

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN WOOD OF NEW HAMPSHIRE 1998 DISCOVER CARD STATE TRIBUTE AWARD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Susan Wood of New Hampshire for receiving the Discover Card State Tribute Award Scholarship for 1998.

Established in 1992, the Discover Card Tribute Award program honors outstanding high school juniors and seniors across the United States and overseas schools. The Tribute Award Program honors excellence in community service, leadership, special talents, unique endeavors and obstacles overcome. Of nearly 11,000 students nationwide who applied this year, only those who most exemplify these characteristics receive the scholarships. Winners may use their scholarships for any type of post-high school education or training.

Gold, silver, bronze and merit State Tribute Award scholarships are awarded in three categories of study: Arts and Humanities, Trade and Technical or Science, Business and Technology. Due to her outstanding written statement, Susan received a silver award in the category of Trade and Technical Studies.

It is no wonder Susan is one of the recipients of such a competitive award. She is a long-standing member of 4H on the National Level and has served as President of her local chapter. Through 4H, she has volunteered for many community service projects. As a member of an equestrian team, Susan has displayed her leadership qualities by competing successfully, riding in the Eastern States Fair competitions. She is also a member of the Junior National Honor Society at her high school in West Swanzey, New Hampshire. Susan shines as a model student, athlete and citizen.

I wish to congratulate Susan for all of her accomplishments, and especially for being a distinguished recipient of the Discover Card State Tribute Award. It is an honor to represent Susan Wood in the United States Senate.●

ACKNOWLEDGING THE EXCELLENT WORK OF HEATHER MACLAUGHLIN AND ALAN JOHNSTON

• Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the excellent work of two musicians from Minnesota. On June 4, Heather MacLaughlin and Alan Johnston performed at the Kennedy Center. These two are not only excellent musicians, but they are teachers and leaders as well.

Ms. MacLaughlin is one of the Twin Cities' leading collaborative pianists. She has performed with the Minnesota Orchestra and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and her performances have been aired on both Minnesota and National Public Radio. She is a recipient of the prestigious McKnight Artist Fellowship award with violinist Leslie

Shank. This award will allow the two performers to record the Bartok Sonatas for violin and piano and showcase their talents to a national audience.

Mr. Johnston is the founder of the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet (MGC) which is nationally recognized for its excellence. The MGC has performed throughout the United States and on the nationally syndicated radio program St. Paul Sunday Morning. In addition, they have also represented the United States abroad, performing in South America and Spain.

On June 4, these two outstanding performers were invited to showcase their talents here in our nation's capital at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Through this performance the people of Washington benefitted from the talent that we in Minnesota have already been exposed to.

MacLaughlin and Johnston carry on the tradition of great performers who share their knowledge with others so that they, too, may realize their potential. Both are teachers at the MacPhail Center for the Arts in Minneapolis. The MacPhail Center was founded by Minneapolis Symphony member William S. MacPhail in 1907. It has grown out of its humble beginnings of four teachers and 82 students into the second largest community music school in the country. Its 125 instructors teach in over 40 instrument areas, and the school has exceptional programs in Early Childhood Arts and in Suzuki Talent Education.

We in Minnesota are proud of our strong arts community and of the tradition that the Twin Cities area is developing as a center for artistic and cultural expression. The MacPhail Center has made an enormous contribution to the study and enjoyment of music in our community. I am pleased to congratulate the MacPhail Center as well as Heather MacLaughlin and Alan Johnston.●

TRIBUTE TO SARA D. McLAUGHLIN OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1998 DISCOVER CARD STATE TRIBUTE AWARD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Sara MacLaughlin of New Hampshire for receiving the Discover Card State Tribute Award Scholarship for 1998.

Established in 1992, the Discover Card Tribute Award program honors outstanding high school juniors and seniors across the United States and overseas schools. The Tribute Award Program honors excellence in community service, leadership, special talents, unique endeavors and obstacles overcome. Of nearly 11,000 students nationwide who applied this year, only those who most exemplify these characteristics receive the scholarships. Winners may use their scholarships for any type of post-high school education or training.

