American, Ms. Elizabeth O'Donnell of Kenmore, NY. I am proud to announce that Ms. O'Donnell is one of three winners of the 1996 HEROES Awards from the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association. This honor is given each year to three individuals who make outstanding and unique humanitarian contributions to local sports programs throughout the United States.

In 1976, Elizabeth O'Donnell abandoned her lifelong dream of professional ice skating to find a more fulfilling challenge. It was at that time that Ms. O'Donnell left the Ice Capades to teach blind and handicapped people of all ages to ice skate. Motivated by her love of the sport and desire to share the freedom of movement, as well as the physical and psychological benefits which accompany skating, Ms. O'Donnell founded the Skating Association for the Blind and Handicapped [SABAH].

In her 20 years as coach, administrator, and president of SABAH, Ms. O'Donnell has taught more than 8,500 physically challenged people to leave behind their wheelchairs and crutches and learn to skate with specially designed walkers and harness systems. A number of Ms. O'Donnell's students have even learned to overcome their disabilities as a result of her coaching techniques.

Ms. O'Donnell's work might best be summarized in the words of Buffalo mayor, Anthony Massielo, the person who nominated her for the 1996 Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association HEROES Award: ''For those people who might have known 'sports' as an abstract, Elizabeth has succeeded in translating the joy of achievement and accomplishment, which is so often overlooked in competitive sports, into a triumph of spirit.''

Mr. President, I want to give my warmest congratulations to Ms. O'Donnell and to the people whose lives she helps make better. Her 1996 Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association HEROES Award is richly deserved.●

## ''REBUILDING EVERY BURNED BLACK CHURCH''

● Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, the February edition of Delta Airline's Sky magazine contained an article about one of this Nation's finest corporate citizens, the International Paper Co.

IP has donated lumber and building materials to the National Council of Churches in its efforts to rebuild black churches burned by arsonists in recent years. One such church torched in 1994 was Friendship Missionary Baptist in Proctor, Crittenden County, AR.

Last year International Paper stepped in to help this congregation. Today a new Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is under construction.

Mr. President, I want to commend this fine corporate citizen for the role it is playing to reverse the misery and hardship that has been caused by these church burnings.

I commend the article to my colleagues and ask that it be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From Sky, February 1997]

REBUILDING EVERY BURNED BLACK CHURCH

LED BY CEO JOHN T. DILLON, INTERNATIONAL PAPER HAS GONE INTO ''THE BLESSING BUSINESS''

(By Timothy Harper)

On Thanksgiving Day 1994, an arsonist apparently torched the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Proctor, Arkansas. It was one of the first in a series of deliberately set fires that spread through predominantly black churches across the South. Many Americans, of every color, were appalled. Not just about race and religion, these were attacks on the ideals of equality and freedom in America. Our concept of what constitutes a civilized society was being violated.

In subsequent months, dozens more black churches were burned, and by the late spring and early summer of 1996, the incidents had become a compelling national story. The FBI began investigating. The National Council of Churches established the Burned Churches Fund. Churches, companies and individuals across the nation made contributions to help congregations rebuild.

Many of the burned churches' congregations were poor, however, and didn't know if they could rebuild, even with donations. Until June 27, 1996, that is. One that date, John T. Dillon, chairman and chief executive officer of International Paper, the world's largest wood products company, quietly told the National Council of Churches that his company would donate lumber and building materials from his company's broad range of construction products.

In his private letter to the Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, Dillon promised to provide as much as was needed to rebuild every church. He put no ceiling on the amount of material to be donated, or the cost. Dillon merely asked the Council, which is overseeing the reconstruction of the churches, to coordinate the effort to make sure that every church got what it needed to rebuild.

Purchase, New York-based International Paper, which had revenues in 1995 of nearly $20 billion and employs about 88,000 people around the world, provides the burned churches with lists of the company's wood and building materials, including beams, flooring, walls, sheeting, siding, shingles, doors and countertops. Churches, with the help of officials from the National Council of Churches, check off what they need and send the list back to International Paper. For churches that were burned to the ground, International Paper is providing up to 100 percent of the materials the company has to offer—and absorbing the costs.

Today, with a shipment of wood and materials from International Paper, a new Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is under construction near Proctor. ''It's a wonderful thing,'' says Charles Eason, a deacon who is helping oversee the rebuilding. ''We're just a small rural church, and this donation has made the difference for us. We don't know when we would have been able to rebuild without it.''

In a memo to International employees explaining the donation, Dillon noted that many of the company's mills and local branches are is small towns across the South. ''Beyond the instant tragedy associated with this wanton destruction, these events strike at the essence of what makes small-town communities so special,'' Dillon wrote. ''For International Paper, small towns and small-town values have long been an important part of our history. The spirit of unity, dedication to purpose and pride in performing well that are so fundamental to these communities have also been indispensable to our company's success. This link, together with the premium we place on corporate citizenship, requires that International Paper respond in this time of need.''

