

This year's Hall of Fame class represents the best of our State, and I am proud to see them receive this significant achievement. Not only do they exemplify excellence in their chosen field, they also represent the highest standards of ethics and community service. I thank them for their contributions, along with the contributions of all business leaders in our great State.●

TRIBUTE TO BILLY AND DIANN SIMMONS

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I honor Billy and Diann Simmons from my home State of Arkansas for their exemplary efforts to support foster children in our State. I am proud to recognize them as my choice for this year's "Angel in Adoption" for Arkansas. They join adoption advocates from across the Nation who have received this prestigious recognition.

The Angels in Adoption program, sponsored by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, provides Members of Congress the opportunity to honor those who have made an extraordinary contribution on behalf of children in need of homes.

The Simmons are certainly worthy of this recognition. Diann Simmons became a therapeutic foster parent in 1997 and persuaded her soon-to-be spouse to join her in this noble endeavor prior to their marriage in 1998. The Simmons' have now been therapeutic foster parents for 13 years and have significant experience fostering children with difficult behaviors.

Despite their experiences with children with challenging emotional and behavioral difficulties, they love children and maintain a sense of strong family values. These values have resulted in the adoption of seven children, including two sibling groups of two. Their most recent adoption was finalized this year.

Because of their experience, flexibility, strong family values and their belief in the potential for every child, they have been successful in changing the lives of numerous children. According to those who know them best, the Simmons have developed a strong bond with every child placed in their home. In fact, four of their adopted children were in their home as foster children prior to adoption.

Affectionately called "Mama Diann" and "Daddy Billy," the Simmons' commitment, genuine concern and caring for their foster children has endeared them to many of these children's birth families, including families of their own adopted children.

I commend both Diann and Billy for their dedication and perseverance helping children in need. They represent the best of Arkansas, and I commend them for their work on behalf of Arkansas's children.●

TRIBUTE TO PHIL E. MATTHEWS

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize Phil E. Matthews for his dedicated years of service at the Arkansas Hospital Association. His efforts on behalf of our State's hospitals are to be commended, and I thank him for his efforts to maintain high-quality hospital care for the citizens of Arkansas.

Phil has been a part of the Arkansas Hospital Association, known as AHA, since 1969 and was named president in 2005. During his tenure, he has worked hard to cultivate constructive relationships with State and Federal legislators in order to achieve great results for Arkansas. He has reinforced the AHA as a trusted partner for Arkansas hospitals and other health care providers and entities from all across the State.

In recent years, the AHA has helped to pass laws on the State level that will enhance the health of and health care services for Arkansans, including for the development of a statewide trauma care system, expansion of health insurance coverage for more than 6,000 additional children through ARKids, and public health initiatives that will increase seatbelt usage and decrease tobacco use in the State.

On the Federal level, it has been my pleasure to work closely with Phil and the AHA to develop and pass policies to expand health insurance coverage to more than 400,000 Arkansans, grow the health care workforce in Arkansas, modernize health care delivery and the use of health information technologies, and preserve the viability and valuable role of Arkansas's community hospitals. Together, we have fought back on policies that might have had a negative impact or unintended consequence for Arkansas hospitals, providers, and patients, and we have worked to advance policies that are best for our great State.

I am extremely proud of Phil's and the AHA's efforts to help Arkansas hospitals provide quality care to their patients, provide charity care for those in need, serve refugees of gulf coast hurricanes and other natural disasters, and play an active role in improving health care coverage and quality in Arkansas. I wish Phil all the very best in his retirement, and to Bo Ryall, who will serve as his successor as president of the AHA.●

ARKANSAS'S TRAUMA CENTERS

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize Arkansas's newly established trauma system, and I commend three facilities in the State for garnering the highest designations of trauma care.

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock and the Regional Medical Center in Memphis were selected to provide the highest level of trauma care under the system, which is aimed at getting patients spe-

cialized care in emergency situations. Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Pine Bluff was designated a Level 2 center, which can provide comprehensive clinical care.

