THE 5TH ANNUAL HEARTS FOR LIFE BENEFIT

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a very special event in the state of Michigan. The 5th Annual Hearts for Life Benefit, sponsored by Right To Life—Lapeer County, will take place on Monday, May 4, 1998, at the Lapeer County Center Building. The Master of Ceremonies will be the Honorable Michael P. Higgins and the guest speaker for the evening will be Monsignor James P. Lisante, director of Family Ministry and Pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle in West Hempstead, New York. He is a champion of pro-life causes.

An event like this one is very important for the pro-life movement. It reinforces the fact that at every level, we have people who value the sanctity of life working together. This is very encouraging. All who are involved with the Hearts for Life event should be commended not only for their efforts in planning it but for their efforts in promoting this very important cause. I extend my best wishes and appreciation to the Right To Life—Lapeer County.●

KATHERINE PATERSON, WINNER OF THE 1998 HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON AWARD

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, my wife and I have lived our lives in Vermont. One of the great advantages of that is the wonderful Vermonters we have gotten to know over the years.

One of our valued Vermonters is Katherine Paterson, who has just won the 1998 Hans Christian Anderson Award for her authorship of children's books.

Mrs. Paterson has written 27 children's books, and she and her husband, the Reverend John Paterson, live on Cobble Hill in Barre Town, not far from our tree farm in Middlesex, Vermont.

While I was home for Easter Break, I read a wonderful article about her in the Saturday, April 11th, Times Argus, and I ask that it be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Times Argus, Apr. 11, 1998]

BARRE AUTHOR WINS WRITING AWARD—FOR KATHERINE PATERSON ''THE CLOSEST I'LL EVER GET TO A NOBEL PRIZE''

(By David W. Smith)

BARRE TOWN—Author Katherine Paterson has just won what may be the most prestigious award in her field, the Hans Christian Ansersen Award, but that doesn't make finding a last-minute seat on a plane to New Delhi any easier.

''It's hard to get a ticket to India,'' she said with a sigh, as yet another phone call interrupted her train of thought.

Paterson, the well-known Barre author of 27 children's books, needs to find her way to the other side of the world by April 20 to receive the award, bestowed every two years by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). An international jury of children's literature specialists selects a recipient who has created a body of work important to the genre. Paterson's work has been translated into 22 languages.

''An award for a body of work is the best kind,'' said Paterson. ''None of your children get neglected.''

Sitting in the parlor of her house on Cobble Hill Road, Paterson joked about the award and the prestige that children's authors accept in lieu of money, but also reflected with a sense of wonder on the amount of attention she's received in her 34-year writing career.

''It's thrilling. I'm surprised at how thrilled I was,'' she said. ''It's the closest I'll ever get to a Nobel Prize.''

Paterson's first attempt at serious writing was a book for the Presbyterian Church explaining questions of religious faith to children. ''Who Am I?'' was published in 1964, but from there it would be a long seven years until another of her works went to press.

''I feel I've paid my dues,'' she said.

Working in a small corner room of her house with a single skylight which she described as ''the room that has books all over the floor,'' Paterson tries to rise each day and write for a few hours before breakfast.

''(It's when) your critical mind is lazier than your creative mind,'' she said. ''I'm glad I have a critical mind, it just gets in the way when you're trying to get through the first draft.'' Paterson writes for children of all ages, but is best known by her novels for 10–14 year-olds, like ''Lyddie,'' The Great Gilly Hopkins,'' ''Bridge to Terabithia,'' and ''Jip, His Story.''

''I really am a writer for children and very happy to be a writer for children,'' she said. ''They're your best audience. They want your book to be the best book they ever read.''

The recipient of many awards, Paterson has also been subject to critical scrutiny. Her books have been singled out as containing everything from obscenity and profanity to religious blasphemy and have even been banished from libraries.

Never one to shy away from difficult subject matter, ''Lyddie,'' deals with the sexual harassment and exploitation of mid-19th century factory girls, while ''Terabithia'' focuses on a child's grief at the death of a special friend. Paterson said that usually it is the adults, not the young readers, who are upset by her work.

''(Adults) don't want to believe that children feel things as deeply as they do,'' she said. ''They want them to stay innocent.''

Paterson said she felt her more controversial work was often released at the same time as other children's books which dealt with similar topics.

''We all breaths the same air,'' she said, ''and we all sort of breathe in themes at the same time.''

A play based on her novel, ''The Great Gilly Hopkins,'' which was adapted by her son David, will be presented by the Center Stage Theater Group on May 8 and 9 at the Barre Opera House. The same play is being performed on Broadway.●

DEDICATION OF THE BETHEL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, on April 26, the Bethel Church of God in Christ will celebrate ''A New Work.'' Not only will this two year old ministry install a new pastor, Elder George Shepherd Christopher, but also, the congregation will dedicate its new church in Pittsburgh. The theme for the installation service comes from Psalm 118:23, ''This is the Lord's doing, it is marvelous in our eyes.''

The Bethel Church of God in Christ is a community based, Bible believing, Christ centered, Spirit directed fellowship. For the past two years, this church has selflessly dedicated itself to community service. The congregation believes it is necessary to minister to the whole person for the glory of God. Having pledged to provide ''Ministry to the heart of East Liberty and beyond,'' the church looks forward to the challenges and promises of the future.

Mr. President, the parishioners and clergy have worked and prayed tirelessly for both the new building and their new pastor. In closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending the Senate's best wishes to the Bethel Church of God in Christ. With God's help, this church will be a light for lost souls in East Liberty and throughout Pittsburgh.●

HONORING THE ARMENIAN VICTIMS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the memory of the ethnic Armenians who died at the hands of the Ottoman Empire from 1915–1923. Last week, we marked the 83rd anniversary of the beginning of a systematic, officially-sanctioned genocide that would eventually claim 1.5 million lives and force more than 250,000 to flee their homeland. As a result, there are fewer than 80,000 Armenians remaining in present-day Turkey.

I have spoken about these events every year of my term, on or near this date, in order to remind the Senate—and to remind the American people—of the sacrifice of these 1.5 million people who were murdered simply because of their ethnicity. In a country where we cherish the ethnic diversity of our citizens and welcome legal immigrants from around the globe, we sometimes forget about the ethnic strife that existed—and continues to exist—all over the world.

Unfortunately, ethnic conflict has led to genocide all too often, as we have seen during this decade in Bosnia, Rwanda, and elsewhere. More recently, there has been a resurgence of ethnic fighting in Kosovo, where the minority Serb population seeks to control the majority Albanian population.

Mr. President, human rights violations have become all too commonplace in the modern world. Beatings, rapes, murders, and ''disappearances'' have become routine weapons of war in battles where the perpetrators are rarely brought to justice. It is my strong view that the United States must continue to lead the fight for global human rights.

The recent death of Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot—who died before he could be tried for the murders of millions of Cambodians—reinforces the urgency of bringing those responsible for genocide to justice. I applaud the efforts of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal which is currently working to prosecute those responsible for the atrocities committed in Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia.