

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

EARTH SCIENCE WEEK

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in the nineteenth century, Merriwether Lewis and William Clark explored the western reaches of our expanding country. As they explored my home region of the Pacific Northwest, Lewis and Clark cataloged the mineral and natural resources of the land. In particular, they spoke of a mighty river known to the local inhabitants as Nch'i Wana, the Great River. We know it today as the Columbia River and its importance as a reliable source of water and power to the people of the Pacific Northwest is undeniable.

When Twentieth Century American explorers embarked on a similar journey to explore the Moon, one of their earliest actions was to bend down to the surface and pick up a rock. That simple movement framed an ancient reflex that underscores the basic imperative to explore our surroundings. Today, I want to recognize the important role played by the earth sciences in expanding our economy, supporting our national goals, and increasing our knowledge of the larger world.

Modern geophysical research reveals that ours is a dynamic planet. On the Earth's surface, great tectonic plates shift continental positions with terrific force. On the ocean's surface, microscopic plants and animals help regulate global atmospheric gases and serve as the foundation of our planet's food web. In the deep ocean abyss, mysterious and wondrous animal communities thrive in endless darkness by deriving life-sustaining nutrients from active volcanic vents.

Earth science is a global science that speaks a global language and unites people by promoting sustainable development. The study of earth science provides the skills necessary for locating and utilizing natural resources, understanding natural processes that often conflict with human designs, and comprehending our natural heritage through the unusual perspective of geologic time. The unique panorama of geologic time allows us to observe the full range of natural processes on Earth and aids in developing a comprehensive view of the natural world beyond a perspective limited only to that of human influence.

In my home state of Oregon, we celebrate the land and respect the power of nature. We have learned to protect our citizens and expand our economy by working with nature and prudently mitigating natural hazards. In consideration of the importance of the earth sciences in the daily lives of all Americans, I submit, for the RECORD, the resolution issued by the Association of American State Geologists.

The resolution follows:

Whereas the earth sciences are fundamental to society; and

Whereas the earth sciences are integral to finding, developing, and conserving mineral,

energy, and water resources needed for society; and

Whereas the earth sciences promote public safety by preparing for and mitigating natural hazards such as floods, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, sinkholes, and coastal erosion; and

Whereas the earth sciences are crucial to environmental and ecological issues ranging from climate change and water and air quality to waste disposal; and

Whereas geological factors of resources, hazards, and environment are vital to land management and land use decisions at local, state, regional, national, and international levels; and

Whereas the earth sciences contribute critical information that enhances our understanding of Nature,

Therefore, be it resolved that the second full week of October henceforth be designated as Earth Science Week.●

DR. BOB LEFTWICH

• Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the exemplary efforts of Dr. Bob Leftwich, a school counselor in Ellijay, Georgia. Over the past years, Dr. Leftwich has worked with students in his area by talking to them about life and their futures. In his discussions, he has urged students to be the very best they can be and to make firm commitments to excellence.

Dr. Leftwich is a prime example of a hero in my book. He is a committed advocate for young people and the freedoms they can achieve through hard work and perseverance.

It is people like Bob, with the motivation he brings to our students, who will be remembered when these students are the leaders of our great nation. They will no doubt look back and remember the impact that this individual had on their lives. And hopefully they will follow his lead by getting involved with young people themselves.

Once again, Mr. President, I would like to thank Dr. Leftwich for his dedication to excellence. His work should serve as an encouragement to others to become more involved with the education of our nation's youth.●

NEBRASKA GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

• Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I would like to recognize seventeen outstanding young Nebraska women who have been honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest achievement award a U.S. Girl Scout can attain.

The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishment in leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. This year's winners completed projects such as creating a multicultural mural at a local school; cleaning, rust-proofing, and painting bathhouses at Two Rivers State Park; and building a large scale doll house that will teach independent living skills to children at the Hattie B. Munroe Center. The Nebraska recipients were honored by the Great Plains Girl Scout Council in Omaha, Nebraska.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over two and a half million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girls Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. The Gold Award represents the culmination of the achievement of many goals.

