when she stepped into a group of people that were beating a man and risked bodily harm to protect him, she made a greater statement than she could have dreamed. I was certainly moved by the picture of a young black woman shielding a Ku Klux Klan member from an angry crowd. And from the tremendous response her action has gotten, it appears that people all over the Nation were moved as well.

Extremely modest about the incident and her status as ''heroine'', Keshia credits the people who raised her, joking, ''who says teenagers don't listen.'' She considers herself very much a product of her upbringing by her parents and several other adults who taught her from an early age the value of education and tolerance. My office contacted Ms. Thomas and discovered that she was no stranger to Washington, DC. In 1994, Carol Tice, one of the influential people in Keshia's life, took her to the signing of Goals 2000, where she met President Clinton. Other family friends like Joseph Dulin, a principal of an Ann Arbor High School, Joe Lewis, Keshia's horseback riding instructor, and Bernadette Lewis have provided and continue to provide her with support and instruction.

Each of these men and women deserve credit in their own right, for recognizing the importance of mentoring young people. Far from the political rhetoric of family values, these people have shown by example what a valuable investment a community can make by supporting its children. The image of Keshia Thomas' bravery and humanitarianism touched us all, and we must remember that—like every image, there is a whole story behind it.

Keshia Thomas didn't act with the intention of being lauded by the press or given awards, and that is what makes her actions truly heroic. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for giving the country a stunning example of compassion and a valuable lesson. Her philosophy of nonviolence echoes that of history's most influential activists. ''Beating someone won't change their mind * * * maybe what I did might change somebody's mind.''

After the incident was over, one of the first things that made Keshia Thomas feel like a hero was her 11-year-old brother telling her he was proud of her. Mr. President, I think we all are. ●

TRIBUTE TO GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to salute an outstanding group of young women who have been honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award. The Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn and symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The award can be earned by girls aged 14–17, or in grades 9–12.

The young ladies from Kentucky who will receive this honor are: Alicia Beth Ayers, Nancy Bach, Karen Blandford, Stacy Cook, Erin Davis, Kimberly Dudgeon, Erin Emery, Emily Evans, Allison Grant, Sharon Hagan, Kimberly Hall, Colleen Kelly, Jennifer Kovacs, Katherine Lindle, Shannon Metcalf, Amy Poppell, Pasquel Ross, Emily Shults, Kimberly Stephenson, Renee Stewart, Heather Watt, Kate Woodford, and Allison Zettwoch from the Kentuckiana Girl Scout Council.

Christie DeMoss, Julie Ann Greis, Mindy Hiles, Jacqui Meier, Angela Schierberg, and Christina Teeters from the Licking Valley Girl Scout Council.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over 2.5 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must earn four interest project patches, the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, as well as design and implement a Girl Scout Gold Award project. A plan for fulfilling these requirements is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

Mr. President, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to these outstanding young ladies. They deserve recognition for their contributions to their community and their country and I wish them continued success in the years ahead.●

EQUITABLE RELIEF WITH RESPECT TO S. 1880, THE STOP TAX-EXEMPT ARENA DEBT ISSUANCE ACT

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I recently introduced two bills to correct a serious misallocation of our limited resources under the present law rules that govern the issuance of tax-exempt bonds. My first bill, S. 1879, the Section 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organizations Tax-Exempt Bond Reform Act of 1996, would increase funding for educational and research facilities at private colleges and universities by removing the arbitrary and injurious $150 million cap on the amount of tax-exempt bonds that can be issued on their behalf. The Senate has twice passed this measure as part of larger legislation that was vetoed for unrelated reasons.

My second bill, S. 1880, the Stop Tax-exempt Arena Debt Issuance Act—or ''STADIA'' for short—would provide a particularly appropriate revenue offset for the first bill. This bill would end a tax subsidy that inures largely to the benefit of wealthy sports franchise owners, by eliminating tax-subsidized financing of professional sports facilities. This legislation is important in its own right, and would close a loophole that ultimately injures State and local governments and other issuers of tax exempt bonds, that provides an unintended federal subsidy—in fact, contravenes Congressional intent—and that contributes to the enrichment of persons who need no Federal assistance whatsoever.

