

they could improve the quality of the arts and humanities and expand their reach, and we in Congress are very proud of all they have accomplished.

There have been times of controversy and criticism as well, but the Endowments have clearly earned the bipartisan respect and support that they now enjoy. The arts and humanities are an essential part in the life of the Nation and in all of our lives, and the Endowment's mission is to ensure that they always will be.

I commend the current chairmen of the Humanities Endowment and the Arts Endowment, Bruce Cole and Dana Gioia. They follow in impressive footsteps of their illustrious predecessors, through Republican and Democratic administrations alike. We are grateful for all that they and their outstanding staff members do each day to fulfill their important mission.

It is gratifying on this 40th anniversary of the creation of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities to recognize their superb record of achievement, and I congratulate all those who have done so much to make it so.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MASSACHUSETTS BEST COMMUNITY WINNERS

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize three outstanding Massachusetts communities, each of which has been chosen by America's Promise as one of the "100 Best Communities for Young People" in this Nation. The communities of Barnstable County, Brockton, and Cambridge, have demonstrated outstanding civic leadership for our children. Community leaders, businesses, teachers and Government officials work together in these communities to give their children both the tools and the opportunities they need to succeed. I am very proud that such exemplary communities can be found in my home State.

Barnstable has an impressive record of civic involvement. Not only are community leaders active in the lives of their youth, but they encourage their children to participate in community activities. Over 40 percent of the households in Barnstable have young people participating in community service, and this is, in large part, a reflection of the extensive programs in area high schools such as Junior State of America, Mentoring, Peer Leaders, and National Honor Society. In the Barnstable middle school communities, initiatives such as Schools for Success, which works with underachieving youth in the Barnstable Middle School to improve academic achievement and social skills, have evolved and flourished. The community involvement extends outside of the school systems as well with organizations such as Children's Cove, a program run by the Barnstable County district attorney's

office, the State department of social service, and Cape Cod Health Care, together with other community partners to assist children who have experienced sexual abuse.

In Brockton, successful community organizations work tirelessly to provide their children with every opportunity to learn, grow, and remain both physically and mentally healthy. The Brockton After Dark program organizes several different activities each weeknight at seven locations across the city, including basketball games, open swim time, tennis, soccer, performing arts, and open mike nights. By keeping vulnerable youth off the streets, the program contributed to a significant drop in crime. The Target Outreach initiative directs at-risk youth to positive alternatives offered by the Boys & Girls Clubs by recruiting children to club activities as a diversion to gang activities. In its first 2 years, the program far surpassed its enrollment goal. In 2004-2005, 179 members of the Brockton High School Key Club, a partner in Brockton's Promise, completed 3,800 hours of community service in Brockton. Together, the mayor, the district attorney and the chief of police have organized successful Kids Road Races, youth field trips to the local Brockton Rox baseball game, and much more.

The city of Cambridge has also illustrated its dedication to improving the quality of life for its youth and their families. In 1997, Cambridge introduced the Agenda for Children, which consisted of more than 50 meetings with over 600 community members to bring the city's health, human services, schools, police, and library departments together with nonprofit providers and the Cambridge Community Foundation to help improve the quality of life for its youth. In addition, the Neighborhood Service Project provides youth with an opportunity to work with their peers targeting a variety of issues from teen pregnancy to multiculturalism. The Cambridge Prevention Coalition, partnering with other organizations, has developed a Peer Leadership Program which creates teen leaders mobilized around substance abuse issues. All in all, Cambridge has over 150 programs within the city limits attending to the needs and services of youth and their families.

What I have given here is just a small sampling of the incredible programs occurring in the Commonwealth. I applaud these three cities on their recognition by America's Promise; encourage them to continue their great work and I hope other communities will follow their example.●

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MILDRED LIGHT ALDRIDGE

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mildred Light Aldridge, an educator and administrator for many

years and the wife of the late Reverend Dr. Avery Aldridge, who passed away at the age of 77 on September 22, 2005. She was an important member of the Flint community, and she will be sorely missed by many.

Mildred Light Aldridge was born in 1928 in Earle, AR. She received her bachelor's of art degree in elementary education from the University of Michigan-Flint and her master's degree in guidance and counseling from Eastern Michigan University. She taught on the elementary school level and worked as a guidance counselor in several middle schools before serving as principal of the Doyle Ryder Community School until her retirement in 1986. After retirement, she remained active by founding and serving as the director of the Eagle's Nest Child Care and Development Center. She also served for the past 23 years as an instructor of the adult ladies fellowship class at Foss Avenue Baptist Church.

Mildred Light Aldridge participated in various civic and community organizations, including the Flint Chapters of the NAACP and the Urban League, the Visually Impaired Center of Flint, and on the advisory board of the Mott Community College Foundation. She was also affiliated with the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the Flint Congress of School Administrators. In addition, Dr. Aldridge held honorary doctorate degrees from Arkansas Baptist College and Selma University.

Dr. Aldridge is mourned by many in the Flint community and is survived by her two children, Derrick Aldridge and Karen Aldridge-Eason, and by her 10 grandchildren. This is, indeed, a great loss to all who knew her, and I know my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to the life of Mildred L. Aldridge.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN DEERING AND HIS "TESTAMENT" SCULPTURE

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, nearly half a century ago, Arkansas experienced one of its darkest moments. As nine African-American students fought to integrate Central High School, they were accosted by students, threatened by parents and forsaken by local leaders. It took an intervention by President Dwight Eisenhower to bring desegregation to this public school.

But in the 48 years since this event my State has seen brighter days, most recently on August 30, 2005, when I was proud to be present for the unveiling of "Testament," a sculpture of the Little Rock Nine depicting the nine brave students on their journey to claim an equal education.

"Testament" is a tribute by John Deering, one of Little Rock's own, to those students and the courage they demonstrated that day. The life-sized sculpture depicts the nine students as they were in 1957: Equally brave, scared, determined. It is the largest bronze statue in Arkansas and the first