

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

DEDICATION OF THE PENCE RECEPTION CENTER AND GIFT SHOP

• Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on Sunday, June 9, as part of Tennessee's year-long bicentennial celebration, I traveled to Kingsport, TN, to deliver remarks at the dedication of the Pence Reception Center and Gift Shop, a part of Netherland Inn complex. I ask that my remarks be printed in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

DEDICATION OF THE PENCE RECEPTION CENTER AND GIFT SHOP, KINGSFORT, TN

It's always great to be home in Tennessee, but it's even more wonderful when being here gives me the opportunity to help celebrate Tennessee history, and pay tribute to Tennessee volunteers. And what could be more appropriate—in this place that was once a favorite stop on the Old Great Stage Road from Washington City to Nashville—than that I should also travel from Washington to be here with you today.

Two hundred years ago, our pioneer forefathers banded together to forge a new future for the Southwest Territory. Like the path to the West, the road to Statehood was replete with obstacles—from land disputes with North Carolina to Party disputes that held the territory's Statehood petition hostage to Presidential politics. But the spirit of Tennessee's founding fathers prevailed, and on June 1, 1796 Tennessee became the 16th state in the Union.

One hundred years ago, our Centennial celebration highlighted that pioneer spirit for Tennesseans—and for all the world. Today, with ongoing Bicentennial celebrations like this one in every city and county, that legacy is being carried forth—not just to another generation and into another century, but into the next millennium! What a proud heritage to pass along.

Over the past 100 years, we've watched this area change from one that was almost entirely agricultural to one with modern cities and industrial development. But the Tennesseans who live here have retained their roots in the land, just as the neighborhoods in which they live still retain much of the charm of early America.

Another thing that has not—and will not—change is our volunteer spirit. Ever since that day in 1848, when Governor Brown called for 3,000 volunteers to help win the war with Mexico and 30,000 charged to the fight, our reputation as "The Volunteer State" has gone unchallenged.

Nothing better exemplifies that spirit than this cabin which we dedicate today. Like the entire Netherland Inn complex, it is rich with stories of selflessness and volunteerism—from the foresight of Joe Wimberly, who first proposed the idea of making the Pence cabin part of the Netherland Inn complex, to the generosity of the Carl Brauns who donated it, to the tireless efforts of the entire crew of the Bent Nail Construction Company—and countless others—who helped make this project possible, especially Mr. Ben Brown.

For thirty years, Ben Brown has been a tireless advocate for the Netherland Inn, and this project is but one example of his dedicated support. As Karyn and I—and I'm sure many others—have discovered, once Ben makes a commitment to someone or some project, that support never waivers. We could not have a better friend, nor Kingsport a better community leader, than Ben Brown.

As a result of all your efforts, the Pence cabin will now be preserved forever, not only

as a part of Tennessee history, but as a monument to Tennessee's volunteer spirit.

This year, when so much history is being made in Washington, when we are struggling to restore our Nation to the kind of land envisioned by our Founding Fathers—a land where taxes are low and government is limited, where states have rights, and people have power—I can't help but appreciate even more the rich history of our State and the contributions it has made to our national heritage.

Think about it—right here in this place three Presidents of the United States stopped frequently on their trips to and from Washington—Andrew Jackson, Andrew Johnson, and James K. Polk.

And on a personal note, as a native Nashvillian, I am personally indebted to Col. John Donelson because if he hadn't taken his flotilla of flatboats from Kingsport to Big Salt Lick, my home town of Nashville might never have been founded—and who knows where I would have been born!

Tennessee has a proud history to look back on. But let's not forget that we also have a bright future before us. The volunteers of Tennessee are no longer living on the frontier, but their pioneering minds and spirits continue to drive them toward success. When our descendants celebrate the next hundred years of Tennessee history, I know that they will be just as proud of their ancestors as we are of ours today.

Thank you all for coming. God bless you, and God bless the great State of Tennessee!•

MARTINEZ-GARCIA-NERIO-REYES
AMERICAN LEGION POST 500

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on June 29, 1996, American Legion Post 500 will celebrate its 50th anniversary. In November 1945, after returning from service in World War II, Mexican-American veterans in the Saginaw area began meeting to exchange stories of their experiences during combat. These veterans decided to organize and were later recognized as the Latin American Club for Veterans.

Many Mexican-Americans came to Michigan during the 1920's to work in the fields, on the railroads, and at the auto plants. These migrants experienced many difficulties arising from cultural differences and their inexperience with the English language. After the war, Mexican-Americans in the Saginaw area continued to experience prejudice and discrimination. The members of the Latin American Club for Veterans felt it was important to have a stronger voice in Saginaw to serve the Mexican-American community. Therefore, they decided to apply for a chapter charter in the American Legion.

On April 20, 1946, Latin American Legion Post 500 was chartered. It was later decided to rename the post after the first four Mexican-Americans killed in World War II. The names of Louis Martinez, Julian Garcia, Sifred Nerio, and John Reyes live on today at American Legion Post 500. Since its inception, over 1,000 veterans serving in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm have been members of the post.

In addition to assisting veterans, the post has been involved in helping the

community. The post supports sports teams, donates food to the needy, and sponsors a program where boys travel to Lansing for a week to learn how our State capitol works. I know that my Senate colleagues join me in honoring the Martinez-Garcia-Nerio-Reyes American Legion Post 500 on its 50th anniversary.●

SALUTE TO IOWA GIRLS'
BASKETBALL

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, every year in March, the State of Iowa comes to a virtual halt. Streets are quiet, schools are dismissed, and small towns are all but deserted. It is not some end-of-winter blizzard that clears the streets and shuts down communities. It is the annual pilgrimage to Veterans' Auditorium in Des Moines for the Girls' State Basketball Tournament.

Some States have a such strong tradition in high school athletics that certain sports become part of the State's identity. Like boys' basketball in Indiana and football in Texas, girls' basketball has been a key factor in shaping the identity of Iowa. The enthusiasm with which Iowans follow their girls' high school basketball teams is a testament to Iowa's competitive and community spirits.

Iowa was a pioneer in the growth of girls' basketball. Today's players owe a great deal to those early players and teams for the survival and development of the girls' game. Iowa girls started playing basketball in 1893, just 18 months after Dr. James Naismith created the game. Girls' basketball gained rapid approval from Iowans. By the turn of the century, basketball was the most popular sport for girls in Iowa. The sport was played indoors and outdoors, in church basements and on empty cattle pastures, wherever there was room to fit two basketball goals.

The popularity of girls' basketball in Iowa may have helped save the sport from extinction. In the 1920's, women and girls were discouraged from playing competitive sports because it was seen as too strenuous and unladylike. Girls' basketball virtually vanished from the rest of the country. But Iowans took great pride in the success of their girls' basketball teams. Communities banded together to support girls' basketball, and the sport remained as popular as ever in Iowa. In the 1970's and 1980's, Iowa's basketball success was used as a model for other States in expanding sports opportunities for girls.

Iowa's State tournament was first staged in 1920. It is the oldest continuously held girls' basketball championship in the United States. The State tournament has consistently been played before capacity crowds, drawing fans from all corners of Iowa. The tournament has developed a national and even international following. News media from across the State and around the country gather in Des