I would today like to honor these Nebraskans for their exceptional efforts in attaining the Gold Award: Megan Rachel Adams, Alyssa Ann Arthur, Gina R. Dowis, Elizabeth Ann Holland, Melody E. Jones, Sara Anne Jones, Kjirsten R. Kellogg, Stefanie Kuder, Tera R. Maeder, Katie Michalski, Stephanie Jane Patton, Kelly Peters, Marie Roscoe, Melissa Jo Scurlock, Elizabeth A. Sigler, Karianne Sis, and Samantha Waterman. I salute them for their significant service to their community and our country.●

NELSON MANDELA CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise to make a few comments regarding the passage of H.R. 3156 late yesterday. This bill authorizes the President to present, on behalf of Congress, the Congressional Gold Medal to Nelson Mandela. I am very pleased that the Senate has acted swiftly to pass this legislation.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest honor that the United States Congress may bestow on a civilian. This prestigious award has been bestowed on a variety of people whose leadership and lives have left an indelible impression on our great nation. President Mandela is without a doubt, one of those persons who has earned our recognition through his leadership in the quest for freedom and equality.

His ongoing struggle for such noble causes has carried the people of South Africa into a new era. And, his compassion for the downtrodden has been felt around the world uplifting all people suffering from oppression.

Mr. President, I would like to thank the ranking member of the Senate Banking Committee, Senator SARBANES for his efforts in seeing this legislation through the Senate in an expedited manner. I would also like to thank Congressman HOUGHTON for first introducing this bill, H.R. 3156, in the House and for all of his hard work and leadership.●

TRIBUTE TO ED WILLIAMS

• Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Ed Williams of Valdosta, Georgia, a man who has dedicated more than three decades of his life to bringing a Veterans Clinic to the Valdosta area. His dreams and hard work were realized with the April 28, 1998 opening and dedication of the new Valdosta Veterans Health Care Clinic.

Ed is one of the few survivors of the original group of veterans who began working to bring a veterans clinic to Valdosta 35 years ago. I commend and

graciously thank Ed Williams for all of his determination and hard work over the years in bringing this clinic to Valdosta.

The Valdosta Veterans Health Care Clinic, located at 2123 N. Ashley St. in Valdosta, will serve the 7,000 veterans in Lowndes County and almost 5,000 veterans in the surrounding counties. The veterans of Georgia owe Mr. Williams the deepest gratitude and appreciation for his tireless efforts to secure the new facility.

Mr. President, I would like to acknowledge and honor Ed Williams for his outstanding and innumerable contributions over the years to the Valdosta area, to the State of Georgia and to our Nation. He has dedicated his life to inspiring and improving us all, and I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting and congratulating Ed Williams on the opening of the Valdosta Veterans Health Care Clinic. It is great to see all of Ed's hard work pay off!•

CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to bring to my colleagues' attention an opinion piece from the New York Times by Bruce A. Lucero. Mr. Lucero until recently owned and operated the "New Woman, All Women Health Care" abortion clinic and remains, in his words, "staunchly pro-choice." He also supports my Child Custody Protection Act, S. 1645, currently being marked-up in the Judiciary Committee. This article shows, I believe, that even strong pro-choice advocates have good reason to join with those of us who are pro-life in supporting parental involvement in their daughters' decision whether or not to have an abortion.

In his article, Mr. President, Mr. Lucero points out that the Child Custody Protection Act is important for the health of teen-age girls across America. By making it illegal for anyone to take a minor across state lines for an abortion without first meeting the home state's parental notification requirements, this Act sees to it that parents are involved in their daughter's critical medical decision of whether to have an abortion. Where teen-agers cannot consult their parents, for example because of abuse, a judge may waive the parental notification requirement. But as Mr. Lucero points out, parents almost always are the best source of emotional support and financial assistance for girls facing unplanned pregnancies. In addition, teen-age girls who avoid consulting their parents too often end up having later term, more dangerous procedures and avoiding necessary follow-up care. These factors combine to increase medical risks significantly for teen-age girls who undergo secret abortions.

Mr. Lucero calls for people on both sides of the abortion issue to join in supporting the Child Custody Protection Act. As he states, "The only way we can and should keep abortions legal is to keep them safe. To fight laws that

would achieve this does no one any good—not the pregnant teen-agers, the parents or the pro-choice movement."

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the abortion issue will take seriously Mr. Lucero's point, that the health and well-being of the teen-age girls of America is too important to allow ideology to keep their parents from fully participating in crucial decisions such as whether or not to have an abortion, and I urge them to support S. 1645, the Child Custody Protection Act.

