

Association recently awarded the Mount Carmel Medical Center the 1999 NOVA award. NOVA awards recognize innovative community partnerships that address communities' needs.

The collaborative outreach efforts of Mount Carmel Medical Center demonstrates true dedication to the community. I am pleased and proud to recognize Mount Carmel Medical Center for its leadership, vision, and achievements. Mount Carmel is an excellent example of a hospital that has made a difference.●

NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK

WASHINGTON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

● Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize National Hospital Week, when we pay tribute to our Nation's hospitals, and the millions of workers, health care professionals, and volunteers who have dedicated themselves to caring for those who are sick and in need.

I would like to give special recognition to Washington Regional Medical Center, located in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and a 1999 recipient of the American Hospital Association's NOVA award. This award highlights innovative community partnerships that respond to a particular community's needs.

Washington Regional Medical Center is a 1999 NOVA award winner for its outstanding commitment to the children in Washington County. Chronic disease and disability, which can lead to death, are often attributed to poor health habits that are formed during childhood. The Washington Regional Medical Center is working to reverse this trend through its Kids For Health program. By partnering with the Washington County school system, the medical center has been able to teach more than 8,000 children about the importance of general health, nutrition, fitness, hygiene, safety, environmental health, and self-esteem.

A sign of the program's success, Kids For Health is the recipient of a five-year grant from the Harvey and Beatrice Jones Charitable Foundation. Kids For Health is a stellar example of how a hospital can make a difference in its community, and I commend Washington Regional Medical Center and all those who have made this program possible for their excellent achievements.●

YAKIMA VALLEY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, this week hospitals and communities across America are celebrating National Hospital Week. This week is set aside to celebrate the caring and commitment of our nation's hospitals and health systems and the workers, volunteers and other health professionals who are there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for their neighbors who need them.

An example of this dedication is Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital in Yakima, Washington. I want to commend Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital for receiving the American Hospital Association's 1999 NOVA award. These awards spotlight innovative community partnerships that respond to local needs.

Yakima Valley Memorial was chosen as a NOVA award winner for creating the Children's Village for children with special health care needs. The entire building has the feel of an old western town. It features logs on the outside, stone floors, a covered wagon for a reception desk and an elevator disguised as a mineshaft stocked with treasure.

More important than the architecture is the integrated services of fourteen area health, education and service providers that work together at the Children's Village. Children that used to travel two hours or more for care now have access to specialty care in their local community. Parents can schedule a single appointment for their child that combines several treatments and therapies. The village also offers specialty clinics for fetal alcohol syndrome, cardiology, neurology, and cleft lip and palate.

I am proud to recognize Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital for its achievements. It is an outstanding example of a hospital that makes a difference in its community.●

TRIBUTE TO AMY LYMBURNER, THE 1999 LONDONDERRY YOUTH OF THE YEAR

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Amy Lymburner on being named the "1999 Youth of the Year" by the Londonderry Business Council. I commend her outstanding accomplishments and congratulate her on receiving this distinguished honor.

Active in both her school and community, Amy has set high standards of community involvement that is an example for others to follow. As a student at Londonderry High School, Amy is recognized by her teachers and peers as a role model for others. In addition to striving for academic excellence, Amy is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Drama Club, and the Math League.

Attempting to make a difference in her town and state, Amy is President of Crossroads, a Christian youth group. Community leaders have commended Amy for her leadership abilities, integrity, spirit, and service to her school, church, and peers.

Mr. President, young people are our nation's greatest asset, and it is heartwarming to see people such as Amy taking an active role in the betterment of the community. I am proud to call her one of New Hampshire's own. I wish to congratulate Amy on her accomplishments, and it is an honor to represent her in the United States Senate.●

SPECTRUM HEALTH'S UNIVERSAL INFANT HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this is National Hospital Week, and one of Michigan's hospitals, Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is being honored by the American Hospital Association (AHA). National Hospital Week gives health care workers, volunteers, and other health professionals the recognition that they deserve for all the care they provide.

