

waterways help reduce soil loss to erosion. Indiana is rapidly becoming urbanized. Around the larger cities, land prices are rising, housing developments are spreading, and farm land is being destroyed by development. Indiana farmers have a responsibility to protect and preserve Indiana's prime farmland.

The conservation of Indiana's most productive land and the continuation of high yielding traditions are important to the future of Indiana agriculture. If we do not save the land now, how will future generations of Hoosier farmers carry on the tradition of feeding the world?

1997-98 District Winners

District 1: Jennifer Claypool, Rajiv Kumar
District 2: Brittney Hess, Kit Venderley
District 3: Tara Wireman, Russell Trudeau
District 4: Candace Northam, Bradley Rice
District 5: Kathryn Haselden
District 6: Jamie Ann Boone, Andrew Twibell
District 7: Courtney Reynolds, Scott Dugan
District 8: Mary Jean Word, Ben Wicker
District 9: Jessie Borden, Matthew Bender
District 10: Chandra Smith, Dusty Daulton

1997-98 County Winners

Allen: Zachory Veit, Brittney Hess
Cass: Aaron Tribby, Tara Wireman
Dearborn: Danny Powell, Elizabeth Sedler
Delaware: Andrew Twibell, Katherine Riley
Fayette: Mary Jean Word
Franklin: Chad Meyer, Kelsey Kaiser
Hamilton: Luke Nelson, Jamie Ann Boone
Hancock: Justin Christopher
Hendricks: Kathryn Haselden
Jasper: Bryron Courtright, Kara Kohlhausen
Jay: Justin Knapke, Candace Northam
Jefferson: Dusty Daulton
Lake: Mike Dlugokinski, Megan Kabella
LaPorte: Laurie Marsh
Marion: Chris Shaw, Rachel Grounds
Martin: Courtney Reynolds
Newton: Russell Trudeau, Amanda Chamberlan
Porter: Rajiv Kumar, Jennifer Claypool
Posey: Jacob Eisterhold, Ellen Herrenbruck
Rush: Ben Wicker
St. Joseph: Keegan Boucek, Megan Bauer
Spencer: Crystal Foertsch
Steuben: Kit Venderley, Jamie Brunner
Sullivan: Scott Dugan, Ash Lynn Thompson
Vermillion: Ashley Hughes
Vigo: Amy Jackson
Wabash: Bradley Rice, Sarah Andersen
Warrick: Matthew Bender, Jessie Borden
Washington: Jeremy Givens, Chandra Smith
Wayne: Christopher Cope Nicholson, Lynn Hamilton
Wells: John Stauffer, Lindsay Leas
Whitley: Derek Leiningers.

IN RECOGNITION OF BEN HALPERN

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today is the 100th birthday of a very distinguished citizen of Michigan.

Benjamin Halpern was born in Poland 100 years ago today. His story, in one sense, is the story of many immigrants who came to this land seeking safety and freedom and opportunity.

He and his wife, Esther, worked hard, raised a wonderful family, and contributed to the strength of the country which gave him so much, including utilizing his amazing language skills to help immigrants to adjust and adapt and become productive citizens, and supporting a number of charitable and community organizations.

Many of his and Esther's family were destroyed in the Holocaust. But they and part of their families did more

than survive: they persevered, and in the process, helped preserve values of family and community which so characterize the ancient Jewish people of which they are so proudly a part. Along the way, his sense of humor has brought cheer to multitudes.

This wonderful man happens to be my wife Barbara's father, and three of his loving grandchildren are our daughters Kate, Laura and Erica.

They and Barbara's brothers, Irving and Daniel, and many other family members and a host of friends will be soon gathering together to say Mazel Tov to Ben as he heads toward the next millennium, when he will be well into his second century and the third century that he will have touched. •

RHINO AND TIGER PRODUCT LABELING ACT

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for Senate Bill 361, the "Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act." This legislation is desperately needed and I thank my friend and colleague Senator JEFFORDS for introducing it in the Senate.

The Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act amends the Endangered Species Act to prohibit the sale of products labeled as containing endangered species, even if they actually do not. Rhino and Tiger parts are two of the more widely advertised ingredients in a number of powders and balms which claim to cure a host of ailments. None of these claims is supported by scientific research, nevertheless, demand for these ingredients has encouraged the widespread poaching of these endangered animals and threatens their existence.

