anne was a gracious hostess,

and everyone greatly enjoyed the experience.

I am honored to have had someone as talented and passionate as Jo Anne Goodnight on my staff. Jo Anne brings a visible sense of dedication and professionalism to the job every day, and her commendable work ethic and incredible creativity are sources of pride. I wish Jo Anne and her family the best of luck as she transitions back to the NIH, and look forward to seeing her in Maine.

#### 2010 CENSUS

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I commemorate the launch of the 2010 Decennial Census in Noorvik, AK, and thank the U.S. Census bureau for the honor of kicking off this decade's census. Our State is honored to once again have this privilege. I am proud our country is acknowledging the contributions of all its citizens by beginning this historic count in a small, rural village in Alaska.

Noorvik is a rural community in the Northwest Arctic Borough of Alaska with a population of 642 residents. Because there are no roads linking the community to the rest of the State, it is only accessible by plane or shallow-draft vessel. The majority of the population consists of Inupiaq Eskimo residents primarily working as miners, construction workers, teachers, and public administrators. Noorvik may be a small town, but its residents contribute a great deal to Alaska's infrastructure and industry. Therefore, it is important the decennial count begin in this small yet significant community. The Census will also provide several thousand jobs for Alaskans, who will be travelling to remote areas to collect accurate data from our most remote regions.

The U.S. Census is a valuable and time-honored tradition. Its roots can be traced back to article 1, section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, where the founders of our democracy stated, "The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years." When our Nation was founded, the Census was a way to determine the number of each State's delegation in the House of Representatives. Since then, the Census has become more than a mechanism for allotting congressional seats, but also provides policymakers with the data they need to better serve Americans.

I thank the U.S. Census Bureau for launching the 2010 Decennial Census in Noorvik, AK. This is a great opportunity to reach out to rural Alaska and honor our State's rich cultural heritage.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## IDAHO WHEAT COMMISSION 50TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, it is an honor for me to recognize the Idaho Wheat Commission, which celebrated its 50th anniversary recently. The Idaho Wheat Commission was founded in 1959 and has been a leader in the wheat industry, working on behalf of Idaho's wheat growers and providing them with an invaluable service. Wheat is one of Idaho's top five commodities; it is grown in nearly every county; and Idaho is ranked 10th in national production of wheat. The Idaho Wheat Commission engages in research, market development, consumer education and much more on behalf of Idaho wheat growers.

The Idaho Wheat Commission funds research and provides science-based information to Idaho wheat growers concerning topics such as improved wheat variety, pest management and best practices. Research and information on these and many other topics help Idaho Wheat growers remain competitive and profitable. The Idaho Wheat Commission also aids growers by playing an important role in the development of markets at home and overseas, which helps Idaho growers find new and emerging markets for their wheat. More than 50 percent of Idaho's wheat crop is exported to over 90 other countries around the world.

The Idaho Wheat Commission, along with the University of Idaho Extension, the Idaho Grain Producer Association, and the Idaho Barley Commission, sponsors Cereal Schools in many different Idaho counties. These schools educate and update growers on various issues, such as results from new studies and trials or current legislative issues. They also conduct Wheat Quality Workshops twice a year where growers get a hands-on education on the importance of growing quality wheat.

Because of their many excellent educational and informational programs, the Idaho Wheat Commission has had, and will continue to have, a positive influence on the Idaho wheat industry. The Idaho Wheat Commission has been working for Idaho's wheat growers for 50 years, helping to fund research and education and to develop new markets for growers. In their first 50 years, they have succeeded at this and much more. Congratulations to the Idaho Wheat Commission for 50 years of supporting the growers of one of Idaho's most important crops. I look forward to its next 50.●

## TRIBUTE TO GEORGE FRAZIER

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a man who I am proud to call a fellow Arkansan. Hope native George Frazier, 91, embodies Arkansas

and the values we hold so close to our hearts: community, family, and faith. Earlier this month, George was honored by his fellow Kiwanis Club members in Hope for 62 years of service in the organization.

Known by some as "Mr. Hope, Arkansas," George and his wife Effie have touched countless members of the Hope community, including former President Bill Clinton, who telephoned George on his 75th birthday to thank him for the positive impact he had on his life. George is such an integral part of his community that the local newspaper, *The Hope Star*, recently penned a series of articles in his honor.

I salute George Frazier and all residents of Hope for their strong sense of Arkansas values and community pride. Renowned for its annual watermelon festival, Hope is often said to be "a slice of the good life." I couldn't agree more.●

## TRIBUTE TO MAJOR STEVEN HALL AND CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER RICKY BULLINGER

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I honor two brave Arkansas Guardsmen who risked their lives to rescue a citizen in need. Maumelle resident Major Steven Hall, a native of Rector, and Chief Warrant Officer Ricky Bullinger of North Crossett recently received the Soldier's Medal, the highest award for heroism not involving combat, for risking their lives to rescue a woman who was being electrocuted underneath a hotel dock on Lake Hamilton in Arkansas.

On August 23, 2008, Hall and Bullinger had spent the day at a training workshop, later joining their families to boat on Lake Hamilton. Before long, they heard cries for help from two families nearby on the water and immediately went to their aid.

Both Hall and Bullinger jumped into the water, quickly finding it to be full of electricity from a nearby streetlight. The pair spent 15 minutes diving for a woman trapped in the water. Eventually, their efforts were successful as they pulled her from the lake. Not everyone was saved, however. A 14-year-old girl lost her life that day.

I salute these two brave servicemen. My father and both grandfathers served our Nation in uniform and taught me from an early age about the sacrifices our troops and their families make to keep our Nation free. All of our service men and women from the Greatest Generation to Vietnam war veterans to the new generation of servicemembers in the Middle East and across the globe have sacrificed greatly on behalf of our country and local communities.

It is the responsibility of our Nation to provide the tools necessary to care for our country's servicemembers and honor the commitment our Nation has made to them. During these tough eco-

nomics times, it is even more important that we don't shortchange our veterans. It is the least we can do for those whom we owe so much.●

## RECOGNIZING BOONE AND NEWTON COUNTIES

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize Boone and Newton Counties, in my home State of Arkansas, for their efforts to create communities where children and their families have access to healthy, affordable foods and safe places to play and exercise. These counties, through the North Arkansas Partnership for Health Education, NAPHE, recently received a \$360,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's "Healthy Kids: Healthy Communities" program.

The funding will help local officials and organizations create policies that encourage active lifestyles for children and healthier eating habits for all residents in Boone and Newton Counties. The project will create a walking path to connect the south side of Lake Harrison to the schools and grocery stores to the north and will develop a system to deliver healthy foods to underserved neighborhoods and more remote parts of the counties.

According to Rick Hinterthuer, NAPHE executive director, "our community model is extremely efficient and effective. If we can do it in Harrison, it can be done in other places. We reach our community best through the Home Town Health Coalitions of Boone and Newton Counties."

I have had the pleasure of visiting the Boone County Hometown Health Improvement Coalition. The program is a model for the rest of the country and illustrates how a community can leverage its resources to address community health issues through local, State, regional and national partnerships.

As chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, I have fought to include funding to provide meals to needy children during summer months, to secure grants for States to modernize their school lunch delivery systems, to improve health outcomes for infants participating in the WIC Program, and to promote the health of young children in early childhood settings.

I salute the good work going on in Harrison and North Arkansas to help keep our youngest citizens healthy.●

## TRIBUTE TO JAMES WILSON

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize an armchair explorer who never left the Northeast but brought the world to the United States. In 1809-1810 in the town of Bradford, VT, Mr. James Wilson fashioned the first terrestrial and celestial globes made in