

program and over 50 interscholastic athletic teams. With a commitment to diversity, the Newark Academy represents 15 countries, 85 communities, and since 1964 has been fully co-educational.

The Academy's motto, translated as "toward enlightenment," is apparent throughout the workings of the school. With 548 students between the 6th and 12th grades, this day school launches many youngsters on a path towards enlightenment, adulthood and higher education.

The Newark Academy's ability to grow and adapt to our changing educational needs, complexity of our society and the ever advancing world of technology has contributed to the strength of the Academy and established it as an example for other educational institutions to follow. I congratulate the administration, faculty and students of Newark Academy for the school's superior performance and wish them the best in the years to come.●

OPENING OF THE TOBACCO MARKETS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the opening of the 1998 tobacco marketing season in my home state of South Carolina.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the United States is one of the world's leading producers of tobacco. It is second only to China in total tobacco production. Tobacco is the seventh largest U.S. crop, with over 130,000 tobacco farms in the United States.

In South Carolina, tobacco is the top cash crop, worth about \$200 million annually. It also generates over \$1 billion in economic activity for my state. Tobacco production is responsible for more than 40,000 jobs on over 2,000 farms and continues to account for about one-fourth of all crops and around 13 percent of total crop and livestock agriculture in South Carolina.

It has been a hard year for tobacco farmers in my state. In June 1997, farmers found out about a settlement between the State Attorneys General and five tobacco companies. This settlement created insecurity in these farmers' lives, as well as in their communities, as they tried to prepare for the upcoming tobacco season. After learning of their exclusion from any type of compensation in this settlement, their quotas were cut by 16 percent from the previous year. This means the farmers' income will decrease by 16 percent in the next marketing year.

While the Senate debated comprehensive tobacco legislation, the tobacco companies acknowledged to tobacco farmers that they had made a mistake in not including them in their original settlement negotiations. These companies promised farmers they would be included in any future negotiations.

Now we hear the State Attorneys General and the companies are again negotiating a settlement, and once again the farmers have been excluded.

In recent years, we have seen a rise in tobacco imports, as domestic purchases by companies have declined. This has had a direct effect on the economy of my state. Many of the rural towns in South Carolina have grown up around producing tobacco, and decreased demand for domestic tobacco has affected them greatly. I hope these companies see the need to purchase more domestic tobacco and decrease the amount of tobacco they import. It is imperative for these rural communities' economic stability that domestic tobacco purchases rise.

I also want to take this time to recognize a man who will begin his 50th season of auctioning tobacco. Kelly Ritter started auctioning tobacco in 1948, when times were a lot different. Back then tobacco was not seen as it is now, but rather as a way of life in the developing communities of South Carolina. Technology may have advanced in tobacco production over the last fifty years, and markets may have gone up and down, but it is a relief that there is still a constant in the production of tobacco—Kelly Ritter.

Mr. President, in conclusion I want to wish the tobacco farmers and warehousemen in South Carolina the best of luck this year. I wish that I could be down in South Carolina for this festive occasion of opening day, but duty calls. Although I can't be there physically, they all know that I'm there in spirit. And as hard as I have worked in the past for them, they can expect me to work even harder to ensure farmers and their communities remain economically sound.●

KIDS VOTING USA

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this time to recognize an organization which began in 1988 with three Arizona businessmen on a fishing trip to Costa Rica. While there, they learned that regular voter turnout in that country was routinely 90 percent. They credit this to the Costa Rican tradition of having children accompany their parents to the polls. They observed first-hand the success this small country had achieved by instilling in children at an early age the importance of voting in a democracy.

The three Arizona businessmen took this idea back to the United States with them and began "Kids Voting USA". Today, this nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization is active in 40 states plus the District of Columbia, and includes 5 million students, 200,000 teachers, and 6,000 schools, and is growing fast.

With voter turnout declining each year, this organization recognizes the need to educate our youth and instill in them respect for the right and the duty to vote. "Kids Voting USA" enables students to accompany their par-

ent or guardian to local polling sites to cast a ballot similar to the official ballot. Although not a part of the official results, the students' vote are registered at schools and by the media.

Mr. President, this year, Kids Voting Day is September 29th. I would like to recognize "Kids Voting USA" and commend them for all they have done to promote the future of democracy by educating and involving youth in the American election process.●

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL QUEENAN

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, for nearly three years I have had the privilege to know Michael Queenan, who has served in my office as a Legislative Correspondent, and is leaving the extended KERRY family this month to attend law school. I like to say that Michael Queenan was the best Christmas present my colleague from Massachusetts Rep. ED MARKEY ever sent to my office. Three years ago I was searching for a bright young person to bring new energy to our staff. We interviewed a long list of prospective candidates and, although many were terrific, the right staffer just did not turn up. One day, late in December, some of our staff members were struggling to fit the office Christmas tree into its stand in the front office. Almost out of nowhere appeared a young man, an intern from Rep. MARKEY'S office, dropping off a letter to be signed. After a minute or two, this intern had taken off his coat, rolled up his sleeves, and was at work trimming our office Christmas tree. We quickly found out that this young man was a recent graduate of Clark University and a native of Winchester, Massachusetts. His name was Michael Queenan. In just a few days he was done with his internship for Rep. MARKEY—and he was the newest member of our staff! From the first day he walked into our office in the Russell Building—even before he was hired—Michael demonstrated a willingness to pitch in and contribute on any project, large or small. He brought a tremendous work ethic and energy to his duties, first as a Staff Assistant tirelessly working on the front phones and later as a Legislative Correspondent. After he joined our legislative staff, Michael Queenan also discovered a genuine passion for the most vital issues facing working families today. He spent hours researching legislation, responding to constituent concerns, and pouring his energies into the lengthy and at times tedious legislative process. Mike was hard at work over the last two years, assisting our Legislative Assistants, on issues ranging from raising the minimum wage to making health care affordable, college opportunity accessible to eradicating the A.I.D.S epidemic. In his own way—quietly, persistently—Michael contributed to the passage of legislation that made life better for the people of Massachusetts and for working people around the country.

Michael Queenan, however, was always more than just a policy staffer.