As I understand it, the world's population of rhinos has declined by 90 percent since 1970, and tigers populations are even more threatened. Today, less than 5,000 remain in the world. The greatest threat to many of these animals in the wild is the poacher, and poaching thrives in part because the demand for products containing rhino horn, tiger parts and others remains high.

A U.S. ban on all wares containing, and claiming to contain, parts of endangered species will greatly reduce the size of the world markets. This should lower the value of these animals and, I hope, stimulate their recovery. I am pleased to hear that the House is moving forward on a similar bill and trust that the Congress will soon send legislation addressing this problem to the White House. •

COMMEMORATING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF DESRON 61

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the heroic actions of DesRon 61. DesRon 61 consisted of 9 U.S. destroyers which participated in the only surface action in Tokyo Bay during World War II. As part of Admiral William "Bull" Halsey's Task

Group 38.1, DesRon 61 entered Tokyo Bay on July 22, 1945 and proceeded to engage a Japanese convoy which was attempting to leave the bay undetected. Under the command of Captain T.H. Hederman, DesRon 61 opened fire on the convoy sinking several Japanese ships and forcing the convoy to retreat back into Tokyo Bay.

All of us, as Americans, owe a great debt of gratitude to those who served our nation with such dedication and patriotism. Our losses in World War II, especially in the Pacific Theater, were considerable, and we always should remember the brave men and women who fought to defend the freedom and liberty that is so precious to all of us. Mr. President, I would like to commend and thank the crew members of DesRon 61 for their valiant service. Their action that July night, as well as the heroic deeds of all our armed forces in the Pacific, helped defeat the Japanese empire and restore freedom in that theater of the world. •

AUSTIN DABNEY

• Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, as we near the end of Black History Month, I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize the bravery, patriotism and service of one of Georgia's Revolutionary war heroes. Austin Dabney served in the Revolutionary War and was wounded in 1779, in the Battle of Kettle Creek, one of the most difficult and bloodiest battles fought in Georgia. Austin Dabney was a slave brought to Wilkes County, Georgia by a man named Richard Aycock. Dabney was granted freedom in order to serve in the war in his master's place, as an artilleryman in Colonel Elijah Clark's corps.

In the Battle of Kettle Creek, Dabney was seriously wounded by a shot through his thigh. His life was saved by a white soldier named Giles Harris, who took the soldier to his home and nursed him back to health. To show his gratitude to the Harris family, Dabney worked for them for the rest of his life, living with them in Madison, Newton and Pike Counties. Dabney's devotion to the Harris family didn't stop there. Dabney used money from his own pocket to send Harris's son through college, and even made arrangements for the son's legal training.

In 1786, the Georgia Legislature emancipated Dabney to prevent his former master from seizing him as a slave to benefit from the soldier's fame. Despite Dabney's veteran status with pension, because he was black, he was denied the opportunity to enter the land lottery for Revolutionary veterans in 1819. The Georgia legislature voted in 1821 to grant 112 acres of land for Dabney's "bravery and fortitude," but that grant was bitterly contested with law suits. A land lot was finally granted to Dabney in 1824.

Austin Dabney and Giles Harris both illustrate an important lesson in American History. Divided racially but

brought together as soldiers, neighbors and devoted friends, they are examples of the great patriotic and democratic spirit that is the foundation of our society. They are fitting examples of why it is important to learn and remember our complete American History.●

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 317, S. Res. 181, reported today by the Judiciary Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 181) expressing the sense of the Senate that on March 2nd, every child in America should be in the company of someone who will read to him or her.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CHAFEE. I ask unanimous consent, Mr. President, that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and further, that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD at the appropriate place.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 181) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 181

Whereas reading is a basic skill for a quality education, a requirement for a successful life's work, and a source of pleasure throughout life;

Whereas reading ability is essential to our nation's ability to remain competitive in a global economy;

Whereas the American Library Association, the National Family Literacy Council, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, Reading Is Fundamental, the International Reading Association, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and others have joined with the National Education Association to use March 2nd as a national day to celebrate reading; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) March 2nd, 1998 shall be known as "Read Across America Day" to focus on the basic component of learning; and

(2) every child should be in the company of someone who will read to him or her on March 2nd, Dr. Seuss's birthday; and

(3) the success of Dr. Seuss and many others like him in encouraging children to discover the joy of books is applauded; and

(4) all parents are encouraged to read with their children for at least one half hour on March 2nd in honor of Dr. Seuss to help us realize the goal of having the best readers in the world.