Spectrum Health has been singled out by the AHA for its Universal Infant Hearing Screening program, located at Spectrum's Downtown Campus in Grand Rapids. This program is the recipient of the AHA's prestigious Hospital Award for Volunteer Excellence, an award which highlights special contributions of hospital volunteers.

Spectrum's Universal Infant Hearing Screening program identifies potential hearing loss in all babies born at or transferred to the Spectrum Health Downtown Campus. It is well known that such early identification and intervention can prevent a hearing problem from becoming a handicap.

Universal Infant Hearing Screening volunteers must undergo extensive training to prepare for this program. After the volunteers administer the screening, audiologists review the test results to identify infants with potential problems. Those infants with abnormal results are referred for re-screening or diagnostic testing. Without the work of the volunteers, it would be impossible to provide this vital service to the thousands of babies born at Spectrum Health every year.

Mr. President, I would like to congratulate Spectrum Health for its award winning program.●

NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate a group of individuals and agencies whose cause represents the ideal of public service—the improvement of the lives of those who are less fortunate. The Maryland Association of Community Action Agencies (MACAA), which begins its annual conference Monday in Ocean City, is a group of seventeen Community Action Agencies (CAA) which combat poverty in cities, towns and rural communities throughout our State, and provide services to countless low-income families and individuals.

This year's MACAA conference is made even more significant as 1999 marks the 35th anniversary of the creation of Community Action Agencies. CAA's were developed as part of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 which was the centerpiece of President Johnson's War on Poverty. This Act also began other critical social service programs including the Head Start pre-school program and the Job Corps Training Center program.

Currently, the MACAA serves individuals and families in Baltimore City and 23 counties throughout Maryland. Working with 1000 agencies nationwide, CAA's serve 98% of our Nation's cities and counties and are a primary source of support for the more than 38 million Americans living in poverty in rural and urban areas. Services provided by CAA's and their dedicated volunteers include employment training, adult and child educational services, senior assistance, income management, housing and rental assistance, emergency services and food and nutritional relief. Whether it is through the exchange of information on poverty issues, the provision of services and assistance, the development of funding resources, or the effort to influence public policy, the ultimate mission of these agencies and volunteers is to assist low-income citizens to achieve a higher level of self-sufficiency.

Mr. President, for more than 30 years, MACAA has sponsored this annual conference which brings together hundreds of individuals involved in the effort to eliminate poverty. Appropriately, this May has been designated National Community Action Month, and May 4-10 has been designated National Community Action week to publicize the achievements of CAA's and to emphasize their continuing importance in our communities. This is a most fitting occasion to celebrate a coalition such as MACAA, which is so integral to the health and well being of citizens throughout Maryland. I am pleased to congratulate the MACAA for thirty years of invaluable service, and for their efforts to, to borrow the CAA credo, provide a "hand up, not a hand out."

TRIBUTE TO RITCHIE BERNARD, THE 1999 LONDONDERRY BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Ritchie Bernard of Londonderry, New Hampshire, for being named the "1999 Business Person of the Year" by the Londonderry Business Council. I congratulate him for his record of excellence in business and community development.

Ritchie owns the House of Samurai in Londonderry, New Hampshire. Dedicated to educating the youth of Londonderry in the martial arts, the House of Samurai is currently celebrating its 25th anniversary.

As a devoted contributor to the Londonderry business community, Ritchie has served on the Board of Directors of the Londonderry Rotary Club, the Londonderry Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Derry Boys and Girls Club. His activism extends far beyond the business realm and is evident by his participation in various community organizations and causes. Ritchie is highly regarded in the Londonderry community and across the state for his karate school programs, his support of

town programs, and his involvement in many volunteer organizations.

Small business is the backbone of our economy in the United States. I am proud to honor Ritchie for preserving and establishing a thriving business in New Hampshire. He has devoted himself to working toward the betterment of the community through his activism and his desire to educate the youth of New Hampshire in the martial arts.

