

the term "nation building" has taken on new significance as we near the end of the millennium. National borders that were static during the Cold War have changed and in some countries the institutions necessary for a functioning government have crumbled. We need only look as far as Israel to realize what can be accomplished with a vision and the will to fulfill it.

In 1948, 600,000 Jews emerged from the Holocaust to forge a nation committed to the ideals of democracy and the prosperity of its people. Having survived the genocide that has since been burned into the world's collective memory, the founders of the Jewish state embarked on a mission to unite a people speaking over 100 languages and dispersed for 2,000 years in 140 countries. At the time it seemed like an impossible challenge, yet today it is a reality that represents one of the greatest, most breathtaking accomplishments of this century.

The founders of Israel did not recognize the obstacles before them as limitations but as opportunities. Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion used to say that a man who does not believe in miracles is not a realistic person. Yet, not even he imagined what could be accomplished in just 50 years.

Despite the toll taken by six wars and innumerable terrorist attacks, despite the difficulties inherent in resurrecting an ancient language and absorbing 2.6 million immigrants, the people of Israel have created a nation at the forefront of technology, industry, art and academics. They have created a nation that embodies democratic principles and practices. They have served as a staunch ally of the United States in the most dangerous region of the world.

On May 15, 1948, when President Truman first declared our nation's support for the free state of Israel, I was eight years old. On that day my father sat me down and, with great emotion, told me what a historic event it was, how important it was to Jews around the world who were struggling to rebuild their lives, reaffirm their identity and heal their communities after years of suffering. His words rang true and they left a lasting impression.

Since then I have traveled to Israel many times. I have had the privilege to know as friends former Prime Ministers Rabin and Perez, two extraordinary courageous leaders. I have seen how the Jewish people have never shied away from adversity, but have faced it fearlessly and with a commitment to overcome. But despite all they have accomplished, much work remains. Many of us will not be here to mark Israel's 100th anniversary. I fervently hope, however, that those who are here to celebrate will be able to recount to their own children and their grandchildren the events that led to a lasting peace for all the citizens of this small but powerful nation.

Mr. President, I offer my congratulations to the people of Israel and reaf-

firm the bond that President Truman first established in 1948. •

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE CHARLES C. BROWN, JR.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the outgoing chair of the YMCA of the USA National Board of Public Policy Committee and a fellow Pennsylvanian, Judge Charles C. Brown, Jr.

For the past three years, Judge Brown has steered the public policy initiatives of the YMCA of the USA through good and bad times. As a result, the YMCA of the USA now enjoys a strong and credible standing in the public policy arena. Under Judge Brown's leadership, the YMCA has earned the respect of other nonprofit organizations, administration officials, senators, and congressmen alike. Sadly, this month Judge Brown will step down as chair of the YMCA of the USA National Board of Public Policy Committee.

During his tenure as chairman, Judge Brown was instrumental in shaping a new direction for the YMCA movement. The quintessential professional and team builder, the Judge—as he is respectfully called by his colleagues—was never satisfied to let the nation's largest youth-serving organization remain on the sidelines of public policy advocacy. Through Judge Brown's vision and guidance, the YMCA of the USA developed legislation which was introduced in Congress to expand youth development programs; held three national conferences to educate policy makers on the role and impact of YMCA programs; took the lead in coordinating a national coalition to support school-age child care provided by nonprofit organizations like the YMCA; helped shape and direct national legislation on juvenile justice; and became a leading national resource on the state of America's children, youth and families. Although one of these achievements would have been impressive in and of itself, the Judge insisted on a comprehensive, integrated advocacy role for the YMCA. For these and many other reasons, Judge Brown's leadership will be sincerely missed by the YMCA of the USA National Board of Directors.

Mr. President, I believe it is important to recognize Judge Charles C. Brown's contributions to one of the nation's oldest and most respected organizations, the YMCA. As he prepares to pass the reigns of leadership, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending the Senate's best wishes for continued success to Judge Brown and his family.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CO- LUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise to offer my congratulations, on the occasion of the Centennial of the oldest social work training program in the

nation, to the Columbia University School of Social Work. Evolving from a summer program organized by the Charity Organization in New York, the School of Social Work has a long history of pioneering research, informed advocacy, and exceptional professional training.

It is a remarkable accomplishment that social workers have played key roles in every major social reform movement, from settlement houses to labor reform, to the New Deal, to civil rights and voter registration. Many of the things we take for granted today—Social Security, child-labor laws, the minimum wage, the 40-hour work week, Medicare—came about because social workers saw injustice, acted, and inspired others.

Throughout the century, Columbia's faculty, students, and alumni have worked tirelessly to address both the causes and symptoms of our most pressing social problems. National movements, such as the White House Conference on Children and the National Urban League, have emerged from projects undertaken by the School's faculty and administrators in cooperation with professional and community organizations. The entire nation has benefited from the research and work of people such as Eveline Burns (Social Security); Mitchell I. Ginsberg (Head Start); Richard Cloward (welfare rights and voter registration); Alfred Kahn and Sheila B. Kamerman (cross-national studies of social services); and David Fanshel (children in foster care).

As the School, and indeed the social profession, move into their second centuries, they will be challenged to respond to social change, new social problems, family change, and evolving societal commitments. Now more than ever, we will need well-trained and dedicated social workers to work with troubled children and families, organize communities for change, conduct cutting-edge research, administer social programs, and alleviate society's most intractable problems.

It is with appreciation and admiration that I extend my best wishes to the Columbia University School of Social Work on its Centennial and look forward to its future activity and achievement. •

#### RECOGNITION OF FAMILIES FOR HOME EDUCATION

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, in observance of Home Education Week, May 3-9, I rise to pay tribute to the eight regions of Families for Home Education (FHE), in my home State of Missouri, for their excellence and continuing efforts to better the home education system. I have always recognized the importance of family involvement in the education of our youth and applaud the efforts of home educators to make a difference in the lives of their families.

In today's complex society it is especially significant to have guidance in

the development of our children and their continuing education. Through adult mentors, home schoolers develop, not only a close relationship with their families, but also acquire the much needed interpersonal skills through involvement in civic and community organizations in form of apprenticeship opportunities.

The support home schooling receives helps to cultivate its success through family participation in our communities. My home State of Missouri especially relishes the high quality of home education and the strong family values it teaches. I commend the energies of FHE and the families that help make it possible. I wish FHE continued success and growth in future years. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN E. SIRMALIS ON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED EXECUTIVE AWARD

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, this morning here in Washington, Dr. John E. Sirmalis, Commander of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) in Newport, Rhode Island, is receiving the Distinguished Executive Award. Vice President GORE will take part in this ceremony.

Having worked with John Sirmalis for many years, I can say with certainty that he is a most worthy recipient of this prestigious award. Dr. Sirmalis has served our nation and our Navy admirably during a distinguished career. Widely recognized as the Navy's foremost authority on undersea weapons systems, Dr. Sirmalis has helped bring about improvements in methodologies for developing and testing undersea warfare (USW) systems and components. In particular, John has implemented a program to identify submarine technology opportunities for the year 2010, leading the Navy to shift its focus from traditional antisubmarine warfare to find responses to new and more complex military threats.

Dr. Sirmalis' outstanding work at NUWC/Newport has contributed to the evolution of a facility that is widely recognized as a center of excellence within the Navy and the Department of Defense (DoD). NUWC has consistently sustained a high level of technical productivity, as it has become a leader in the use of commercial-off-the-shelf components and open system architecture. These attributes are today more important than ever at a Defense Department that is greatly constrained by tight budgets.

It was certainly no surprise to me that during the defense base realignment and closure (BRAC) process, NUWC/Newport was designated one of the Navy's four principal research "mega-centers." I look forward to NUWC/Newport continuing to maintain its important contribution to our national security under the leadership of Dr. Sirmalis. So my heartiest congratulations to John Sirmalis on re-

ceiving the Distinguished Executive Award. All Americans are well-served by the outstanding performance of this genuine public servant. ●

#### HIGHER EDUCATION REPORTING RELIEF ACT

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am proud to have become a cosponsor of S. 1724, the Higher Education Reporting Relief Act. As many of my colleagues know, this bill would repeal the reporting requirements imposed on colleges and universities when Congress enacted the HOPE scholarships and the Lifetime Learning Tax credit last year.