I chose to introduce S. 1880 with an immediate effective date for a number of reasons. Most importantly, Congress intended to eliminate the issuance of tax-exempt bonds to finance professional sports facilities as part of the Tax Reform Act of 1986. An immediate effective date is appropriate because the issuance of these bonds contravenes the clear and expressed intent of Congress. Also, an immediate effective date is necessary to prevent a rush to market. I have no doubt that bond market professionals would act very quickly to issue stadium bonds if provided a window of opportunity in which to do so. The potential for a rush to market would have a predictable impact on the revenue estimate for this measure.

At the same time, I recognized that a few localities may have expended significant time and funds in planning and financing a professional sports facility, in reliance upon professional advice on their ability to issue tax-exempt bonds. Thus, in my introductory statement, I specifically requested comment regarding ''the need for equitable relief for stadiums already in the planning stages.''

In response to my request, several localities that had been planning to finance professional sports facilities with tax-exempt bonds have already come forward. They have provided the details necessary to craft appropriate ''binding contract'' type transitional relief. They have also informed me that, despite my clear statement that appropriate transition relief would be afforded, some proposed stadium deals could be delayed or called into question in reaction to the introduction of the bill. Let me emphasize that the mere introduction of the bill has caused this reaction.

It is flattering that the mere introduction of a bill is given such credence by the bond markets. It is important to note, however, that at the time I introduced my bill to eliminate tax-exempt financing for professional sports facilities, 1,879 bills were on file in the Senate and 3,659 bills were on file in the House in this Congress. The vast majority of these bills have not and will not become law, including, in all likelihood, S. 1879 and S. 1880.

The history of this Senator's efforts to remove the $150 million cap demonstrates this lesson well. The cap was first imposed under the Tax Reform Act of 1986, which President Reagan signed into law on October 22, 1986. I first introduced legislation to repeal this cap in 1987. Since then, legislation to remove the cap has been approved by the Finance Committee four times. Twice the legislation was passed by Congress, and both times President Bush vetoed the bills containing this measure for other reasons. Today, the cap remains in law.

At all events, I have considered the circumstances of the localities that have contacted my office in response to my earlier request. I am told that time is of the essence with respect to several of these transactions. Accordingly, in an effort to respond expeditiously to this need, I am inserting into the RECORD language for a binding contract-type transition relief provision. This modification represents my best effort to draw an equitable line to distinguish between those projects that have progressed to a point where the bill should not cause a disruption, and those projects that should be subject to the bill if enacted. It is my intent that this language be included, as if introduced as part of the original bill, if and when the bill is adopted in committee or in floor action. Further, I will be certain to include this language when reintroducing this legislation in the 105th Congress.

Mr. President, I ask that this language be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to bonds issued on or after June 14, 1996.

(2) EXCEPTION FOR CONSTRUCTION, BINDING AGREEMENTS, OR APPROVED PROJECTS.—The amendments made by this section shall not apply to bonds—

(A) the proceeds of which are used for—

(i) the construction or rehabilitation of a facility—

(I) if such construction or rehabilitation began before June 14, 1996, and was completed on or after such date, or

(II) if a State or political subdivision thereof has entered into a binding contract before June 14, 1996, that requires the incurrence of significant expenditures for such construction or rehabilitation, and some of such expenditures are incurred on or after such date; or

(ii) the acquisition of a facility pursuant to a binding contract entered into by a State or political subdivision thereof before June 14, 1996, and

(B) which are the subject of an official action taken by relevant government officials before June 14, 1996—

(i) approving the issuance of such bonds, or

(ii) approving the submission of the approval of such issuance to a voter referendum.

(3) EXCEPTION FOR FINAL BOND RESOLUTIONS.—The amendments made by this section shall not apply to bonds the proceeds of which are used for the construction or rehabilitation of a facility if a State or political subdivision thereof has adopted a final bond resolution before June 14, 1996, authorizing the issuance of such bonds. For this purpose, a final bond resolution means that all necessary governmental approvals for the issuance of such bonds have been completed.

(4) SIGNIFICANT EXPENDITURES.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(A)(i)(II), the term ''significant expenditures'' means expenditures equal to or exceeding 10 percent of the reasonably anticipated cost of the construction or rehabilitation of the facility involved.●

TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF PELHAM, NH, ON THEIR 250TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the town of Pelham, NH, as they celebrate their 250th birthday on July 5. The town residents have been busy planning a big birthday bash including a charter ceremony, birthday party, fireworks, the town's largest parade, a fireman's muster and many other enjoyable events for the July 4 weekend. The activities are certain to bring the town together for an historic 3-day celebration.

