

The event will now be held annually at Hamilton High School.

Ms. Lombardi, a member of the Helena Youth Advisory Council, is being recognized for her leadership role in two projects: a skateboard park and "Martin Luther King Volunteer Day." Jill served on and established the first-ever Helena Youth Advisory Council. As a member, Jill recruited interested skateboarders to advise the council on the design of the park. She also helped to obtain a \$50,000 grant from the Turner Foundation for the park's construction. In planning the volunteer day, Jill worked with the council to organize activities such as community clean-up and youth reading programs. She recruited volunteers, analyzed community needs, arranged volunteer projects, and coordinated celebration activities. The event's success has inspired the council to host the event again next year.

Young volunteers like Ms. Kimp and Ms. Lombardi are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow. It is important that we recognize their achievements and support their contributions. Numerous statistics indicate that Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, and it is critical that the work of these young people is encouraged.

The program that brought these young role models to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. In only four years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with more than 50,000 youngsters participating.

Ms. Kimp and Ms. Lombardi should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. As part of their recognition, they will come to Washington in early May, along with other 1999 Spirit of Community honorees from across the country. While here in Washington, ten will be selected as America's top youth volunteers of the year by a distinguished national selection committee.

I heartily applaud Ms. Kimp and Ms. Lombardi for their initiative in seeking to make their communities better places to live, and for the positive impact they have had on the lives of Montanans. I also would like to salute two young people in Montana who were named Distinguished Finalists by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for their outstanding volunteer service: Nadia Ben-Youssef and Angela Bowlds.

All of these young people have demonstrated a level of commitment and

accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserve our sincere admiration and respect. These young Montana leaders show commendable community spirit and tremendous promise for America's future. ●

CUMBERLAND ISLAND NATIONAL
SEASHORE WITH SPECIAL
THANKS TO DON BARGER AND
TAVIA MCCUEAN

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, last week, after more than two years of negotiations, an agreement was finally reached to release funding for land acquisition on Cumberland Island National Seashore. Located off the coast of Georgia, Cumberland provides a unique experience for visitors by enabling them to view seemingly endless undeveloped beaches and dunes in pristine condition. The beautiful coastline is contrasted by marshes and vast forests of mixed hardwoods. The natural environment plays a critical role in habitat protection for several threatened and endangered species including the bald eagle, the loggerhead sea turtle and the manatee.

The Island also allows individuals to visit the incredible cultural and historical remnants which exist on the Island. The remarkable history of the island indicates human habitation dating back thousands of years. First occupied by the Spanish in the early days of the colonial period, the island was eventually claimed by the English in the mid-1700s. Cumberland also has historical connections to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. One unique historical reference to the island—brought to my attention by the Senate's own resident historian, the distinguished Senior Senator from West Virginia, relays the story that after his duel with Alexander Hamilton on July 11, 1804, Aaron Burr fled to Cumberland Island in exile—only to eventually leave after being snubbed by the island residents.

With this agreement, we have not only preserved the Island in accordance with its designation as a National Seashore, but we have taken the critical steps necessary to restore and maintain the historic and cultural resources on Cumberland which had been seriously neglected for several years. The agreement also provides additional access to individuals wishing to visit the historic resources on the island. By releasing the monies for the land purchase and implementing these changes, we will be making the ultimate benefactors the future generations of Americans who will have the opportunity to experience the natural and historical treasures possessed by Cumberland Island.

I would like to take a moment to publicly recognize and express my sincere appreciation to Don Barger, Southeast Regional Director of the National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA), for his assistance in resolving the issues on Cumberland Is-

land National Seashore. Don has been with NPCA since 1992. Having once climbed Mount Rainier, Don transfers this same motivation and dedication to his work. He is an avid and passionate defender of preserving and protecting our National Park System.

Don played a vital role in crafting the Cumberland agreement by actively engaging and compromising with numerous interested stakeholders while at the same time fulfilling his duty to preserve the integrity of the Wilderness Act and the National Park System. His tireless effort and willingness to commit his time, energy and enthusiasm to this process reflect well upon him and on the National Parks and Conservation Association.

I would like to pay special thanks to Tavia McCuean, Georgia State Director of The Nature Conservancy, who vigilantly pursued the critical land acquisition funds for Cumberland. The Cumberland agreement would not have been possible without the generous commitment of The Conservancy to contribute \$6 million for the land purchase.

There were certainly several occasions over the past two years in which Tavia and The Nature Conservancy could have lost all patience as repeated efforts to obtain the land acquisition funds were blocked. However, Tavia tirelessly and patiently focused her energy and that of her dedicated staff towards securing the release of these funds. Future generations visiting Cumberland Island will owe a great debt of gratitude for this experience to the efforts of Tavia McCuean and The Nature Conservancy.

