

This year, the world celebrates the 50th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, and we also congratulate the pioneering Florida-Israel Institute on its 10-year anniversary.

The Florida-Israel Institute, created by the Florida Legislature in 1988 to expand ties with Israel, has been a success by any measure:

**Catalyst.** Now 23 other states have official links with Israel. Florida set the pace, and its Florida-Israel Institute continues to serve as a model for the rest of the nation.

**Trade boom.** Total trade between Florida and Israel tripled between 1987 and 1996, with dramatic increases in exports from Florida to Israel and imports from Israel, according to federal statistics.

**Cultural bridge.** The Florida-Israel Institute brings Israel to Florida and Florida to Israel, via the arts, business, academia and research on topics of mutual interest that include agriculture and the environment.

Examples span the spectrum of the human experience. The Institute brought Israeli jazz pianist Liz Magnes to Florida, and sent Florida professors to Israel and Jordan. It helped sponsor the one-woman show "Nomi" at the University of Central Florida, and sent Florida business leaders to Israel.

A premier feature of the Florida-Israel Institute is scholarship. The Institute carries out the time-honored precept that knowledge is a key to human understanding and a powerful weapon against fear and hate.

The Florida-Israel Institute just awarded scholarships to 57 Israeli students for the 1998-99 academic year. These students will study on campuses throughout Florida, enriching campus life for all and then serving as ambassadors for life, linking Florida and Israel. The Institute—co-hosted by Florida Atlantic University and Broward Community College—has strong roots in education.

As a repeat visitor to the Middle East, I know there is no substitute for first-hand experience in understanding the challenges facing Israel. My wife, Adele, and I were honored to return to Israel this year to help celebrate the 50th anniversary.

Likewise, the Florida academics, entrepreneurs and civic leaders who visit Israel—thanks to the Florida-Israel Institute—bring back a keener understanding and a deeper appreciation of our special relationship with our ally State, Israel.

On this special 10-year milestone, I call on my colleagues to join me in saluting the founders, managers and advisory board of this exemplary public-private partnership: the Florida-Israel Institute.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THE ARGUS CHAMPION

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, Not too many businesses last a generation or two, much less for 175 years, but the

Argus Champion seems to be Energizer Bunny of the newspaper business. This longevity, which is rare, is due primarily to its commitment to the local community. The Argus Champion has served its community well by providing local news and national news of interest. As a result, the Argus Champion has developed a loyal following in its hometown of Newport and the surrounding areas.

Although the paper has had numerous owners, editors, reporters, and staff over the years, the Argus Champion has consistently published a high-quality newspaper that reflects New Hampshire's traditions and heritage. The paper also has changed with the times, switching to color formats in 1997 and expanding news coverage in surrounding areas in an effort to bring a better product to more Granite Staters.

In many ways, our local newspaper is the chronicler of the times, printing important stories about the local community and the people who live in it. The Argus itself recognizes this special role, and each week offers to its readers a variety of local historical information through a feature column. We look forward to seeing pictures of our neighbors and their children volunteering to raise money for a worthwhile cause, or participating in the Boys and Girls Scouts and the Little League Baseball team. We also value our local paper for all of the announcements about milestones in our lives, including weddings, births, deaths, promotions, and others. We also appreciate the political coverage provided to the community as it helps the voters make informed decisions in the ballot booth and understand how the actions of their elected officials affect their everyday lives.

The Argus Champion has brought the community together by focusing on local news and it is that tradition that we celebrate today on the 175th Anniversary of the paper's beginning. A warm congratulations to all of those who have contributed to the success of the Argus Champion and best wishes for the future.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARY MERCIA MORAN, R.S.M.

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding woman in Rhode Island, Sister Mary Mercia Moran, R.S.M., who is celebrating her 50th year as a Religious Sister of Mercy.

Originally from New York City, Sister Mary Mercia entered the Religious Sisters of Mercy in Providence on September 8, 1948. She made her Final Profession on August 15, 1954. Sister Mary Mercia has dedicated her life to educating the children of the Diocese of Providence. Since 1951, she has taught at several schools including: St. Patrick in Providence, St. Matthew in Cranston, St. Mary in Pawtucket and St. Brendan in East Providence. Since 1967, Sister Mary Mercia has been teaching

Second Grade at Sacred Heart School in East Providence.