The Rev. Albert Pennybacker, who is overseeing the church reconstruction program for the National Council of Churches, says 124 churches were damaged by burnings. Some were rebuilt before the offer from International Paper, but he and International Paper officials estimate that ''several dozen'' churches ultimately will receive free wood and building materials.

''This is a really remarkable gesture by International Paper, a remarkable commitment,'' Pennybacker says. ''We were overwhelmed by [their] generosity.'' Beyond making the wood and materials available, he says, International Paper has made an extraordinary, perhaps unprecedented, promise to make deliveries right to the churches.

That is no small or easily fulfilled promise. Since many of the burned churches are in isolated areas, down country lanes or out in the middle of farm fields, on land no one else wanted, those special deliveries are often far off the company's established delivery routes, taking drivers and trucks out of their usual rotations. Moreover, International Paper promised to make deliveries within a few days of receiving orders from the churches, thereby adding many thousands of dollars in staff time and rescheduling headaches to the total cost of the company's donation.

Pennybacker says the National Council of Churches originally guessed that the donated materials would be worth $1 million, but he now believes the cost to International Paper could be $2 million or more—at wholesale prices, not counting the considerable costs of delivery. That means an actual savings of several million dollars for churches that otherwise would have to go out and buy their materials at retail prices.

International Paper, meanwhile, does not seem to care what the contribution will end up costing. ''This is an open-ended commitment and, frankly, we're not sure just how much it's going to cost,'' says Carl Gagliardi, the International Paper executive coordinating the program out of the company's Memphis, Tennessee, office. ''This is one of the best things this company has ever done. It's been terrific for morale.''

Indeed, when International Paper's rank-and-file employees received Dillon's note outlining the company's commitment to the burned churches, many of them clamored to be part of it. A few weeks later, Pennybacker got a call at his office at the National Council of Churches headquarters in New York. An International Paper representative wanted to come in and drop off some donations from employees. Pennybacker expected ''a few thousand dollars, maybe.'' The executive showed up with a big box and dumped on Pennybacker's desk checks worth $37,787 from employees. He turned over another check for the same amount from International Paper, for a total donation of $75,574, and explained that Dillon had decreed that the company would match workers' individual donations dollar for dollar.

''During the past several weeks, I received several notes from employees who were eager to contribute to the fund and were eloquent in expressing their appreciation for the company's support for the rebuilding of the churches and communities that were victimized,'' Dillon said in a follow-up companywide note. ''I am extremely proud, but unsurprised, by the compassion, community concern and civic responsibility represented

by your contributions to the Burned Churches Fund. It is just another indication of why I feel so strongly about the men and women who make International Paper's team so extraordinary.''

One aspect of this story is perhaps even more extraordinary: International Paper did not publicize its donation—no corporate news conference, no announcement, not even a press release. Dillon apparently did not want the donation to be seen as a bid for publicity.

The article you are reading would never have been written if the author had not happened to hear about the donation from a Presbyterian minister who has a friend working at the National Council of Churches. When Sky contacted International Paper headquarters, the publicity staff—professionals who are paid well to make sure Dillon and the company look good—agreed to provide copies of Dillon's notes to his company's work force but rebuffed a request to interview the CEO for this article as ''not necessary.''

Dozens of black congregations across the South, meanwhile, are eager to sing the praises of International Paper. ''Oh, good!'' Shirley Hines exclaimed when told that Sky was running a story about the International Paper donation. Hines, in charge of the rebuilding committee at Greater Mount Zion Tabernacle Church in Portsmouth, Virginia, says the congregation did not know if the church could be rebuilt after it burned in May 1995; the estimated cost of $340,000 was just too much.

International Paper's donation last autumn of wood, doors, wall paneling and other building supplies, however, took care of three-quarters of the cost of materials and let the congregation celebrate Christmas in its new, rededicated church. ''International Paper told us to tell them what we needed. We faxed in a list, and in less than a week it was here. It was unbelievable,'' Hines says. ''If not for International Paper, this church would have had to wait two or three years to reopen, if it ever did.''

Hines recalled the dreary day when she, her pastor and several other church members waited in the rain for the first lumber delivery. When the big truck pulled up, she says, they laughed and shouted and cried and danced in the rain, snapping pictures of the forklift unloading the first pallets of wood that would become their new church.

''It made us realize that God is real,'' she says, ''and He is still in the blessing business.''●

## CONGRESSIONAL RECORD STATEMENT HONORING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARREN KIWANIS CLUB

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to salute the Kiwanis Club of Warren, MI, for its 40 years of service to the Warren community.

In 1957, a group of concerned businesspeople, professionals, and citizens formed the Kiwanis Club of Warren to help meet the needs in their community which were not being addressed by government or charities. Since its beginning, the Warren Kiwanis has provided numerous services to people in need, including persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and people requiring medical care. The Warren Kiwanis donated a bus to the Salvation Army, funded a fitness trail at a local park for disabled people, and have helped to pay for thousands of operations, utility bills, and ramps for people with disabilities.

The recent Presidents' Summit on Volunteerism drew the Nation's attention to the importance of giving back to our communities. The people of Warren, like those in so many communities throughout the country, are truly fortunate to dedicated Kiwanis Club members as their neighbors.

I hope my colleagues will join me in expressing congratulations and gratitude to the Kiwanis Club of Warren for their 40 years of good works.●

## TRIBUTE TO MARGARET MACARTHUR

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Margaret MacArthur. Margaret has been selected to appear at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts on May 1, 1997. She will be appearing as the sole representative of Vermont in an annual celebration which will host artists from across the Nation.

Margaret represents the very best of Vermont. Her talent and hard work have been recognized time and time again. In 1985, she was selected by the New England Art Biennial as a New England living art treasure.

Margaret's repertoire consists almost exclusively of Vermont and other New England folk songs. She embodies the spirit of our Green Mountain State and has successfully shared its heritage, through music, with people throughout the country. Once again, I would like to extend my best wishes and congratulations to Margaret MacArthur.

Mr. President, I ask the following article from the Brattleboro Reformer be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Brattleboro Reformer, Dec. 6, 1996]

LOCAL FOLK ARTIST TO PERFORM AT KENNEDY CENTER

(By Jared Bazzy)

MARLBORO.—Folk singer Margaret MacArthur has been selected to appear at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., this spring, as part of the Vermont State Day celebration.

U.S. Sen. James M. Jeffords, R–Vt., picked MacArthur to be the lone performer representing the Green Mountain State.

Jeffords, who chairs the Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts, and Humanities, said Thursday, ''Margaret represents what's best about Vermont's history and culture,'' adding, ''This is a wonderful opportunity for visitors from across the nation to hear a true Vermont artist share our heritage.''

MacArthur said she was invited a few weeks ago, just after she returned from performing at the Folk Song Society in Washington, D.C.

''But I've never sung at the Kennedy Center for gosh sakes. It's pretty exciting,'' she said in a telephone interview from her home in Marlboro.

The Kennedy Center annually celebrates all 50 states with a performance by a local artist from each one. MacArthur will perform May 1, 1997.

Accompanying herself at different times on guitar, dulcimer and harp-zither, MacArthur's repertoire consists almost exclusively of Vermont and New England folk songs. She was raised in the Ozarks of Missouri and moved to Vermont in 1948. She spends winters in Arizona. Therefore, she also sings many songs from Missouri, nearby Kentucky and Arizona.

She said that she will certainly take along her harp-zither, which was given to her by the family of Rawsonville farmer Merle Landsman after it was found in his barn.

She said she will perform songs from a collection of 7,000 Vermont songs compiled by Helen Hartness Flanders. Flanders was the wife of the late Sen. Ralph Flanders, and MacArthur enjoys the connection between their lives in Washington D.C. and her performance at the Kennedy Center.

''This will give me a good opportunity to honor her and her collection,'' she said.

The New England Art Biennial, panel from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, chose MacArthur in 1985 as a ''New England living art treasure.'' Her recording career spans to the early 1960s, when she recorded ''Folksongs of Vermont'' on Folkways records. She has since recorded eight more albums, including several with members of her family, who also live in Marlboro.

Recent local performance ventures included the Brattleboro Museum and Art Center, as part of a series on farming in Vermont.

She is currently completing her 10th recording, which is being produced at Sound Design in Brattleboro and is entitled ''Them Stars.''

MacArthur believes it was her work as artist-in-residence in schools throughout the state that brought her to Jeffords' attention. As a visiting artist, she had children set local folk tales to music which culminated two years ago with the production of ''Vermont Heritage Songs.''●

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE INSURANCE PROVIDES SECURITY [CHIPS] ACT

● Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I'm pleased to be an original cosponsor of the Children's Health Insurance Provides Security [CHIPS] Act because I support expanding access to health care for children who lack coverage today, and because I believe this bill is both flexible and targeted to children in families least likely to have employer-based coverage and least able to purchase health insurance on their own.

It is my hope that States will find the enhanced Federal Medicaid match included in this bill to be a valuable tool to assist many vulnerable families, particularly families moving from welfare to work. Far too many welfare recipients will, at least initially, move from dependency into hourly jobs with little pay and few, if any, benefits. Children should not lose their health care because their parents work.●

## HONORING THE CENTRAL/DELPHI FIRST TEAM

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the achievements of a remarkable group from my home State of Michigan. A team of students from Pontiac Central High School and engineers from Delphi Interior and Lighting Systems won two national