volumes and offers online services to the community. It provides CD's, videos, and books on tape. The library also offers special programs for adults and children, and complete reference services. In 1988, the library was awarded the Michigan Municipal League's Municipal Achievement Award Honorable Mention for its outstanding work.

I recently visited the Fenton A.J. Phillips Library and saw the positive influence it has on the local community. In this era when institutions are being asked to do more with less, it is heartening to see this library continue to provide quality service to the public. I know my Senate colleagues will join me in honoring the Fenton A.J. Phillips Library on its 10th Anniversary.●

COMMEMORATING THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF AMERICA

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Dallas Public School System in my State of Texas, and North Dallas High School in particular. Today the school is holding a celebration of cultural unity to recognize a wonderfully diverse student body made up of young Americans with family heritage from 33 different cultures around the world. To celebrate the day, the students of North Dallas High School have painted a mural titled ''Unity Among Cultures,'' which will be unveiled today.

The Dallas Public School System, which administers North Dallas High School, covers over 300 square miles and 208 schools. Over 60 different cultural and linguistic groups are represented, from Amharic to Vietnamese. Within this school system, and most notably at the newly designated First International School of America, these diverse cultures come together as they always have in this country to form the great American culture.

Since its very beginnings as an independent republic, Texas has been a place to which people come to build their lives while helping build the land. No State in this great Nation represents a more diverse and exciting mix of cultures than Texas.

The First International School of America represents this great Texas heritage in a truly unique way, and gives life to the very foundation of these United States, engraved on the wall above me: E Pluribus Unum—From Many, One.

Mr. President, the future of my State and our country passes through the schoolhouse doors of Texas and schools around the country every day. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending North Dallas High School—the First International School of America—for leadership and wisdom in celebrating the cultural unity that makes America great.

FIRST A.M.E. OF LOS ANGELES AND REV. CECIL MURRAY

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute today and commemorate the 125th anniversary of the First African Methodist Episcopal Church in Los Angeles, CA. First A.M.E., as it is known to millions of southern Californians, is the oldest predominately African-American church in Los Angeles. For the past 20 years, First A.M.E. has been led by the Reverend Cecil L. ''Chip'' Murray, who has distinguished himself as one of the leading black clergymen in America during his tenure at this church.

This year's anniversary celebration is about much more than longevity. It is about a legacy of and commitment to leadership and inspiration. First A.M.E. is not only the oldest and most well-known African-American church in Los Angeles, it is also the most highly respected. Its reputation as a place of worship and a center of black community fellowship and action is known to Angelenos of every social and ethnic background. Its voice has been an essential part of a city known for dynamic civic dialog.

In addition to its central role as a church, First A.M.E. also provides much-needed leadership and social service assistance in the community. Church outreach efforts include providing food and housing assistance to families and individuals in need, job training and placement services and working with young people to encourage them along the paths of personal and spiritual fulfillment and social responsibility. Although its focus is primarily local, First A.M.E. has also hosted leaders of national and international stature at its Sunday services. In so doing, First A.M.E. has provided a valuable forum, which has stimulated dialog and action in the community.

One-hundred and twenty-five years ago, a former slave, Biddy Mason, founded the First A.M.E. in her home in what is now downtown Los Angeles. Today, the congregation worships in a beautiful building designed by the renowned black architect Paul Williams. When the first service was held there were only 12 people in attendance. When I was there last year, there were over 600 people at just one service, and there were several held that day.

The Reverend Chip Murray joined First A.M.E. in 1977, when the congregation had but 300 active members. Today, this number has increased to over 9,000, representing all age ranges and every socioeconomic group in Los Angeles' diverse African-American community. Under Reverend Murray's leadership, First A.M.E. has developed 30 task forces that focus on such issues as health, substance abuse, aid to needy families and the elderly, housing and economic development, job training, and tutoring. I cannot say enough about First A.M.E.'s efforts to reach out to people from all walks of life.

Reverend Murray's mission has been to expand the church beyond its walls. As an example, every new congregant is asked to participate in a task force. Efforts such as this help ensure that First A.M.E. remains intimately involved in the life and times of the great city which it serves. Because of this dedication to public service, Reverend Murray and First A.M.E. have become beacons of hope and inspiration in a city where all too often fear and despair prevail. Their hard work and boundless decency represent well the power of faith leavened with action.●

WASTE TIRE RECYCLING, ABATEMENT, AND DISPOSAL ACT OF 1997

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, on March 14, I came to the floor to introduce S. 445, the Waste Tire Recycling, Abatement, and Disposal Act of 1997. Today, I want to make sure that the record is clear on an issue relating to the retreading of radial-type tires.

It has come to my attention that my remarks regarding retreading have led to some concern on the part of those engaged in the retreading industry. There are approximately 1,440 retreading plants in the United States, and approximately 90 percent of the retreading plants are independently owned small businesses.

In my oral remarks on March 14, I said ''the nature of modern steel belted radial tires makes it very difficult to recycle these tires into new ones. Once upon a time, old tires were retreaded, as we all know. You cannot do that with radial tires.'' While that statement is true with regards to recycling rubber from modern radial tires directly into new radial tires, it is not accurate with respect to retreading of radials.

The Tire Retread Information Bureau and the International Tire and Rubber Association recently provided me with the information on the retreading of tires in 1996, when a total of 29.1 million tires were retreaded in the United States. This breaks down to approximately 4.2 million passenger car tires, 99 percent of them radials; 7 million light truck tires, 80 percent of them radials; and 16.5 million medium truck tires—tires for so-called 18 wheelers, 89 percent of them radials. The remainder are off-road vehicle tires, aircraft tires, and specialty tires.

My bill, S. 445, recognizes that retreading tires is an environmentally beneficial fate for tires that would otherwise require immediate disposal. Proposed section 4011(d)(1)(B) provides tire retreaders with an exception to the general prohibition on storage of more than 1,500 unshredded waste tires for a period greater than 7 days. This section affirmatively promotes retreading by allowing retreaders to store at their plants the greater of either 2,500 tires; or a number equal to the number of tires to be retreaded over a 30-day period.●