

National Sportsmanship Day by developing programs for National Sportsmanship Day. Through competition, young athletes can learn that while winning is a worthy goal, honor, discipline, and hard work are more important. Indeed, these values will guide them in all aspects of everyday life.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and the Rhode Island Congressional delegation in recognizing this day and the principles it embodies.●

THOM HINDLE: DOVER'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Thom Hindle, a distinguished individual, for being named the 1998 Dover Citizen of the Year. I commend his passion for American history and his inexhaustible dedication to keeping it alive.

Thom, a Dover native, became very concerned that the history of Dover was not given the appreciation nor the recognition it deserved. As a result, Thom set out to remind and educate the community about the important facts and contributions Dover's history has to offer.

Thom became the trustee for the Woodman Institute, an organization that focuses on preserving and documenting the past. Thom felt that he was preserving Dover's "hidden treasures" and sought to give everyone the chance to experience them. To keep it alive, he wrote a historical book on Dover which included written and pictorial information for future generations.

Thom is also the president of the Northam Colonists, Dover's historical society, as well as a member of the Heritage group, a committee that is part of the historical society. The committee centers on historical areas of the town and also provides guided tours during the fall, which focus on historic homes and other noteworthy sights. He is also a trustee to Dover's oldest elderly care facility, The Wentworth Home. As a trustee, he raises money for a number of city projects that improve the visual aesthetics of the community. His work not only recognizes the important tributes of the past but also those that enrich the present.

As a former history teacher, I appreciate Thom's commitment to history. It is imperative to remember our country's past, to see where we have been as a nation, and to see where we are going as a people. Not honoring American history is not honoring those who have fought, died, and sacrificed for the great nation we have today.

Therefore, we as a generation should carry on the tradition our forefathers started: to continue to fight and strive to improve the lives of generations to come and to never give up the aggressive crusade for greatness and consist-

ent drive for virtue. Like Thom, we should continue to defend the past and augment the future. Mr. President, I want to congratulate Thom for his outstanding work and I am proud to represent him in the U.S. Senate.●

37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, yesterday, March 3, was designated by the President as the day to pay public tribute to the 37th anniversary of the Peace Corps. Although the official anniversary technically occurred on Sunday, March 1, a day during the week for events to be sponsored in honor of the Peace Corps' anniversary proved to be more practical.

It was nearly four decades ago that President Kennedy signed legislation into law to create the Peace Corps in 1961 and sent the first class of volunteers to Ghana. Since its founding, more than 150,000 Americans have served in the Peace Corps.

The public recognition of the Peace Corps' anniversary has special significance for me personally, as I was fortunate enough to serve as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic some years ago. Like other Americans who have had the honor of serving as Peace Corps volunteers, my service in the Dominican Republic will remain one of the most important periods of my life.

Currently there are 6,500 volunteers, serving in 84 countries around the globe. These people dedicate two years of their lives to addressing the critical development needs of impoverished communities. They help people gain access to clean water, grow more food, help prevent the spread of AIDS, teach English, math and science, aid entrepreneurs in the development of new business, and work with non-governmental organizations to protect the environment.

The Peace Corps has been marked by much success thanks to current and returned Peace Corps volunteers. Based on the Peace Corps' high level of achievement since its creation, and taking into account the unmet needs of the developing world, I support the proposed increase in the Peace Corps Fiscal Year 1999 budget.

The value of the Peace Corps is not limited solely to its overseas volunteer service. There is a "domestic dividend" as well—the experience and value that is brought back to the communities where volunteers return once their two year tour is over. Experience has shown that Returned Peace Corps volunteers participate in their communities across the nation more than most other Americans.

This week, as the nation celebrates the 37th anniversary of the Peace Corps, more than 350,000 students in all 50 states will learn more about life in the developing world by talking with and listening to 5,000 current and returned volunteers, in person, via sat-

ellite and by phone. In my home state of Connecticut, one of six states and 23 cities that declared March 3 as Peace Corps Day, students in New London talked to current Peace Corps Volunteers in Panama and students at Balboa High School in Panama via a live CU-SeeMe video conference. With advancing technology, it is exciting to have students in the United States learn more about people in different corners of the world, without even leaving their classroom.

