

Slovak Heritage Festival will contribute proceeds from their programs to the Garden State Arts Center's cultural center fund which presents theater productions free-of-charge to New Jersey's school children, seniors, and other deserving residents. The Heritage Festival thus not only pays tribute to the cultural influences from our past, it also makes a significant contribution to our present day cultural activities.

The Slovak Heritage Festival will open with a business trade show with a number of different exhibits. Chaired by Joseph J. Talafous, this year's event will focus on free trade and economic development. At noon the festival will honor his excellency, the Most Reverend Michael J. Dudick, D.D., Bishop of Passaic, NJ, for his 15th anniversary of dedicated service to the Byzantine Catholic community. A mass will be performed by Bishop Frantisek Tondra, of Spis Kapitula, Slovakia. Following the Mass, the opening ceremony which includes the Slovak fashion show, will take place on the mall. The festival will also feature food, crafts, music, a soccer tournament, and traditional Slovak dancing.

Congratulations once again on the occasion of the 20th Annual Slovak Heritage Festival. I offer my best wishes to all who are celebrating a day of pride in their ethnicity by attending the festival.●

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TRIBUTE TO MR. THOMAS L. AYRES ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

● Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I would like for the Senate to recognize the retirement of Thomas L. Ayres from the Department of Veterans Affairs after more than 41 years of exemplary service in providing health care to the armed service members and veterans of our Nation. On September 30, 1995, Mr. Ayres will retire from his position as the Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Augusta, GA.

Tom began providing health care during his service with the United States Army from 1955 until 1959 at the 279th Station Hospital in Berlin. After his service in the Army, he started his career with the Veterans' Administration by becoming a nursing assistant at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Marion, IN. From 1962 until 1969, Tom worked as a supervisory recreation specialist at the Veterans Hospital in Brecksville, OH. From 1969 until 1972, he served as a voluntary services officer at Veterans Administration Hospitals in both Madison, WI and Gainesville, FL. In 1972, Tom Ayres became a medical administration assistant at the Veterans Hospital in Madison, WI.

Since 1972, Tom Ayres has earned appointments to positions of increased responsibility within the Department of Veterans Affairs. In 1976, he became a hospital administration specialist

and soon thereafter was transferred to the Veterans Affairs central office and served as the executive assistant to the Associate Chief Medical Director for Operations.

Tom Ayres received an appointment to the position of Medical Center Director of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Salisbury, NC in 1981. Nine years later, he became the director of the two-division Veterans Administration Medical Center in Augusta, GA. He also serves as the associate administrator for Veterans Affairs at the Medical College of Georgia and as a member of the Medical College of Georgia's Clinical Enterprise Executive Committee.

Throughout his long and distinguished career in providing health services for U.S. veterans throughout our great Nation, Tom has received numerous awards based on the exemplary performance of his duties. His awards include the National Daughters of American Veterans Commander Award, the Award for Valor from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, three Superior Performance Awards, and five consecutive Executive Performance awards. In 1990, he received the Presidential Rank Award from the President of the United States.

It is important to note that his compassion and sense of civic responsibility does not start and end with his job. Tom is an active participant with the local United Way, Kiwanis Club, American Legion, Senior Executive Association, and the American College of Hospital Administrators. In addition, he serves on the Administrative Board of Trinity on the Hill Church and is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Thomas L. Ayres for his outstanding career spent in service to our Nation's veterans. He is a model citizen in every sense of the term. We wish him, his wife Christa, and their children and grandchildren Godspeed and every success for the future.●

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IN HONOR OF JOSEPH E. BUDD, GRAND MARSHALL OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY PULASKI DAY PARADE

● Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, on September 23, 1995, a distinguished New Jerseyan, Joseph E. Budd, will be appointed the grand marshal of the Middlesex County Pulaski Day Parade Committee. This appointment is based on Joseph Budd's lifelong commitment to his community and country.

Joseph Budd, born in Sayreville, NJ, has lived a life of exemplary citizenship. As a youth, he graduated from South River High School, where he was an all-State baseball player. He then went on to play semiprofessional baseball with Holy Trinity and Saint Mary's of South River, N.J.

After completing his education, Joseph joined the U.S. 77th Infantry Division in the Pacific theater. Joseph distinguished himself as a Sergeant of reconnaissance, receiving five battle stars and a Bronze Star in the Battle of Guam, for his outstanding bravery and superior leadership abilities.

After leaving the military, Joseph continued to play an active role in the veteran community by serving as the past commander of Veterans of Foreign War Post 8025 in Somerset, NJ, and as a member of the American Legion Post 478. In addition, Joseph is also a member of the Catholic War Veterans Post 405 in New Brunswick, NJ.

Employed by the Public Service and Gas Co. for 36 years, Joe retired as an office manager in the customer service center in 1987. Joseph Budd's strong work ethic carried over into his commitment to community service. Throughout his life, Joseph has been a committed member of a number of organizations. Joseph is the past president of the Kiwanis Club of New Brunswick, a member of the Bound Book chapter of Deborah Heart and Lung Hospital Foundation, past chairman of the Franklin Township Industrial Commission, noteworthy member of the Franklin Park Senior Citizen's Club and Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Somerset County, NJ.

Congratulations once again to Joseph Budd on his selection as the grand marshal of the Middlesex County Pulaski Day parade.●

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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MEDICARE, TAX CUTS, PRIORITIES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, next week the Senate Finance Committee will begin to mark up a piece of legislation dealing with Medicare and Medicaid, essentially comports to the budget that was enacted by the U.S. Senate. The issue, as anyone who has been watching television or reading the newspaper recently knows, is Medicare, tax cuts, priorities. I would like to talk about that a little bit today.

This morning I was watching a bit of the morning shows on television and I saw the Speaker of the House and a number of others engaging in a debate about what these issues mean. There are a substantial amount of charges and countercharges going back and forth on the issue of Medicare and the tax cuts. These are important issues, there is no question about that. I do not think anyone denies the consequences of what we do will have a