

Mr. President, I am proud to join my esteemed colleague, Senator DOMENICI, as a cosponsor of this resolution, and I urge each and every Member of this Chamber to do the same.●

THE MEMORY OF JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, today in my State and around the country we recognize the traditional anniversary of emancipation for millions of African-Americans. On this date, June 19, in 1865, slaves in the American frontier, especially in the Southwest, finally received the word that President Lincoln's great cause of freedom had finally been won. Since that date, throughout the American Southwest African-Americans have informally celebrated Juneteenth Independence Day.

As with so many important cultural traditions in America, the meaning of Juneteenth was handed down from parent to child as an inspiration and encouragement for future generations. Earlier this year, the U.S. Congress recognized that tradition when it unanimously passed a resolution honoring the faith and strength of character of those in each generation who kept the tradition alive—a lesson for all Americans today, regardless of background, region, or race.

Mr. President, Juneteenth Independence Day is an important and enriching part of our country's history and heritage. The history it represents provides an opportunity for all Americans to learn more about our common past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped our Nation.

I join my colleagues in both Houses of Congress in honoring those Americans past and present to whom it has meant so much.●

TRIBUTE TO HOVIE LISTER

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a man whose name has become synonymous with gospel music, Mr. Hovie Lister. On July 19, 1997, a group of Georgians will recognize his contributions to the music field at the Civic Center in Atlanta.

Hovie was born into music. At the age of 6, he began studying the piano and later attended the Stamps Baxter School of Music. He often accompanied his family group, the Lister Brothers Quartet, around the piano.

His professional career began when he joined the famous Rangers Quartet and later the popular LeFevre Trio. In 1945, he came to Georgia and was the pianist for the Homeland Harmony Quartet heard over WAGA and WGST Radio in Atlanta.

In 1948, he organized the world famous Statesmen Quartet. The Statesmen steadily rose in popularity and became the premier gospel group in the nation. Hovie, as the group's manager and pianist, soon emerged as the chief spokesman and head of the rapidly growing gospel music industry.

Hovie was also an accomplished director and producer of radio and television shows. He became the first gospel artist to sign a national television contract and successfully directed and produced syndicated television shows for Nabisco, as well as scripted and starred in the company's commercials.

In the early 1980's, Hovie brought together five performers who came from the top four groups in gospel music to form the Masters V. In 1982, this group won the prestigious Grammy Award and in 1986, Hovie was inducted into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame.

Mr. President, I ask that you and all our colleagues recognize Hovie Lister, not just for the contributions he has made to the music industry and my own State of Georgia, but for bringing gospel music to the attention of all Americans.

RETIREMENT OF LT. COL. JAMES A. LAFLEUR, COMMANDER OF FORT RITCHIE

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, it is my distinct pleasure today to recognize the Commander of Ft. Ritchie, Lt. Col. James A. LaFleur, who will retire on Tuesday, June 24th, after 20 years of distinguished service for his country.

A highly decorated soldier and respected leader, Lt. Col. LaFleur also has set standards in an area in which the Army does not give any awards, the Base Realignment and Closure process. With great diplomacy, sensitivity and vision, Lt. Col. LaFleur has presided over this very painful process at Ft. Ritchie, a place rich in history that has proved instrumental in the defense of the United States. Like my colleagues from Maryland and nearby Pennsylvania, I was very surprised and disappointed by the inclusion of Ft. Ritchie in the 1995 round of BRAC closings. The base has provided many good jobs for our constituents and we are all saddened by the Army's departure.

Under Lt. Col. LaFleur's leadership, however, the BRAC process at Ft. Ritchie has progressed as smoothly as possible. His understanding of the connection between the base and the civilian community led him to work with Washington County, the surrounding areas, and the Local Redevelopment Authority to establish a partnership that has facilitated the transition for Ft. Ritchie's employees. He has reduced the closure time by 50 percent, at the same time that his obvious concern for the base's employees has boosted morale. Lt. Col. LaFleur's efforts in this regard have been recognized by BRAC-affected communities across the nation, as well as by the Army and the Department of Defense.

The successful redevelopment process has culminated in the decision by the PenMar Development Corporation to turn Ft. Ritchie into a high-tech conference and training facility, where organizations like the International Masonry Institute will use Ft. Ritchie as an international training center, bring-

ing at least 200 good jobs to Washington County. I.M.I. is even considering building a conference center at this bucolic mountain lake park.

It is quite fitting that the man whose stewardship made much of this possible is the same man who will take the site into the 21st century. I was gratified to learn that, rather than leaving Ft. Ritchie, Lt. Col. LaFleur will dedicate himself to the success of the new PenMar Tech Park, serving as its deputy director. Thus, while the Army is losing an effective administrator and a courageous soldier, Washington County is retaining a respected friend committed to the welfare and economic success of the area.

Lt. Col. James LaFleur began his military service in 1977 with the 4th Infantry Division at Ft. Carson, Colorado, where he was a platoon leader and battalion officer. Since then, he has served in countries across the globe, including both Iraq and Kuwait, during the Gulf War. For his distinguished service, he earned the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with second oak leaf cluster, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with fourth oak leaf cluster, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, and Humanitarian Service Medal.

Mr. President, Lt. Col. LaFleur's service in the field is matched only by his service to Washington County. His determination and spirit has turned a painful base-closing into an opportunity for economic development, all the while engendering a lasting friendship between Ft. Ritchie and the civilians who live and work in its shadow. "Patriotism," said Adlai Stevenson, "is not the short and frenzied outburst of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime." Mr. President, Lt. Col. James A. LaFleur is a true patriot. I congratulate him on his distinguished military career, and look forward to his continued success as a leader in Washington County, Maryland.●

RECOGNITION OF REV. JOSEPH P. MCLAUGHLIN

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, this Sunday, numerous students, parents, and alumni of my Alma Mater, Archmere Academy in Claymont, DE, will be gathering to honor the Rev. Joseph P. McLaughlin, O. Praem. who, during his 26 years as a teacher and headmaster at Archmere, has been more than a pillar of the academy. He has been a vital part of Archmere's spirit, and a tremendous influence in the lives of thousands of young women and men.

One of the cliches that teenagers hear again and again is how their teen years are "the best years of your lives". Well, with all due respect, for most kids, it is not that simple. Too many adults have forgotten how those years are often filled with uncertainty and discomfort, as teenagers undergo