Gold, silver, bronze and merit State Tribute Award scholarships are awarded in three categories of study: Arts

and Humanities, Trade and Technical or Science, Business and Technology. Due to her outstanding written statement, Sara received a gold award in the category of Science, Business and Technology Studies.

It is no wonder Sara is one of the recipients of such a competitive award. The many activities in which she participates at Gilford Middle High School in Gilford, New Hampshire, include Students Against Drunk Driving, multiple drama productions and Student Council, where she was appointed vice president for two consecutive years. Sara is also a New England ranked competitive swimmer. In addition, she finds time to participate in the "Big Brother, Big Sister" program and Interact Society, a local community service group. She currently holds a ranking of third in her academic class, and aspires to study medicine in the coming years. Sara's many accomplishments and involvements easily illustrate her importance as a model student, leader and citizen in society.

I wish to congratulate Sara for all of her accomplishments, and especially for being a distinguished recipient of the Discover Card State Tribute Award. It is an honor to represent Sara D. MacLaughlin in the United States Senate.●

WEST VIRGINIA'S 135TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I would like to pause for a moment to recognize the achievements of the great state of West Virginia, a land of rugged beauty, vast natural and mineral resources, and a hard-working citizenry. The people of West Virginia celebrate these qualities every day, but today is a special occasion when we celebrate West Virginia's 135th anniversary. It was June 20, 1863 when West Virginia rose from the pain of a house divided and took its place as the nation's 35th state.

The patriotism and commitment to freedom that led West Virginia to split from Virginia in this country's darkest hour have defined the state's history since then. West Virginia was the first state to institute Rural Free Delivery of mail, and its miners led the way in the progressive labor movements of the early 1900's. A leading producer of coal and steel, West Virginia and its people were essential to this nation's wartime economy.

West Virginia's economy continues to expand into the 21st Century. The state is now on track to become a major producer of everything from automobile engines to aircraft to tele-marketing services. In addition, more tourists than ever flock to West Virginia's mountains and valleys for their scenic beauty, recreation opportunities, and friendly folk. West Virginia offers skiing in the winter, blazing colors in the fall, hiking and water sports

in the spring and summer, and treasures like historic Harpers Ferry year-round.

I am proud to represent West Virginia in this distinguished body. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating West Virginia's 135th year in the Union, and that they and their constituents can gain inspiration from West Virginia's motto, Mountaineers Are Always Free.●

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA L. ALDRICH OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1998 DISCOVER CARD STATE TRIBUTE AWARD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Andrea Aldrich of New Hampshire for receiving the Discover Card State Tribute Award Scholarship for 1998.

Established in 1992, the Discover Card Tribute Award program honors outstanding high school juniors and seniors across the United States and overseas schools. The Tribute Award Program honors excellence in community service, leadership, special talents, unique endeavors, and obstacles overcome. Of nearly 11,000 students nationwide who applied this year, only those who most exemplify these characteristics receive the scholarships. Winners may use their scholarships for any type of post-high school education or training.

Gold, silver, bronze and merit State Tribute Award scholarships are awarded in three categories of study: Arts and Humanities, Trade and Technical or Science, Business and Technology. Due to her outstanding written statement, Andrea received a gold award in the category of Trade and Technical Studies.

It is no wonder Andrea is one of the recipients of such a competitive award. A member of National Honor Society, student council, a peer mediator, and captain of the varsity cheerleading team at Plymouth Regional High School in Plymouth, New Hampshire, Andrea has proven her leadership abilities in varying experiences.

In addition, she has found the time to improve the community around her in many ways. In 1995, a self-initiated community service program was begun by Andrea in order to assist underprivileged school-age children in obtaining school supplies. This program, entitled "School Collectibles," has been so successful that it led to Andrea's receiving a bronze 1997 Prudential Spirit of Community Award in New Hampshire. In order to extend her services beyond the state, Andrea paid her own way to Philadelphia to volunteer at St. Francis' Soup Kitchen for an entire April school vacation. She has long been involved in theater productions at school, and has been a dancer for many years. Andrea's generosity, leadership skills and talent in theater illustrate only some of the outstanding characteristics that make her a model citizen and a well-rounded, motivated person.