I ask that the full text of Mr. Lucero's article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the New York Times, July 12, 1998]

PARENTAL GUIDANCE NEEDED

(By Bruce A. Lucero)

Alexandria, VA.—I am a doctor who performed some 45,000 abortions during 15 years in practice in Alabama. Even though I no longer perform abortions, I am still staunchly pro-choice.

But I find that I disagree with many in the pro-choice movement on the issue of parental notification laws for teen-agers. Specifically, I support the Child Custody Protection bill now being considered by Congress. Under the legislation, it would be illegal for anyone to accompany a minor across state lines for an abortion if that minor failed to meet the requirement for parental consent or notification in her home state.

The legislation, which the House is scheduled to vote on this week, is important not only to the health of teen-age girls, but to the pro-choice movement as well.

Opponents of the measure believe that the bill would simply extend the reach of a state's parental notification or consent law to other states. And they claim that teen-agers would resort to unsafe abortions rather than tell their parents.

In truth, however, in most cases a parent's input is the best guarantee that a teen-ager will make a decision that is correct for her—be it abortion, adoption or keeping the baby. And it helps guarantee that if a teen-ager chooses an abortion, she will receive appropriate medical care.

In cases where teen-agers can't tell their parents—because of abuse, for instance—parental notification laws allow teen-agers to petition a judge for a waiver.

Society has always decided at what age teen-agers should have certain rights—be it the right to drive a car or the right to vote. In the same way, society should determine at what age a minor has the right to an abortion without notifying their parents.

In almost all cases, the only reason that a teen-age girl doesn't want to tell her parents about her pregnancy is that she feels ashamed and doesn't want to let her parents down.

But parents are usually the ones who can best help that teen-ager consider her options. And whatever the girl's decision, parents can provide the necessary emotional support and financial assistance. Even in a conservative state like Alabama, I found that parents were almost always supportive.

If a teen-ager seeks an abortion out of state, however, things become infinitely more complicated. Instead of telling her parents, she may delay her abortion and try to scrape together enough money—usually \$150 to \$300—herself. As a result, she often waits too long and then has to turn to her parents for help to pay for a more expensive and riskier second-trimester abortion.

Also, patients who receive abortions at out-of-state clinics frequently do not return for follow-up care, which can lead to dangerous complications. And a teen-ager who has an abortion across state lines without her parents' knowledge is even more unlikely to tell them that she is having complications.

Ultimately, the pro-choice movement hurts itself by opposing these kinds of laws. I have had many parents sit in my office with their teen-age daughter and say, "We never thought this would happen to us" or, "We were against abortion, but now it is different."

The hard truth is that people often become pro-choice only when they experience an unwanted pregnancy or when their daughter does. Too often, pro-choice advocates oppose laws that make common sense simply because the opposition supports or promotes them. The only way we can and should keep abortions legal is to keep them safe. To fight laws that would achieve this end does no one any good—not the pregnant teen-agers, the parents or the pro-choice movement.•

Y2K PROBLEM

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, President Clinton yesterday called for urgent action regarding the Year 2000 (Y2K) problem in a speech at the National Academy of Sciences. The President stated "This is clearly one of the most complex management challenges in history." He cited progress in American business and the Federal Government in preparing for the Y2K problem, while simultaneously noting "far too many businesses, especially small-and medium-sized firms, will not be ready unless they begin to act."

I am pleased to see that President Clinton is speaking openly about the seriousness of the Y2K computer problem. Over two years ago I stated "that the Year 2000 problem is indeed serious, and that fixing it will be costly and time-consuming. The problem deserves the careful and coordinated attention of the Federal Government, as well as the private sector, in order to avert major disruptions on January 1, 2000." On July 31, 1996 I sent President Clinton a letter expressing my views and concerns about Y2K. I warned him of the "extreme negative economic consequences of the Y2K Time Bomb," and suggested that "a presidential aide be appointed to take responsibility for assuring that all Federal Agencies, including the military, be Y2K compliant by January 1, 1999 [leaving a year for 'testing'] and that all commercial and industrial firms doing business with the federal government must also be compliant by that date."

I trust the President's acknowledgment of the Y2K issue as a grave and pervasive problem will prompt the agencies and private sector to act quickly. Yet having spent two years studying the problem and warning of the lagging progress of federal agencies in addressing it, I must state that combating the millennium bug at this late date "looks to be the 13th labor of Hercules." I can only hope that both American businesses and the Federal Government follow the President's