

of the crash. With the wreckage burning only 100 yards from two gas stations, these good Samaritans waded into the fiery crash site to rescue complete strangers. Because of their selfless courage, lives were saved and crippling injuries avoided.

Those injured in the accident have my best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery. My heart goes out to the families of Leland, Vicki, and Samuel. Over the years these three airmen have foregone time with their families in order to serve their country, and now the Nation owes them a debt it can never fully repay. All we can offer is our deepest sympathy and highest esteem.●

CHRISTOPHER REEVE ON MEDICAL RESEARCH

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, on March 13, 1997, along with Senator ARLEN SPECTER, I introduced bipartisan legislation, S. 441, the National Fund for Health Research Act. This important bill would provide additional resources for health research over and above those provided to the National Institutes of Health in the annual appropriations process. The fund will help eradicate some of the illnesses that now strike millions of Americans.

At this time I would like to submit for the RECORD a letter from Christopher Reeve endorsing the National Fund for Health Research Act. Christopher Reeve has worked tirelessly since his accident to increase funding for medical research. We all owe Christopher Reeve a debt of gratitude for bringing health care concerns to the attention of all Americans. He and I both realize that the Fund for Health Research Act could hold the key to finding successful treatments for hundreds of diseases. In his letter, Christopher Reeve states that S. 441 will give our best researchers the funds they need to stay ahead of a developing crisis. I agree wholeheartedly with his assessment and urge the Senate to move quickly on this legislation. I now ask that the text of Christopher Reeve's letter be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

CHRISTOPHER REEVE,
March 20, 1997.

President CLINTON,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CLINTON. I was sorry to hear about your unfortunate accident but glad to know you will make a full recovery and that your activities won't be limited in the future. The sight of you in a wheelchair was very moving but also a helpful image for all Americans particularly the disabled.

At the risk of becoming a pest, I'm taking this opportunity to ask your support for legislation introduced last week by Senators Specter and Harkin which would require insurance companies to donate 1 penny out of every dollar they receive in premiums to the NIH. It is estimated that this would provide an additional \$6 billion dollars annually for research.

I feel it is an excellent proposal because it does not raise taxes, the insurance compa-

nies can afford it and they ultimately receive the additional benefit of having to pay for fewer claims. And as I am sure you're aware, recent studies have shown the cost effectiveness of research, is of course a crucial factor in the balanced budget debate. As America ages, the attendant health problems will not go away unless we give our best researchers the funds they need to stay ahead of a developing crisis.

Thank you again for all the helpful comments you have made so far about research since the convention last year. Now is the time for all of us to push into high gear.

With best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER REEVE,

(Signed by Michael Manganiello,
Special Assistant to Christopher Reeve).●

COMMEMORATING THE CITY OF NASSAU BAY'S ASTRONAUT DAY FESTIVAL

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise to commend the city of Nassau Bay for its efforts to celebrate the development of space exploration and the international cooperation associated with it. Nassau Bay is hosting a special day of recognition for America's astronauts and their Russian counterparts on April 12, 1997. In addition, the State of Texas has proudly honored these brave men and women by declaring April 12th "Space Explorers' Day" in Texas. I rise today to appropriately recognize this day in the U.S. Senate.

Nassau Bay is located near NASA's Lyndon B. Johnson Center. The community has been integrally involved in this Nation's space exploration activities since we began the space program a generation ago. Nassau Bay residents were among those to walk on the Moon and provide the technical and managerial support necessary for America's successful space program. Today, Nassau Bay is still critical to NASA's manned space mission. Nassau Bay rightfully celebrates the continuation of that mission by hosting "Astronaut Day" on April 12.

Astronaut Day celebrates the men and women who have expanded humankind's horizons and recognizes the technological advances resulting from their work that have been incorporated into our everyday lives. I join Nassau Bay and the State of Texas in honoring the many dedicated men and women who devote their time and talents to helping this Nation realize the cherished dream of space exploration. They have truly broadened the frontiers of knowledge and their outstanding accomplishments are worthy of special recognition.

Mr. President, I appreciate this opportunity to give Nassau Bay the recognition it deserves in the U.S. Senate. I urge my colleagues to join me, the city of Nassau Bay, and the State of Texas in reflecting on the important contributions our space pioneers and explorers have made to history, science, and the quality of our lives on this planet.●

GIRL SCOUTS AND BOY SCOUTS OF RHODE ISLAND, 1996

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I present to you Rhode Island's outstanding recipients of the highest honors for Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. They have distinguished themselves as community leaders, service volunteers, and mentors for their peers.

For more than 50 years, artist Norman Rockwell captured in his paintings the spirit and sense of America and its people. A large number of these paintings portrayed Scouts and Scouting. Few other childhood activities better represent the commitment to God, country, and community that is inherent in Scouting.

Providing girls and boys with tools and leadership skills that will be useful throughout their lives, Scouting is indelibly linked with transforming youths into able, educated, well-rounded adults. Activities like camping, service projects, and weekly meetings aim to build character, encourage responsible citizenship, and develop physical, mental, and emotional fitness.

The highest honors that a Girl Scout can earn are the Gold and Silver Awards, which are presented to those girls who have shown exemplary commitments to personal excellence and unwavering public service. Likewise, the Eagle Award is the highest honor that can be earned by a Boy Scout. Recipients have displayed the highest achievable skills in outdoor activities and incomparable service records.

Behind every Girl Scout and Boy Scout troop is a group of similarly dedicated parents and leaders who guide the youths through their achievements.

It is for all these reasons that I am proud to honor the recipients of Girl Scouts' Gold and Silver Awards and the Boy Scouts' Eagle Scout Award. The outstanding achievements of these young recipients warrant our praise, admiration, and thanks. So that we all may know who they are, I ask that the complete list of awardees be printed in the RECORD.

The list follows:

GIRL SCOUT 1996 GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

CUMBERLAND, RI

Nicole Tetreault.

JOHNSTON, RI

Shannon Quigley, Sandra Shackford.

NARRAGANSETT, RI

Kate Hohman, Renee Johnson, Jill Raggio.

NORTH PROVIDENCE, RI

Marissa Borrelli.

SAUNDERSTOWN, RI

Angela Briggs.

SMITHFIELD, RI

Heather Harkness, Christina Riccio.

WAKEFIELD, RI

Meghan Higgins.

WOONSOCKET, RI

Melissa Brin.

GIRL SCOUT 1996 SILVER AWARD RECIPIENTS

BRISTOL, RI

Sara Belisle, Kathleen Cahill, Sandra Koch, Afiya Samuel.