

TRIBUTE TO KENTUCKY'S TOYOTA  
MOTOR MANUFACTURING TEAM  
MEMBERS

• Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to express congratulations to all of the team members at the Toyota assembly plant in Georgetown, Kentucky, on being recognized by J.D. Power and Associates for the high quality of vehicles which they have produced.

It is my understanding that the Georgetown assembly plant is the only plant in North America to win this award this year. Moreover, I understand that all of the cars produced at the Georgetown plant have been ranked best in their category in this year's J.D. Power and Associates survey of the best cars and trucks. Not only is it an outstanding achievement to be chosen by J.D. Power—whose rankings are widely considered to be the industry standard for new car quality—to receive a Gold Plant Quality Award in recognition of outstanding vehicle quality, but to receive this honor for the fourth time in ten years is a truly remarkable accomplishment. I commend you and all of your hard work in earning this award.

News of the announcement by J.D. Power of the Georgetown plant's award follows closely on the announcement by Toyota that the company hit a milestone with a record-breaking production of 1 million vehicles in North America. A significant amount of the credit for this accomplishment, too, belongs to the hard-working folks at the Georgetown facility, and I want to congratulate you on this achievement, as well.

I am proud of the relationship between Toyota Motor Manufacturing and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Since Kentucky made its original investment in Toyota in 1986, the state has realized a 36.8 percent annual rate of return, and has benefited greatly from the more than \$5 billion which Toyota has invested statewide. Most of all, though, I am proud of the work being done by the Kentuckians who work at the Toyota plant. On behalf of myself and my colleagues in the United States Senate, congratulations again on your significant achievement.●

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
ADOPT-A-SCHOOL PROGRAM

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, in May of 1990, the Second Grace United Methodist Church of Detroit and the First United Methodist Church of Northville collaborated to "adopt" a Detroit Public School, Dixon Elementary School. On June 16, 2000, the two churches, one metropolitan and one suburban, will celebrate the tenth anniversary not only of the Adopt-a-School Program, but also of their unique relationship. I rise today to commemorate this occasion.

The primary emphasis of the Adopt-a-School Program is the mentoring

plan. Adults from both of the churches, as well as the local community, provide tutoring and role modeling for the students. In addition to weekly one-on-one sessions, the mentoring plan also includes a toastmasters club, in which students practice speaking in front of audiences, and a great books program, which introduces students to famous books and authors.

In its ten years, the program has experienced continual expansion, as additional activities have been added for the students. There is an awards dinner each year at Second Grace to recognize students who have attained high levels of academic achievement. Christmas and Easter parties are held each year, as well as the Dixon School Spring Cleanup and Flower Planting Day. Church members also participate in school functions, including career day and musical programs. Finally, what began as a summer field trip has evolved into monthly Saturday field trips for the mentors and their pupils.

Mr. President, the partners are pleased with how the Adopt-a-School Program has developed in the last ten years. The program has touched the lives of over 300 students at Dixon Elementary School, and there is no measure for success like that. The partners look forward to its continued development in the coming years. In addition, efforts will be made by the two churches, along with Dixon Elementary School, to develop a training program to share the Adopt-a-School program with other faith-based communities interested in serving our children in urban schools.

Mr. President, I applaud the efforts of the many people whose hard work over the last ten years has made this birthday celebration possible. Each year, when the partners renew their commitment to this program, it is a testament to the bridges that can be built when people simply reach out to one another. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I would like to wish the Adopt-a-School Program a happy 10th Anniversary, and continued success in the future.●

SMURFIT-STONE CONTAINER'S  
MISSOULA MILL NAMED PLANT  
OF THE YEAR

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to bring your attention to the fact that the Smurfit-Stone Container Plant in Missoula, Montana has received the Jefferson Smurfit Group Worldwide Award as plant of the year.

As you know, Montana's wood products industry has been hit extremely hard with federal regulation and the lack of available federal fiber to keep our mills running. Despite these hardships, our mill workers and managers continue to take great pride in their work and continue to do the best with the hand they have been dealt.

The result is that Missoula's Smurfit-Stone Container employees have ensured that their mill rose above

the other 563 Smurfit facilities world wide and defined themselves as being able to increase productivity and reduce operating costs while actually improving safety and the quality of production.

These accomplishments were worker driven and accompanied a 20% reduction of OSHA incidents last year. Some times efficiency comes at the expense of safety or environmental responsibility. This is not the case at the Missoula plant. In addition to reducing injuries, the plant was able to increase paper efficiency while reducing waste, energy consumption and maintenance costs. While Montana's wood products industry relies on renewable natural resources, we are keenly aware that these resources must be conserved and used responsibly. Smurfit-Stone container consistently looks for ways to make the fiber available to them go as far as possible. It makes sense from both a business and an environmental standpoint, and it is a goal that makes them one of the top employers in Montana.

As I mentioned, Montana has been hit extremely hard by federal restrictions on the wood products industry. As a result we have lost 17 mills in Montana over the last decade. These mills provided jobs for thousands of families and numerous communities. While times are extremely tough, Montanans involved in the industry still take great pride in what they do. This is reflected in the honor recently bestowed on the Missoula Smurfit-Stone Container paper mill. Clearly, this mill deserves recognition not only by their parent group, but by Congress as well.●

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS  
GREATER DETROIT CHAPTER  
CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the National Association of Women Business Owners Greater Detroit Chapter, which tonight will celebrate its 20th Anniversary. Since 1980, members of the Greater Detroit Chapter have maintained their commitment not only to helping fellow women business owners throughout Michigan, but also to helping the communities in which these businesses reside.

In its twenty years, the Greater Detroit Chapter, originally the Michigan Chapter, has done much to publicize the efforts of women business owners, and to create alliances between women business owners in the State of Michigan. In 1982, chapter members organized the first statewide conference for women business owners, during which awards were given to women business owners in the following categories: Pioneer, Innovator, Dedication to Women Business Owners and Community Service.

In bringing women business owners together from throughout the state,