The new system will connect hospitals, ambulance services and other emergency responders to act as a statewide triage, transporting trauma patients as quickly as possible to the facility best able to treat their specific injuries. Furthermore, it will help elevate Arkansas's status nationwide in terms of large-scale emergency management and disaster preparedness capabilities.

Eighty-six hospitals in Arkansas could eventually become a part of the new trauma system. Of those, 73 have already begun the process by filing letters of intent to request designation as one of the four levels of centers.

I commend all of Arkansas's health care providers for their dedicated efforts to save lives and keep Arkansans safe, healthy and strong. With this new trauma system, Arkansas has achieved a new level of high quality care, and I am pleased to see our State attain this significant designation.●

IRON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

● Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in honoring the 150th anniversary of the completion and opening of the Iron County Courthouse in Ironton, MO.

Chosen as the county seat in 1857, Ironton is home to the only courthouse in Iron County. Ironton businessmen David Carson and Hiram Tong donated town lots to the county, which covered more than \$10,000 of the \$14,000 cost of the courthouse.

Architect Henry H. Wright received \$25 for his proposed design of the building. George S. Evans and William F. Mitchell earned the building contract and used locally made red brick and white limestone from a nearby quarry. The original building measured 50 by 65 feet, with 6 rooms on the first floor and the courtroom on the second floor. The community laid the cornerstone on July 4, 1858, and officially opened the courthouse in October 1860.

The courthouse today serves as the home of several county offices and is a national registered historic site that still bears damage from the Civil War and the Battle of Pilot Knob in September 1864.

As the birthplace of Missouri's 4-H Program and a symbol of the commitment of the residents of Iron County to justice and service to the community, the Iron County Courthouse deserves commemoration on this important day in its history.

I ask that the Senate join me in recognizing the 150th anniversary of the Iron County Courthouse.●

TRIBUTE TO SHANNON MCDANIEL

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate a hard-working

Washingtonian, Mr. Shannon McDaniel, on his well-deserved retirement on October 29, 2010, after 30 years of dedicated service to Washington State agriculture.

As the manager of the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District, Mr. McDaniel has overseen the provision of water to 4,000 landowners and farm operators on 230,000 acres of farm and ranch lands in eastern Washington. Through his leadership and extensive knowledge of irrigated agriculture, Mr. McDaniel has brought certainty to many farmers in the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District by closely and responsibly managing important water delivery infrastructure.

Mr. McDaniel has assisted me and my colleagues in Congress with the drafting and passage of legislation important to Washington State farmers. He worked closely with both the State and Federal Government to foster strong working relationships with organizations such as the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bonneville Power Administration, as well as with numerous water resource and industry associations to ensure the highest quality of service to farmers and ranchers. Shannon also served as an invaluable resource to the Grand Coulee Project Hydroelectric Authority, the Columbia Basin Development League and the Columbia Basin Project.

The abundance of awards and honors that Mr. McDaniel has received demonstrate his hard work and commitment to Washington State. He has received many prestigious awards including, the National Water Resources Association President's Award, the Washington State Water Resources Association Water Resources Leadership Award and the Bonneville Power Administration's Administrator's Excellence Award for Exceptional Public Service.

On behalf of all Washingtonians, I commend Shannon for his many years of dedicated service to our State. His knowledge, experience, and commitment to dependable irrigation will be sorely missed. I congratulate Shannon and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.●

NEW HAMPSHIRE 2010 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD WINNERS

●Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the Bath Village School and the Hollis/Brookline High School, respectively, for being recognized for their commitment to quality education and the outstanding educational achievements of their students. The Bath Village School and the Hollis/Brookline High School have been designated as 2010 National Blue Ribbon schools, one of the most prestigious honors bestowed upon our Nation's elementary, middle, and high schools.

Each year the Blue Ribbon Schools Program acknowledges exceptional public and private schools whose stu-

dents either perform at a high level or achieve significant improvements in performance having come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Blue Ribbon schools stand out among their peers as examples of excellence in K-12 education. By setting high academic goals and enabling students to attain them, the Bath Village School and the Hollis/Brookline High School have opened up a world of academic and professional opportunities for the next generation of young people.