Finally, I commend all of those volunteers, both past and present who have contributed to the success of the Peace Corps. Every anniversary is an important one. This one has been made special by being officially recognized as Peace Corps Day—something that will hopefully become an annual occurrence. It serves as an opportunity for Americans to learn about other cultures of the World and to pay tribute to the more than 150,000 Americans who have dedicated part of their lives to making this a better World to live in. I am confident that we in the Senate are proud of each and every one of them.●

TRIBUTE TO THE EAGLE SCOUTS OF TROOP 358

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a very special group of young men from one of the oldest African American Boy Scout units in the nation. On February 7, 1998, eleven members of Troop 358 were officially honored as Eagle Scouts.

Troop 358, sponsored by Grace Baptist Church of Germantown, Pennsylvania, has a proud tradition of achievement. In 45 years, Troop 358 has produced a total of 33 Eagle Scouts—including this year's class. To put this in perspective, consider that only 2.5 percent of the nation's 4.5 million scouts ever become Eagle Scouts. Moreover, only about 1 percent of African American scouts reach this goal.

Eagle Scouts learn valuable lessons in leadership, honor, and pride in their communities. In fact, the community service projects that the Scouts completed to earn their badges are as extraordinary as the young men themselves. For instance, one new Scout set up a workshop for inner city kids who wanted to prepare for the Scholastic Aptitude Test. Another young man wrapped up his Eagle service project painting a school. Still another ploughed through months of paperwork to complete 8 of his 29 merit badges in one week.

Mr. President, these 11 new Eagle Scouts—Jarrett Coger, Jerece Barnes, Askia Fluellen, Bruce Frazier, Andre Kydd, Jared LeVere, Sean Long, Kyle McIntosh, Robert Redding, Ernest Stanton and Anwar White—are a credit to their families and to their scoutmasters, A. Bruce Frazier and Charles M. Whiting. They are also living tributes to the late Earl Grayson, who led Troop 358 through both good and bad times for 36 years.

In closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending the Senate's best wishes for continued success to the new Eagle Scouts and to all those who have sustained Troop 358 over its 45 year history. •

BEN MEED, THE AMERICAN GATHERING OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS, AND GERMAN COMPENSATION

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to briefly comment on the program of German reparations being paid to Holocaust survivors. Over the past two years, we have looked extensively at the role Swiss banks played during the Holocaust. What we found was shocking. Clearly we discovered that in addition to carrying out the mass murder of millions of people, Jews and non-Jews, the Nazis carried off the greatest robbery in history.

After the war, the new government of Germany began a program of restitution for the survivors of the Holocaust. Over the past half-century, Germany has paid billions of dollars to survivors, but can we really say that this is enough? Can we say that it is fair that someone who survived, for example, five months in a concentration camp, but not the six required to obtain compensation, is fair? Can we say that it is fair that someone who survived a Gestapo prison should be denied compensation for their suffering? The answer to these questions is an emphatic NO!

It is time that Germany drop their reservations to paying compensation to all those who deserve it, regardless of income levels, regardless of the time spent enduring Nazi torture. All limitations should be dropped and each and every survivor, everywhere, regardless of their situation, should be provided with compensation.

Mr. President, Ben Meed, the President of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, makes these same points in a speech he gave at the National Leadership Conference in Washington on February 15, 1998. His speech is poignant and succinct. Holocaust survivors have little time left and they need help. I could not agree more with this wise man's conclusions. At this time, I ask unanimous consent that the text of his remarks be included in the RECORD.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to read Ben Meed's words and to help ease the suffering of these survivors of mankind's greatest inhumanity to man. I ask that they be printed in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

REMARKS BY BENJAMIN MEED AT THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Distinguished guests, Fellow survivors, my younger colleagues and dear friends

Though many issues of importance will be raised during the day, I want to take this opportunity to convey the dismay and anger felt by survivors toward the reparations program established by Germany and to express

the survivors' goal to challenge those programs.

German compensation has become an extremely important—perhaps the most important—issue to survivors. Many survivors need the compensation. And most survivors, even those who would not accept German money before today demand rights for the payment. But time is Germany's ally; time is the enemy for survivors. As nature takes its course, we learn daily of the deaths of more survivors. That unfortunate fact only serves to emphasize the urgency of this matter.

We attend funerals almost daily. Let me also add that since the reparation program started over forty years ago, more than 50% of survivors receiving German pensions have passed away. Germany is not paying to the deceased or to their heir.

After the Holocaust, we survivors were in no position to negotiate directly—also many of us wanted nothing to do—with Germany. Though German money does go to some survivors, the amounts and the conditions attached to the funds humiliate us personally and collectively.

In 1951, Chancellor Adenauer announced that compensation for survivors was Germany's moral responsibility. And, since the 1950's, the Claims Conference has negotiated with Germany on behalf of the survivors. It has served as trustee for their collective interest, and we survivors are grateful for any help extended to us. But whatever was done, was not enough. Much more can be done and must be done quickly.