In 1721, the first settlers came to Pelham. John Butler led a group of families from Woburn, MA, who first came to the area. The Wymans, Jakes, Richardsons, and Hamblets were part of the first group. Butler's memory is now honored by a monument on the town common.

The town of Pelham was incorporated on July 5, 1746. Then Governor Benning Wentworth of the new royal province signed the town charter on that day and named the town of Pelham after Henry Pelham, who was the Prime Minister of England at the time. Pelham had been a member of the House of Commons since 1717, and had been made Secretary of War in 1724. He succeeded Lord Wilmington as First Lord of the Treasury in 1721 and became prime minister in 1743, serving 11 years.

One interesting note is that Pelham was once a part of Massachusetts. In 1741, when the boundary line was finally settled between New Hampshire and Massachusetts, Pelham became part of New Hampshire. Originally, the town was very agricultural and had many dairy farms. Since then most of the farms have disappeared and only a few active farms exist today.

One of Pelham's wel-known residents was the Reverend Augustus Barry who was born in 1861. He was the minister of the First Congregational Church and was very active in the schools until his death in 1899. Today, the town has four major churches—St. Patrick Church, Pelham Baptist Church, the New England Pentecostal Ministries, and the First Congregational Church. Pelham's first library was built in 1896, and will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year.

Several of the events planned for the weekend birthday celebration will take place in the more historic areas of the town. Friday evening's charter ceremony and birthday party will be held on the grounds of the First Congregational Church, founded in 1751 just 5 years after the town was founded.

I congratulate the residents of Pelham on 250 years of history. I wish to extend my very best wishes for a festive weekend of activities and continued prosperity. Happy Birthday Pelham.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO PLUMCREEK TIMBER CO.

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate PlumCreek Timber Co., headquartered in Seattle, WA. Today, Secretary Babbitt will announce the administration's approval of PlumCreek's Habitat Conservation Plan and Secretary Glickman will announce the administration's commitment to expedite the I–90 land exchange.

This HCP is the largest to be approved to date. It covers 170,000 acres of land owned by PlumCreek in Washington's central Cascade Mountains. Under the HCP, PlumCreek has agreed to provide unprecedented habitat protections on an ecosystem wide basis. The plan will protect wildlife habitat in 23 watersheds covering over 418,000 acres of mixed public and private lands.

Designed to complement the President's forest plan, the HCP will maintain current levels of old growth and ensure that all species will find adequate habitat within the planning area. It also emphasizes protection for streamside habitat and other special areas, such as wetland and caves. The plan will benefit all species, not just those currently listed under the Endangered Species Act. In exchange, PlumCreek will receive a long-term permit that will provide the company with regulatory certainty.

Mr. President, one of the primary reasons Secretary Babbitt has taken a special interest in this plan—and why I support it—is that it demonstrates how the Endangered Species Act can and does work on a large scale both to protect species and allow companies to manage actively their forests. It simply take a commitment by the government and by a private entity to work together toward common, realistic goals and respect private rights.

I want also to acknowledge that some of the environmental groups who have reviewed this HCP find it unsatisfactory. I agree that this is not a perfect document. But the process has worked and approval of this HCP demonstrates that we need not dismantle the ESA in order to have reasonable management of private timber lands.

I want to emphasize that I believe it is time to turn over a new leaf in resource conservation. We must acknowledge that private landowners should be held to a more flexible standard than public resource managers. We must start to trust each other a little more and believe that Federal land managers and our private landowners can be, and generally are, good stewards of the land. This HCP establishes a long-term relationship that we should foster.

Mr. President, PlumCreek and the administration are also celebrating their commitment to enter into serious large-scale land exchange negotiations. Under the land exchange agreement acknowledged today, PlumCreek will refrain from entering or harvesting timber for the next 2 years in some roadless areas on its land in order to encourage the Forest Service to expedite land exchange negotiations. The lands at issue are those enmeshed in a checkerboard ownership pattern around Interstate 90 and the central Cascade Mountains.

The I–90 corridor is among the most sensitive areas in the region for the