APPOINTMENT BY THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Ma-

jority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-83, his appointment of the following Senators to serve as members of the National Council on the Arts: The Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS).

DESIGNATING 1998 AS THE "ONATE CUARTOCENTENARIO," THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF THE FIRST PERMANENT SPANISH SETTLEMENT IN NEW MEXICO

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 306, S. Res. 148.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 148) designating 1998 as the "Onate Cuartocentenario," the 400th anniversary commemoration of the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with an amendment, as follows:

Whereas Don Juan de Oñate of Spain settled the first permanent colony of Europeans in the Southwest Region of the United States, known as San Gabriel de Los Españoles, and located near modern day San Juan Pueblo and Española, New Mexico;

Whereas the first Spanish capital was established at San Juan de los Caballeros in July of 1598, predating the English settlement of Jamestown in 1610 by 12 years;

Whereas Spanish exploration activity in the New World began in 1512 when Ponce de León explored the Florida peninsula, and included the explorations of Francisco Coronado throughout California to Kansas and across Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma from 1540 to 1542;

Whereas the major Spanish settlement efforts were focused in modern day Florida and New Mexico, and 1998 marks the 400th anniversary of the first permanent settlement in New Mexico, referred to as the Cuartocentenario;

Whereas Hispanic Americans are the fastest growing minority group in the United States and include descendants of the Spanish, Mexican, Cuban, Puerto Rican, Central American, and other Hispanic peoples;

Whereas the United States Census Bureau estimated in March 1993 that the Hispanic population of the United States was 22,800,000; the current estimate of the Hispanic population in the United States is 26,000,000, with projections of 30,000,000 by the year 2000, 40,000,000 by 2010, and almost 60,000,000 (or 20 percent of the total United States population) by the year 2030;

Whereas the number of Hispanic immigrants to the United States has increased from 1,500,000 in the 1960's, to 2,400,000 in the 1970's, to 4,500,000 in the 1980's, and the number of Hispanic immigrants is expected to continue to rise;

Whereas two-thirds of all Hispanics in the United States today are of Mexican origin, and 70 percent of United States Hispanics live in 4 States: California, Texas, New York, and Florida;

Whereas New Mexico's Hispanic population is 39 percent (or over 660,000 of the 1995 total

State population of 1,700,000) and represents the highest percentage of Hispanics in any State in the United States;

Whereas the United States has an enriched legacy of Hispanic influence in politics, government, business, and culture due to the early settlements and continuous influx of Hispanics into the United States;

Whereas the New Mexico State Government has funded a Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with assistance from the Federal Government, local governments, and private contributions, to celebrate and preserve Hispanic culture including literature, performing arts, visual arts, music, culinary arts, and language arts;

Whereas the Archbishop of Santa Fe, Michael Sheehan, is planning events throughout 1998 in New Mexico, including the opening of "Jubilee year", an encuentro at Santo Domingo Pueblo to mark the meeting of the missionaries with the Pueblo peoples, an Archdiocesan reconciliation service at the Santuario de Chimayo, and an Archdiocesan celebration of St. Francis of Assisi in Santa Fe;

Whereas in order to commemorate Don Juan de Oñate's arrival, the city of Española will have a fiesta in July 1998, the city of Santa Fe is planning several special events, and the New Mexico statewide committee is planning a parade, a historical costume ball, and a pageant in Albuquerque; and

Whereas many other religious, educational, and social events are being planned around New Mexico to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the year 1998 as the "New Mexico Cuartocentenario" to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico;

(2) recognizes the cultural and economic importance of the Spanish settlements throughout the Southwest Region of the United States;

(3) expresses its support for the work of the Española Plaza Foundation, the Santa Fe and Albuquerque Cuartocentenario committees, the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center Board of Directors, the Hispanic Cultural Foundation Board of Trustees, as well as other interested groups that are preparing New Mexico Cuartocentenario activities;

(4) expresses its support for the events to be held in New Mexico and the Southwest in observance of the New Mexico Cuartocentenario;

(5) requests that the President issue a proclamation—

(A) declaring 1998 as the "New Mexico Cuartocentenario" to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico; and

(B) calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the year with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to honor and celebrate the contributions of Hispanic people to the cultural and economic life of the United States; and

(6) calls upon the people of the United States to support, promote, and participate in the many New Mexico Cuartocentenario activities being planned to commemorate the historic event of the early settling of the Southwest Region of the United States by the Spanish.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, this year New Mexico is commemorating