I wish to congratulate Andrea for all of her accomplishments, and especially for being a distinguished recipient of the Discover Card State Tribute Award. It is an honor to represent Andrea L. Aldrich in the United States Senate.●

FISCAL YEAR 1999 ENERGY/WATER APPROPRIATIONS BILL

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I voted in favor of this bill, the FY 1999 Energy/Water Appropriations bill. There is much to support in the bill.

In particular, it provides essential resources to preserve and maintain our nation's waterways, support safe and efficient cleanup of nuclear waste, and promote more constructive utilization of our energy resources. And while the bill increases spending for these items over last year's level, the overall spending provided in this bill is more than \$350 million less than the amount requested by the Administration.

However, as elected officials, we bear no greater responsibility than to ensure that the American people's hard-earned tax dollars are utilized in the most prudent fashion for essential government functions and services. Open and fair consideration of federal expenditures is the cornerstone of maintaining public confidence in their government.

I fully realize the daunting task faced by the Appropriations Committee in allocating limited funds among diverse, competing interests and priorities. Yet I am disappointed when the decisions on priorities reflect not national priorities, but parochial and political priorities.

As we begin the appropriations season with consideration of the FY 1999 Energy/Water Appropriations bill, I am once again astounded at the volume and creativity of the shortcuts that the Congress uses to circumvent the normal, merit-based review of spending decisions.

This bill includes over \$920 million for hundreds of earmarks in both bill and report language. These are earmarks for projects that are unrequested, unauthorized, and location-specific, and that have not been considered in the appropriate merit-based review process. It also contains earmarks for vaguely stated projects for which only a cursory explanation, or none at all, is provided to the Senate.

Mr. President, I prepared a list of objectionable provisions in this bill, which totalled 19 pages. This list is available on my website at <http://www.senate.gov/mccain>.

Let me take just a moment to bring to my colleagues' attention some of the most egregious provisions in this legislation:

An earmark of an additional \$3.9 million for maintaining outdoor recreation facilities at Ponce de Leon, Florida. It is somewhat hard to imagine what types of facilities in a single loca-

tion require nearly \$4 million in maintenance per year.

An earmark of \$200,000 for feasibility studies along the Alabama River below the Claiborne Lock and Dam to determine measures necessary to improve the navigation channel in order for projects along the river to realize their full economic potential.

Certainly, it would be unfortunate if the businesses located along this stretch of the Alabama River were hindered in any way from economic success by virtue of the condition of the navigation channel. However, would it not be reasonable to expect those businesses and local communities to contribute at least to studying possible improvements to enhance their operations?

An earmark of \$8 million to initiate a general reevaluation report to determine the feasibility of further deepening the Miami Harbor Channel in Florida and providing reimbursement to local sponsors. Mind you, this is not \$8 million to deepen the channel—it is simply to study the feasibility of deepening the channel. And this \$8 million is not necessarily the full amount that will be required to complete that study and, of course, to reimburse local sponsors of the project.

An earmark of an additional \$5 million in the flood control account for construction at the Louisiana State Penitentiary. Unfortunately, the committee report sheds no light on what type of construction is involved, nor does it provide any justification for an increase of \$5 million above a request of just \$400,000.

An additional \$2.3 million earmarked in a line item entitled "Project modification for improvement of the environment" for the Lower Hamm Creek, Washington, restoration project. This seems to be a start-to-finish sort of add-on; the report language states this funding is to be used to "complete plans and specifications, and initiate and complete construction" of the project. Let's hope there is not another add-on next year.

An earmarked add-on of \$5 million for the Alaska Power Administration, for which no funding was requested. This entity is in the process of being sold to the State of Alaska, but this bill requires the taxpayers to spend \$5 million, in addition to the \$2.5 million already spent, to repair or replace a cable prior to the sale.

And finally, with all due respect to my colleague from Alaska, the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I must question the earmark of \$20 million to establish a new commission, called the Denali Commission. This commission is established to prepare a comprehensive plan to spur Alaska's economic growth. I have several concerns about this supposedly temporary commission. Why are all Americans required to contribute to the preparation of this study, which will benefit only Alaska? Will this commission follow the same costly footsteps as the Appalachian Regional Commission, which