

America and around the world. This event which begins on September 12, 1997, is worthy of recognition.

Mr. President, I commend each person who will participate in this important conference, which in effect advances and demonstrates the continuing positive contributions of Muslim and Arab Americans. Through lectures, round table discussions, and exchange of ideas, I am confident that this conference will continue to build upon the relationships which exist between the United States and the Muslim and Arab communities.

Many in the Islamic and Arab communities have given generously of their time and energy in preparation for this conference. They are to be commended for their efforts and I am pleased to recognize this event in the U.S. Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY: "COLLEGE OF THE YEAR"

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, as we send our children and grandchildren back to school to begin another academic year, we as a nation focus on the vital role of education.

Florida is proud of its role in developing and nurturing colleges and universities of excellence that have educated generations of America's leaders. One of those institutions, Florida A&M University, has been cited as "College of the Year" by the editors of Time magazine and The Princeton Review.

The editors cited the school's outstanding enrollment of National Achievement Scholars, its position as the only historically African-American college to offer four Ph.D programs, and dramatic enrollment growth.

This well-deserved national recognition is a tribute to the students, alumni, and staff of Florida A&M University. It also reflects the outstanding leadership of President Frederick Humphries, who has led the institution with vision and dedication since 1985.

When classes began this academic year, enrollment exceeded 10,000 students, up from 3,200 in the mid-eighties. Florida A&M University enrolled its largest freshman class ever this fall.

Further, the number of bachelors' degrees awarded since 1991 has more than tripled, from 463 in 1991 to 1,524 last year, surpassing Howard University as America's leading granter of undergraduate degrees to African-American college graduates.

During this decade, Florida A&M University, along with Harvard, has been a leader in attracting National Achievement Scholars. Florida A&M University led the Nation in 1992 and 1995; Harvard in 1993 and 1994.

While all this was occurring—enrollment growth, more degrees awarded and more scholars enrolled—overall admission standards increased. In the past 10 years, Scholastic Aptitude Test scores of Florida A&M University-

bound students rose more than 200 points.

Mr. President, I have been honored to visit Florida A&M University on many occasions. I have experienced the special spirit on campus, in the classrooms, and among the greater Florida A&M University family of alumni, faculty, administrators, and students.

Our State and Nation are better because of Florida A&M University and its commitment to educational excellence. Congratulations, Rattlers.

Mr. President, I ask that an editorial published in the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper on August 26, 1997, be printed in the RECORD.

The editorial follows:

WHY FAMU'S TOP ACHIEVEMENTS RATE NATIONAL PRESS

Vestiges of a past when men and women were judged by the color of their skin are still with us. And one of those monuments of intolerance ranks as one of Tallahassee's brighter stars, Florida A&M University.

In an age where segregation is illegal, the natural question is, Why have two universities: one white, one black?

But the reason for FAMU's existence is as strong today as it was when black people were driven from pillar to post and denied higher education. Time Magazine and the Princeton Review lauded FAMU as the premier producer of black graduates and for its work in establishing doctorate programs.

HE RECRUITED STUDENTS, LINED UP JOBS

Consider what wonders FAMU has performed with students in need of opportunity. Since 1991, the school tripled the size of its graduating classes. President Frederick Humphries' peripatetic efforts landed those graduates hundreds of jobs with major corporations, thus pumping into our mainstream new generations of black achievers able to earn their own way.

His development of new doctoral programs opened new avenues of academic success, and his linkages with the federal government brought dollars and prestige to FAMU and to Tallahassee.

We're still moving toward that day when we'll all be judged by the content of our character, not solely by the color of our skin. But until we get there, institutions such as FAMU are an integral and necessary part of the journey.

In an age of voluntary segregation—when the rich and well-to-do take their tax dollars, culture and opportunities beyond the pale of our cities—hundreds of thousands of blacks and poor whites are left to founder in the race for jobs and college placement.

For those students, the nurturing influence of institutions such as FAMU cannot be denied.●

TRIBUTE TO HONOR PETER WOLF TOTH

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Peter Wolf Toth who has completed a project to present each State with a handmade wooden totem pole that incorporates local and historical figures from all across the Nation. I commend his outstanding gift to our Nation.

Peter came to the United States through extraordinary circumstances. He escaped with his mother from the Soviet takeover in Russian-occupied Hungary. Traveling through Budapest,

Yugoslavia, and Austria, Peter eventually settled in Akron, OH. His interests led him to educate himself in American history, specifically with a focus on native American lore, tribal cultures, and contributions to our lifestyle today.

Peter recently completed a project where he carved out enormous totem poles by hand and presented one to each of the fifty States to show his gratitude to our country.

His totem pole to New Hampshire was presented in 1984 and it stands in Opechee Park in Laconia, NH. The dedication ceremony that September drew a crowd of over 3,000 people.

Peter's immigration into this country, as well as his hard work, should stand as an example for all Americans. It is no doubt that he is worthy of great recognition and praise for his devotion to the United States.

Mr. President, I want to pay great homage to Peter Wolf Toth for his outstanding commitment to the United States. We are indebted to his amazing gifts and talents that he chose to share with all of us.●

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE ALAN GOLD

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I am honored to welcome Judge Alan Gold to the Federal bench in the Southern District of Florida. For more than 25 years, Alan Gold has served the State of Florida with honor and distinction. I have no doubt that his outstanding service will continue in his new assignment. On September 15, Judge Gold will be sworn in, along with Mr. Donald Middlebrooks, in ceremonies in Miami, FL.

Much of my confidence in Judge Alan Gold comes from his lifelong commitment to the people of our State. He began his career more than 25 years ago, when he represented Dade County in both State and Federal courts.

In 1975, Alan Gold moved into private practice, where he developed wide recognition and respect as a leader in land use and environmental law.

In 1984, when I was Governor, I appointed Judge Gold to Florida's Land Management Study Committee, a vital post given our State's long period of rapid population growth. In addition, Judge Gold served Florida for 6 years as general counsel to the Florida High Speed Rail Transportation Commission, an entity created by the State legislature in 1984 to develop a high-speed rail transportation and magnetic levitation demonstration project.

Mr. President, in addition to his substantial professional experience, Judge Gold will bring respected academic credentials to the Federal bench. In 1989, nearly 25 years after completing a masters in law at the University of Miami School of Law, Judge Gold was invited to join his alma mater's faculty as an adjunct professor. It was a wise invitation to an outstanding role model for future generations of legal professionals.

As a result of his distinguished efforts in the public interest and in private practice, Alan Gold was appointed