

you to join me in thanking them for their selfless efforts.●

THANK YOU FOR STAFF WORK ON DISASTER RELIEF BILL

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, now that the disaster relief money is flowing to disaster victims, I would just like to take a moment to thank some special people for their hard work in passing the disaster relief law several weeks ago.

First, I would like to thank my colleagues here in the U.S. Senate for their help in passing the disaster relief legislation, which is already helping people back in my home State of North Dakota. I know it was a grueling process and a difficult time for many of you, but I want you all to know that your efforts have already proven to be worth it. On behalf of the people of North Dakota, I want to thank you for your help.

Legislation like the disaster relief bill is only possible when there is a bipartisan effort, not only among senators but among their staffs as well. You know, I often wonder if the people who watch us on C-SPAN or who read about the Senate in the newspaper fully understand just how important our staffs are to the work we do here. So, while our staffs often work out of the spotlight, I'd like to put the spotlight on some truly special individuals whose work on the disaster relief bill represents public service at its finest.

First, I'd like to thank Steve Cortese, the majority staff director for the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Jim English, the Committee's minority staff director. Like most things, good legislation doesn't just happen—it takes hard work to write the language, negotiate painstaking compromises, and make the literally hundreds of difficult decisions legislation like the disaster bill requires. I'm grateful that when the people of the upper Midwest needed the help, these positions of great responsibility were held by such gifted and thoughtful public servants as Steve Cortese and Jim English.

I would also like to thank Mary Hawkins, who led my office's effort on the bill. Her vast experience in Congress was constantly on display throughout the effort to pass this legislation. A legislative expert and a good negotiator, Mary's contribution was inestimable.

Finally, I would also like to thank Doug Norell, my legislative director, who brought a combination of knowledge of Congress and knowledge of North Dakota to the table in this process, in addition to a dedication to do the right thing for our State and a willingness to work as hard as it took to get it done.

Dedicated men and women on both sides of the aisle helped make this badly needed disaster relief legislation a reality, and North Dakota is very grateful.●

THE ST. ALBANS CENTENNIAL

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the city of St. Albans, VT, this year celebrates its centennial, and thousands of citizens turned out on July 5 to mark the occasion in a festive and flawless celebration blessed by Vermont's glorious July weather.

There was a grand parade organized by the St. Albans Rotary Club. There was music. There were recollections and mementos of the city's rich history. And there was a community photograph.

In an article about the centennial published in the Burlington Free Press, reporter Richard Cowperthwait captured the festivities and the sense of history that all Vermonters share. Included in the article is this apt observation from St. Albans Mayor Peter DesLauriers: "We've gone through the life and death of our railroad; we've gone through fires; we've gone through all of these things and today—right now—I think we're literally on the top of the heap here."

Mr. President, I ask that the article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, July 6, 1997]

ST. ALBANS CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

(By Richard Cowperthwait)

ST. ALBANS.—The Main Street banner said it all Saturday; "Celebrate St. Albans."

That is just what thousands did on a resplendent day that marked the city's centennial. Activities ranged from an hour-long parade, ethnic festival and community photograph to fireworks at nearby St. Albans Bay. "I don't know how they could ever top this," St. Albans resident Madonna Vernal said. "It's a beautiful place."

During the past century, the city has seen its ups and downs. It has evolved from a booming railroad hub to a depressed area with double-digit unemployment to a once-again-lively county seat with a rising economy.

"It's a very proud day for the City of Albans," Police Chief David Demag said. "This event was very impressive. It was very much hometown USA."

City officials, residents and visitors from as far away as Belgium pointed to the success of the day and the beauty of downtown Taylor Park. It is situated in the midst of the St. Albans Historic District, between turn-of-the-century brick buildings on Main Street and the imposing churches, Franklin Superior Courthouse and St. Albans Historical Society museum building on Church Street.

"I'm impressed by the buildings" as well as by the friendliness of the people, said Myriam Van Dooren, a Belgian who is visiting friends in Fairfield.

Mayor Peter DesLauriers said the city's centennial homecoming celebration came off without a hitch on a day that had abundant sunshine and temperatures in the 70s. The pleasant conditions contrasted sharply with Friday's unsettled weather that did not stop a crowd estimated at more than 500 from turning out on Taylor Park for seven hours of musical entertainment.

DesLauriers said the city of about 7,600 has persevered through trying times since its first mayor and aldermen were elected March 2, 1997—109 years after the town of St. Albans was organized.

"We've gone through the life and death of our railroad; we've gone through fires; we've

gone through all of these things and today—right now—I think we're literally on the top of the heap here," DesLauriers said.

"The morning parade, which was organized by the St. Albans Rotary Club, was the signature event of the centennial. There were about 30 floats with St. Albans' history on display. They ranged from legendary local musician Sterling Weed driving a horse-drawn wagon to a depiction of the Oct 19, 1864, Civil War raid that put St. Albans on the map.

Following the parade, a crowd gathered near the intersection of Main and Bank streets for a community photograph by local photographer Leonard Parent.

"I wish we could do this more often, not just once every 100 years," City Council member James Pelkey said.●

APPOINTMENT BY THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-18, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education: William D. Hansen, of Virginia; Frances M. Norris, of Virginia; and William E. Troutt, of Tennessee.

APPOINTMENT BY THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-18, appoints the following individuals to the National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education: Robert V. Burns, of South Dakota; and Clare M. Cotton, of Massachusetts.

NATIONAL CAVE AND KARST RESEARCH INSTITUTE ACT OF 1997

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 95, S. 231.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 231) to establish the National Cave and Karst Research Institute in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be placed at appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 231) was deemed read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 231

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Cave and Karst Research Institute Act of 1997".