I was fortunate enough to be her student at St. Matthew's School. She was, and is, an inspiring, demanding, and nurturing teacher. Generations of Rhode Island children have prospered because of her faithful dedication.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Sister Mary Mercia for her many contributions to the children of Rhode Island and selfless dedication to helping others. ●

#### MARRIAGE PENALTY TAX

● Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the elimination of the marriage penalty tax. Our nation has recently witnessed violent assaults on children at school, an explosion of sexually explicit material on television and the Internet, and increasingly plentiful and inexpensive drugs. Now more than ever, our nation needs strong families.

Unfortunately, our tax code encourages just the opposite. It discourages marriage and places an undue financial burden on couples, simply for being married. According to the Congressional Budget Office, 21 million married couples paid an average of \$1,400 more in income taxes in 1996 than they would have if they were single. This "marriage penalty" is immoral and patently unfair. We are sending the wrong message to the American people, and it's time for Congress to take action.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues in the Senate to support the elimination of the marriage penalty tax as the centerpiece of upcoming tax legislation.●

#### COMMEMORATION OF SEPTEMBER'S HEALTH-RELATED EVENTS

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to highlight National Caregivers Day.

As such, I wanted to show my appreciation to those who work so hard to meet the needs of the mentally and physically disabled, the elderly, and the terminally ill. Our nation is blessed to have individuals motivated by a caring and giving attitude toward others.

Indeed, there are roughly 1.6 million elderly and disabled people in our nation receiving care in one of approximately 16,800 facilities throughout the country and countless others providing in-home assistance. These thousands of individuals live each day loving, nurturing, and supporting those entrusted to their care and on behalf of the United States Senate, I want to say thank you.

Mr. President, I would also like to recognize other health-care related commemorations in the month of September: National Rehabilitation Week, Mental Health Workers Week, National Vision Rehabilitation Day, and Deaf Awareness Week.

National Rehabilitation Week, September 13-19, gives us an opportunity to commend the nearly 43 million people with disabilities in America who daily display their courage and determination. It also calls to our attention the unmet needs of our nation's disabled citizens.

Mental Health Workers Week is set aside for us to thank those who have dedicated their talents to improving the mental health of our nation. Nearly half of all Americans between the ages of 15 and 54 experience a psychological disorder during their lifetime. Psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, and others are there every day to help those Americans who are experiencing problems pick up the pieces and move forward with their lives—truly important work.

September 16 is National Vision Rehabilitation Day, which recognizes the tremendous lack of understanding we have of vision loss and the lack of availability of vision rehabilitation services. National Vision Rehabilitation Day gives us the chance to promote aggressive education and treatment for people with vision problems. As the baby boom generation moves into the retirement years, we need to begin learning how to deal with serious eye diseases like macular degeneration, which currently affects thousands of people and about which—when it comes to causes and treatment—we know very little.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to recognize Deaf Awareness Week and the opportunity it provides to recognize the deaf culture experienced by nearly one million Americans. Most people don't know that American sign language is the third most widely used language in America, and that Washington, D.C. is home to the only deaf university in the world, Gallaudet University. Deaf Awareness Week allows us to discover the significant contributions offered by individuals who happen to be deaf. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO AL BEAUCHAMP

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a true public servant, a dedicated husband and father, a Rutland, Vermont community leader, and a friend. I rise today to pay tribute to Al Beauchamp, who passed away on September 5, at the age of 72.

The eloquent editorial printed in the Rutland Daily Herald on Tuesday, September 8, expresses best how much Al meant to the community of Rutland, and to the entire State of Vermont. I ask that the text of that editorial be included in the RECORD.

[From the Rutland Daily Herald, Sept. 8, 1998]

#### AL BEAUCHAMP

Alfred J. Beauchamp of Rutland, who died on the weekend at the age of 72, was one of those citizens who do a great deal of work for a community but in such a quiet way that many others in the community aren't aware of what he has accomplished.