The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 contained many important provisions for American families, particularly in the area of education. As a part of this bill, Congress created several new initiatives to make college and higher education more affordable for students throughout our country. The Hope and Opportunity for Postsecondary Education (HOPE) scholarship provides students with a 100% tax credit for up to \$1,000 of their tuition costs for higher education and a 50% credit for the next \$1,000 spent on their tuition. This credit can be claimed by the student, their spouse, or parents if they are still a dependent. Another program created by Congress to ease the financial burden of higher education for our working families is the Lifetime Learning Tax Credit.

Both of these programs are helping make college and postsecondary education more affordable. Unfortunately, when Congress created these new education programs, we inadvertently levied very costly and burdensome reporting requirements on our educational institutions. Beginning in the 1998 tax year, schools are required to compile and issue annual reports on their students for the Internal Revenue Services. Under the new law, schools are now responsible for providing detailed information on all their students, including name, address, Social Security number, attendance records, academic information, tuition data, along with the amount of qualified student aid.

Preliminary studies indicate that the cost to our nation's universities and colleges to comply with the new reporting requirements will range from \$125 million to \$150 million for just the first year. The three colleges in my home state of Arizona expect that this new requirement will cost them approximately \$400,000 to begin the reporting system, which will turn into an annual expense of \$200,000 for each of the institutions.

This reporting requirement is costly and counterproductive. At a time when Congress and the Federal government are trying to make college affordable, contain costs, and make higher education more accessible to millions of students, we are subjecting schools to excessive and unnecessary reporting requirements. According to the Commission on the Cost of Higher Education, a

primary factor contributing to escalating tuition costs is excessive government regulation and reporting requirements.

This is why I am cosponsoring Senator COLLINS' bill, the Higher Education Reporting Relief Act, which repeals the requirement for schools to report personal information on their students to the IRS. Instead, the new HOPE scholarships and Lifetime Learning Tax Credit will be treated like all other existing tax credits. The individual taxpayer will be responsible for providing the IRS with the pertinent information on their tax returns and maintaining appropriate records to substantiate their claims.

This important piece of legislation prevents the limited resources of our colleges and universities from being wasted on unnecessary administrative costs and allows them to focus on our students and their education. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO DANIEL SMITH

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Daniel Smith, for his unyielding support for and commitment to the Northeast Dairy Compact. With the help of Dan Smith the Dairy Compact has become an instrument of balance that is critical to the needs of both farmers and consumers in the New England region, as well as a model of success for the rest of the country.

A carpenter by trade, Dan Smith, for more than ten years unselfishly committed himself to the crafting and building of the Northeast Dairy Compact Commission. Dan's dedication to the survival of New England's small farms and his desire to finish the job has benefited all those who value the strong agricultural communities in New England. With a bachelors degree from Dartmouth College and a law degree from the University of Wisconsin, Dan served as law clerk to the Honorable Frederic W. Allen, Chief Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court. As legal counsel for the Vermont State Legislature, Dan carefully drafted the Dairy Compact legislation. He then worked as Executive Director for Dairy Compact Committee, nurturing the Compact legislation through each of the six New England state legislatures, resulting in overwhelming support in each of the states. After six years of traveling throughout New England educating legislatures and building support for the Compact, Dan turned his efforts to Washington, D.C. and to the ratification of the Northeast Dairy Compact by the U.S. Congress.

Mr. President, few initiatives in my memory have sparked such a vigorous policy debate as the Dairy Compact. Dan worked closely with me and my staff to develop and execute the many strategies that helped pass the Compact. The passage of the Compact was a long shot in the minds of many, but I knew that with Dan Smith's commitment we would succeed. I am proud to