Mr. President, as a former small business owner myself, I understand the demands of running a business. I commend Ritchie for his diligent work in his business as well as the devotion he has shown to the community. I wish to congratulate Ritchie on receiving this distinguished award, and it is an honor to represent him in the United States Senate. •

HONORING SENATOR JOE BIDEN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 10,000TH VOTE

• Mr. REID. Mr. President, two American soldiers have died in Kosovo, the first American casualties of a war to stop a genocide.

The contrast between what is unfolding in the Balkans, and what is happening here in Congress, could not be more clear.

A dictatorship, like the government of Slobodan Milosevic, imposes its will through force.

A democracy expresses its will through the act of voting.

Every vote that we cast in this body is an affirmation of the power of a democracy to solve its problems peacefully.

Today, my colleague and good friend JOE BIDEN cast his 10,000 vote in this body. That number reflects a record of public service matched by very few even in an institution like this one, through which so many great men and women have passed.

As Senators, we are all Members of a very exclusive club. We have been sent here on behalf of the good people of our respective States, to do their business.

With his 10,000th vote, JOE BIDEN has joined an even more exclusive club.

Over the history of this republic, thousands of men and women have served as Senators. But only a very few can say that they did such a good job—and kept doing a good job over such a long period of time—that they lasted long enough to vote as many times, on as many different issues, as JOE BIDEN.

But the thing that impresses me the most about JOE BIDEN's 27 years in the Senate isn't what he has done on the floor, or the number of votes he has cast—although his leadership, courage and dedication are well-known to those of us who are privileged to serve with him every day.

Instead, what impresses me most is his role as a husband to his wife Jill, and father to his sons Beau and Hunter and his daughter Ashley.

JOE BIDEN still lives in Delaware with his family and commutes every

day between Delaware and Washington on the train.

Those 10,000 votes represent thousands of hours spent alone on the train to Delaware so that JOE BIDEN could spend a few precious hours with his family each night before returning to Washington on the train the next morning.

I also want to talk about the courage that my friend JOE BIDEN has shown during his long tenure as a Senator. I want to do this so that people know just what that number—10,000 votes—really means.

Only one month after first being elected to the Senate in 1972, JOE's first wife Neilia died tragically in an automobile accident along with his one-year old daughter.

In 1988, JOE was almost killed by a brain aneurysm. He underwent two risky operations and returned to the Senate after only a few months.

Mr. President, I speak of these tragedies today because I know that it has not been easy for JOE. But he has never complained—just done his work. Senator BIDEN is a great orator, but an even Better father, husband and friend.

When you see what he has had to overcome, that gives a whole new meaning to that number 10,000.

Those of us who work with JOE BIDEN have long known of his dedication to the ideals of this body, and his devotion to his family.

With the attention that his 10,000th vote should bring, I hope that more people are able to see the qualities that we are privileged to see every day. •

RECOGNIZING NEVADAN JERRY CRUM

• Mr. BRYAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Nevadan for his exemplary volunteer service to the disabled community both in Northern Nevada and across the United States. Jerry Crum has become a recognized leader through his advocacy on behalf of people afflicted with Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome, CFIDS. Since being diagnosed with CFIDS himself in the mid 1980's, Jerry has worked to increase awareness of this often misunderstood disease, and to improve the lives of those who suffer from it.

Jerry was incapacitated through much of the 1980's. After several years in and out of hospitals, however, he made a strong, though not complete recovery. As his strength increased, so did his efforts to help others with this debilitating condition. At the same time, he also saw that people with other disabilities and chronic illnesses had encountered many of the obstacles he had. He then sought to share his story with others, and to teach others with disabilities how to be effective advocates for themselves.

In 1990, Jerry became a charter member of the CFIDS lobbying organization called CACTUS. In 1992, he helped start the CFIDS Association of America's