Whether it was in business, in civic work or in politics, he was a master craftsman at achieving consensus and getting things done.

His Rutland High School yearbook entry (Class of 1944) gave a pretty good preview of what his career would be like. With the high school nickname of "Al-bo" the notation takes up 17 lines of participation from freshman to senior years for Alfred Joseph Beauchamp. Some examples:

"Class president, 2,3; orchestra, 1,2,3,4; pit orchestra, 2,3,4; band, 1,2,3,4; president of band, 3; Student Council, 1,2,3,4; Student Council president, 4; home room president, 1; home room basketball, 1,2,3,4; National Honor Society, 3,4; varsity basketball, 4; varsity track, 3; all-state band, 1,2,4."

There are a number of other entries in the list, but the citations give an indication of very active participation in the school community, a proclivity for community work that was to continue throughout his life.

In 1944, the year Al Beauchamp graduated from high school, the involvement of the United States in World War II was reaching its climax. In those days, every able-bodied male who reached the age of 18 knew what was in his immediate future—he would be taken into the military. The only question was whether the call would come in the July or August after high school graduation.

Al Beauchamp didn't wait for the draft. He joined the Merchant Marine, and in the course of his service was in a number of wartime convoys.

After that there was college, entering the insurance business, a family, and innumerable civic activities like the local Chamber of Commerce, where he eventually became president, and the United Way, to name just two.

As a member of the state Senate from Rutland County, Al Beauchamp served two terms. He was also a trustee of his alma mater, the University of Vermont, and was a member of several other state boards.

At the end of his second Senate term there were a number of people in Rutland, including the late publisher of the Herald, Robert W. Mitchell, who felt he could be in line to go on to be lieutenant governor, and eventually advance even further.

But there was no question at the time, as is still the case today, that continued involvement in politics means more and more time spent away from close ties with family, so he chose not to continue in that line.

True to his nature, he put family and community above personal ambition. That was Al Beauchamp all the way. ●

#### LEADER'S LECTURE SERIES

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I remind all Members that the leader's lecture series will begin promptly at 6 p.m.—that is about 1 minute from now—this evening in the Old Senate Chamber. Senator ROBERT C. BYRD will be the guest speaker for this evening's lecture.

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1998

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, September 16. I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate reconvenes on Wednesday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved, no resolutions come over under the rule, the call of the calendar be waived, the morning hour be deemed to have expired and the time for the two leaders be reserved. I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate then resume

consideration of the Interior appropriations bill.

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

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that after the clerk reports the Interior bill, Senator BOXER be immediately recognized to offer an amendment regarding oil royalties; further, that there be 3 hours for debate on the amendment, equally divided, prior to a motion to table. Finally, I ask that no amendments be in order to the Boxer amendment prior to the tabling vote.

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

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, was that a unanimous consent request?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It was.

Mr. GRAHAM. Without the intention of objecting, I ask if in that list of amendments, at some point after the amendment of the Senator from California, you will consider adding an amendment by Senator MACK and myself to the list?

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, there is nothing in this unanimous consent agreement that interferes with that. This just sets up the very first one. We will go back and forth, and I will certainly honor the request of the Senator from Florida.

Mr. GRAHAM. If the second or third amendment on that list can be Senator MACK's and my amendment.

Mr. GORTON. We went back and forth between the two sides. If the Senator would like to be after the next Republican amendment, I will be happy to set that up.

Mr. GRAHAM. After the next Republican amendment after the Boxer amendment.

Mr. GORTON. Right.

#### PROGRAM

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, tomorrow the Senate will resume debate on the Interior appropriations bill, with Senator BOXER recognized to offer an amendment regarding oil royalties with 3 hours for debate. At the conclusion or yielding back of time, the Senate will proceed to vote on a motion to table the Boxer amendment.

Following that vote, it is expected further amendments to the Interior bill will be offered and debated. Therefore, Members should expect rollcall votes throughout Wednesday's session in relation to the Interior bill or any other legislative or executive business cleared for action.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6 p.m., adjourned until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 16, 1998.