Until recently, survivors played virtually no role in Holocaust-related compensation matters. We did not negotiate with Germany; we did not decide how the German money would be used; and we did not distribute the money. All of these things were done without our participation.

Yes, the Claims Conference and their leaders deserve our appreciation for the work they did when we were unable to do it. The negotiations with Germany resulted in various compensation programs for survivors. There is the Federal Indemnification Law, the Hardship Fund and the Article 2 Fund. We all know that no amount of compensation can truly "pay" for the damage Germany did to our people. Yet the amount Germany has provided is shameful, and the conditions for eligibility are outrageous and humiliating; they are unacceptable today.

First, the amount Germany has paid is barely a start in repairing the destruction and human misery it caused. Our homes . . . our culture . . . our faith in our fellow man were destroyed. Who will give us back our families, our youth, our health. So much of our minds are still—and will always be—there. Any yet whenever some survivors receive payments, we are told, "look, see how much Germany pays to the survivors!" How can anyone talk about German "generosity" in the context of the Holocaust. It sounds big when you say Germany paid more than fifty billion dollars over forty years to Israel and to other countries in reparations. But think about it, how much did Germany's robbery amount to in four years of the Holocaust? Some historians today are estimating that the robbery was more than three hundred billion dollars worth of land, homes, gold, jewelry and personal belongings—beside murdering our six-million people.

Second, the individual payments Germany has made, though needed by many survivors, are typically small; they do not furnish a dignified life with modest security that Germany has a duty to provide.

Third, only survivors who were in a camp for a minimum of six months, or a ghetto for eighteen months, are entitled to German compensation; and you must prove it with

documentation which is difficult if not impossible to obtain. Can you imagine the fear and anguish which lingers from a single day in the Warsaw or Lodz Ghetto, Auschwitz, Buchenwald, or in hiding? Can the people who imposed these insensitive limitations have any idea of what one day in those places felt like? It didn't take a month or two—or certainly six months—to be abused, or to be plagued by nightmares, forever.

Finally, survivors must show virtual poverty—notbeduerftigt—to qualify for payments. This turns the payments into welfare. Thus, the very people targeted by the Nazis for murder are now treated as beggars or, at best, as charity cases. This is disgraceful and insulting to us. Compensation should be paid for what Germany did during the Holocaust; it should have absolutely nothing to do with the circumstances of our lives after the war struggling to rebuild our lives.

As a general matter, the selections the programs make—based on income, previous payments and other restrictive rules are upsetting reminders to survivors of the infamous selections made during the Holocaust. This, to us, is intolerable and cannot remain the same; it must be eliminated.

In sum, too many survivors have been excluded from German payments; too many who have gotten something have been paid too little; too many improper conditions—selections—have been imposed; and too many in immediate need of help will not receive compensation quickly enough to do any good. All this, in the name of humanity and justice, must be changed.

Germany has treated Holocaust reparations like any other business—get the best deal possible; pay as little as possible; and be done with it. Holocaust survivors deserve better. It may be that the claims of survivors are unprecedented; but that is because the Holocaust was unprecedented.

But as we are in the last stages of our lives, there are many needy and lonely survivors who live in distressing circumstances. With an average age exceeding 75, they feel forsaken, afflicted by illness and, in addition to the usual complications of growing old. They still carry the nightmares of the Holocaust.

Now we know that circumstances could have been very different had survivors played a larger role in the compensation negotiations with Germany. Germany would not have dared to take the adamant negotiating positions it regularly took with the Claims Conference had survivors who still bore the numbers of the camps tattooed on their arms been present. And if Germany had played "hard-ball", survivors—from the United States and elsewhere around the world—would or should have walked away from the negotiating table, and taken their case public, or to their own governments for support. For the last few years, we proved the importance of the survivors at the negotiating table. Yes, without survivors, we would not achieve these gains.

Survivors have dedicated themselves to not permitting the world to forget the Holocaust. They played a leading role in establishing museums, memorials and other Holocaust remembrance-related projects in Israel, the United States and elsewhere. We did this not for ourselves—we know what happened—but for the rest of the world, which had to be educated and reminded.

We now are equally determined to do what is necessary to make certain, in the little time we have left, that fellow survivors live out their years in dignity; not full of fear and frustration.

Germany's war against the Jews was more brutal and relentless than the war it waged even against the Allied soldiers. To fulfill its moral obligation, Germany should have a