It is important that we celebrate the efforts of teachers and administrators at schools such as the Bath Village School and the Hollis/Brookline High School and recognize the invaluable contribution they have made to the lives of New Hampshire's children. I am extremely proud that the Bath Village School and the Hollis/Brookline High School have each been honored with this prestigious award.●

RECOGNIZING DARLING'S AUTO

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, our Nation's 27.5 million small businesses all have their own unique characteristics and touching stories. Today, I rise to recognize the contributions of one of those small businesses from my home State of Maine—Darling's Auto that not only has provided exceptional service to greater Bangor but has also invested its time and heart into the community itself.

Darling's Auto has been ingrained in Bangor since 1903, when it first began selling cars, trucks, and bicycles. Over a century later, through hard work and care for the customer, Darling's Auto has become one of Maine's largest auto dealership groups, with additional locations in Brewer, Ellsworth, and Augusta. For over 100 years, Darling's Auto has provided Mainers with the vehicles they use every day to go to work, visit their loved ones, and embark on new journeys. Over the years, Darling's has employed hundreds of Mainers and has earned a reputation of excellence and integrity throughout eastern and central Maine.

Darling's Auto's rich history of perseverance and innovation alone would merit distinction. Yet, today, I honor Darling's Auto for an exemplary and magnanimous gesture that is truly inspirational. Maine is among the States with the highest percentage of military servicemembers per capita. When our servicemembers are deployed, the effects reverberate throughout families, businesses, and communities. Fortunately, Mainers have a reputation for taking care of one another in difficult times, and Darling's Auto certainly has fit that mold.

One of Darling's Auto's valued employees, Susan Maiden, is the mother of PFC Andrew "Andy" Chic. Susan typifies Maine's famed work ethic and independent spirit, values which she instilled in her son. Andy volunteered to join the National Guard and most recently was deployed to Afghanistan

with Bravo Company, Third Battalion of the 172nd Infantry Division with the Maine National Guard. During his heroic service in Afghanistan, Andy's company was ambushed by insurgents.

On May 22, 2010, Bravo Company was conducting convoy operations with Private First Class Chic in the "gunner" position in the lead vehicle of a convoy—a Mine Resistant, Ambush Protected—MRAP—vehicle. Private First Class Chic's MRAP sustained two direct hits from rocket-propelled grenades, or RPGs, and other small arms weapons. While he was knocked down when the first RPG hit, he resumed his gunner position and returned fire against insurgents despite continuing RPG and small arms fire against his MRAP and the convoy. The vehicle was also carrying satchels of mail and care packages from family members in Maine, which absorbed some of the shrapnel and mitigated the injuries to Private First Class Chic and his fellow soldiers.

Following the barbaric attack, Andy was taken to Walter Reed Medical Center to address his wounds and for rehabilitation. Knowing the concern and anxiousness any mother would have in Susan's situation, Darling's Auto stood up and gave assistance to Susan. The company has provided tremendous support to Susan during her time of need by giving her extra time off to see Andy and even purchasing an EZ Pass to help with Susan's expenses when she would drive all the way to Washington, DC, to visit her son. In light of Darling's Auto's understanding and assistance, the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve will soon be presenting Darling's Auto with its "Above and Beyond Award," honoring those who help Guard members and Reservists, and their families, in times of need. Given the tremendous care and compassion extended for Susan and Andy's well-being, I can think of no business more deserving of this tremendous recognition than Darling's.

Darling's Auto has been a consistent presence in the Bangor community for over a century, and the company has thrived over that time because it operates in a manner consistent with Maine values. Darling's has treated its customers and employees with honesty, respect, and compassion, building a legacy of trust. I am so often reminded of the empathy that Mainers demonstrate, and it always reaffirms my belief in the exceptional nature of our State and our Nation. I am proud of the incredible example that Darling's Auto has set by its notable acts of kindness, and I wish the company another 100 years of success in all of its endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING 3RD RECON ASSOCIATION

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 3rd Recon Association. The 3rd Recon Association is a nonprofit veteran's organization made