

their town's name to Manchester to honor Blodgett's prediction that "a city like unto Manchester, England" would rise because of the waterpower at the falls.

In 1831, a group of investors known as Boston Associates began manufacturing textiles by purchasing the rights to the water power at the falls and developing a plan for a major complex of mills. The execution of this plan helped foster 100 years of growth and expansion as the Amoskeag Manufacturing Co., became the largest textile producer in the world. At its peak, Amoskeag employed 17,000 workers and had over 30 major mills.

In March of 1936 Manchester experienced a disastrous flood which completely devastated the city. The determined citizens of Manchester banded together to organize Amoskeag Industries and purchased the mill complex to help rebuild Manchester. The rebuilding of Manchester gave rise to a more diversified industrial base and the emergence of a strong service economy. Through the unyielding support of Manchester's citizens, local government, and banks, the local economy was slowly reborn. The complex of mills that still stand along the Merrimack are a reminder of how Manchester once flourished in the textile industry. The citizens of Manchester still have the Yankee ingenuity and commitment to growth and industry.

Manchester's largest employers are now hospitals, universities, and technology companies. Manchester boasts a strong service and professional economy and is the largest city in New Hampshire. A combination of natural and historical spots are being developed for a potential tourism industry. The New Hampshire Heritage Trail is one of the major statewide projects. Additionally, many residents and visitors enjoy the Currier Gallery, the 883 seat Palace Theater and the Zimmerman House. These historical spots and others are quickly giving Manchester the reputation as the cultural center of the State.

The citizens of Manchester will have much to celebrate on June 8. Among other highlights, the birthday bash will include a 150-foot-long birthday cake, sand sculptures, softball tournaments, classic car shows, and even a laser-light show. The Historical Association will sponsor a kite-flying contest and the high school jazz and concert bands will perform along with the Jack Jackson Big Band. The day promises to be quite festive as many people in Manchester join in celebrating the history of the Queen City.

It is my honor to represent such a successful and thriving city in the U.S. Senate. I congratulate Manchester on the memorable occasion of its 150th birthday and wish the many residents of the city an exciting birthday celebration.

THE VERMONT TEEN PARENT LITERACY PROJECT

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to call at-

tention to a unique project developed by the Vermont Council on the Humanities that was recently honored at a White House ceremony as one of the best arts and humanities programs to help at-risk youth in this country. The teen parent literacy project is simple in concept, yet it is an innovative approach to tackling complex problems that can often result from teenagers having children. Through participating in a series of free reading and discussion programs, teen parents across the State are encouraged to read to their children. This program benefits parents and children in several ways. First, parents learn the value and joy of reading to their children who are in turn, introduced to the importance of reading. Reading to children at home has proven to influence future educational success and bringing together teen parents and their children can help to cultivate a more comfortable relationship as teen parents learn to become their children's first teacher.

The teen parent literacy project has brought together members of Vermont communities who are dedicated to making this program a success for teen parents and their children. Under the leadership of Victor Swenson, the Vermont Council on the Humanities is working with the Vermont Department of Health, local libraries, and individuals from each district. It is no surprise that this program was selected as one of the very finest programs designed to improve the plight of at-risk youth. Teaching parents to read to their children enables us to forge ahead as a literate nation. It demonstrates a commitment to our investment in our children and also in their parents, many still children themselves.

For many young parents in Vermont and throughout the United States, raising children is often met by insurmountable barriers and this program, supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, will help them to overcome some of those hurdles. I am extremely proud of the members of the council and the participants of the program who have made this program a success. •

HONORING FBI SPECIAL AGENT ROY JOHNSON

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a brave warrior in the fight against child abduction. Special Agent Roy Johnson of the Detroit FBI Field Office is being honored today by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) for his heroic efforts in rescuing Adam and Eleazar Alvarado, aged 11 and 3, from their abductors.

Adam and Eleazar are the children of migrant farm workers from Mission, TX. They were abducted in Benton Harbor, MI, on October 14, 1995. The boys had walked to a grocery store to buy potato chips while their mother was washing clothes in a nearby laundromat. They were abducted by Boyd Dean Weekly, a convicted child mo-

lester then out on bail on charges involving the sexual abuse of an 8 year old girl.

Less than 10 days later Special Agent Johnson recovered the Alvarado children and arrested their abductor. Johnson accomplished this amazing feat by responding quickly and decisively to news of the abduction. He requested that NCMEC broadcast fax posters—in English and Spanish—of the missing children to all law enforcement agencies. Expediently searching out and following up on a number of leads and sightings, he concluded that the abductor was taking the children south. Special Agent Johnson then quickly and tirelessly disseminated information to all FBI field offices in the Southern United States. These efforts produced leads concerning possible sightings in Alabama, and it was concluded that Weekly was headed toward New Orleans. An FBI team set up surveillance in New Orleans' French Quarter. Soon thereafter the agents observed and arrested Weekly, who was driving a stolen car with the missing children in it.

Special Agent Johnson's hard work, working with numerous offices and agencies, tirelessly following leads, disseminating information, and coordinating efforts, should inspire us all. His example shows that children abducted by strangers can be recovered safely if the response from law enforcement officers is swift, efficient, and thorough. I would like to congratulate him on a job well done, the other three law enforcement officers being honored by NCMEC for their extraordinary service resulting in the recovery of missing children, and NCMEC for its continuing, important efforts on behalf of children.

TRIBUTE TO OUTSTANDING GIRL SCOUTS IN LOUISIANA

• Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, today I would like to salute 10 outstanding young women who have been honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award by the Girl Scout Council of Southeast Louisiana. They are: Melanie Adams of New Orleans, Lesley Cady of Chalmette, Patricia Claverie of Avondale, Carol Cancienne of River Ridge, Janet Cummins of Metairie, Pamela James of New Orleans, Michelle O'Flynn of Metairie, Angie Raborn of Roseland, Jennifer Reites of Metairie, Jennifer Schiffman of New Orleans.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest honor in U.S. Girl Scouting. It symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning and personal development.

To receive the award, a Girl Scout must earn four interest project patches, the Career Exploration pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and