President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value." Both Tavia McCuean and Don Barger have done well in upholding this doctrine and truly represent the best of public spiritedness. ●

RETIREMENT OF HENRY WOODS

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, if you consult any of the numerous Congressional directories that are published here in Washington, you will see that they all list six members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation—two Senators and four House members. But for the past 25 years, there has been an unofficial seventh member of our delegation: a dynamic, hard-working, can-do staffer named Henry Woods. After two decades in the nation's capital, Henry is retiring, and the state of Arkansas is losing a Washington institution.

Henry has helped one Congressman and three Senators from Arkansas to court and inform constituents, direct Arkansans to the assistance they need, provide intern opportunities for the state's young people, and stage events to advance his members' priorities at home and the state's interest in Washington. For the past 25 years, people

working in the state congressional delegation knew that if you wanted to launch an ambitious project and have it done well, you wanted Henry Woods to be in charge of it.

His institutional memory is as incredible as it has been invaluable. It is not uncommon for him, at a moment's notice, to recall the name of a constituent's wife, the ages of their children and which schools they attend, which of his cousins serve in the State Legislature, and what civic groups he belongs to and who he supported in the last campaign. He can also cite zip code after zip code, not to mention phone prefixes for cities and towns across Arkansas.

Over the years he has made many friends in the halls of the House and Senate, from the doorkeepers to the printing clerks, from the restaurant workers to the Rules Committee staffers who have all helped him accomplish things for the members and constituents. He has an amazing way of finding the people and the resources to accomplish any project he is given.

Henry, a proud Hot Springs native, is legendary for his political savvy and quick wit. His fellow staffers often wondered why someone as busy as Henry was so willing to serve as driver for his employer whenever one was needed. After a while, they realized that those occasions gave Henry as much as a half-hour of interrupted access to the member, which he used to full effect. He has often been heard cautioning members and staffers alike that certain visitors waiting to see them "may not be right, but they're convinced." Another popular Henryism has been an admonition to disgruntled staffers that they "can just get glad in the same clothes they got mad in."

Henry has set up and run intern programs that have easily helped more than 1,000 Arkansas students become familiar with the working of Congress and the federal government. His intern program has been so successful that it has been emulated by countless other congressional offices. Henry's interns never sat idly in the office waiting for the next tour, softball game or free reception. He made sure each one had the chance to work in a variety of capacities and learn a number of skills in the offices. It is not surprising that many of his interns have gone on to run for public office and serve in the state's leading corporations, commissions, and charitable organizations.

In addition to his official efforts, he kept the Arkansas State Society and the University of Arkansas alumni society running efficiently for many years, working countless hours of his personal time to organize events ranging from the cherry blossom reception to football watch parties and trips to the horse races—all aimed at keeping Arkansans in Washington in touch.

Several of his friends established an award in his name last year at his beloved University of Arkansas, where he

served on the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association. A cash award will be given each year to a student who shows an interest in internships or government services. The award will be formally announced at the University on April 22.

To put it briefly, no matter which office he was working in, Henry quickly became indispensable, a fact that was recognized by countless people both on and off the Hill as the following letters attest. Now he is leaving for sunnier climes in the southern-most point of the continental United States. We are going to miss him, and we are going to be poorer without him. We wish him well, and we want to let him know that the key will be under the doormat for him any time he wants to come back.

Mr. President, I ask that the four letters regarding Henry Wood's retirement be printed in the RECORD.

The letters follow:

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, DC, February 23, 1999.

HENRY WOODS,
Washington, DC.

DEAR HENRY: As you retire from your lifetime of public service on Capitol Hill, I want to congratulate you and thank you for your commitment, hard work, and generous leadership.

In particular, I am so grateful for your efforts on behalf of the people from our home state. The warm hospitality you have provided to Arkansas visiting the Capitol throughout these 25 years has given them a special feeling of connectedness to their representatives here in Washington. The guidance you have provided people of all ages—and especially youth and students—leaves a wonderful legacy . . . and big shoes to fill!

Hillary joins me in sending our best wishes for all possible happiness in this next phase of your life.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON.

FEBRUARY 22, 1999.

Mr. HENRY WOODS,

Office of Senator Lincoln, Washington, DC.

DEAR HENRY: You came to Washington for a summer and stayed a career! And what an illustrious career you've had working in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

You've held many positions during your tenure, and done a superb job in each one. You developed an intern program that has proved to be one of the best on Capitol Hill. Over the years, you have been very involved with the Arkansas State Society. Some would say, "If it wasn't for Henry, there wouldn't be a State Society." You've worked in more campaigns than I have run. Your tent parties are legendary. You helped coach the winning Capitol Hill softball team in 1982—the Pryorites. You are—the Razorbacks' biggest fan!

Henry, how can we thank you for the tremendous contribution you made to our state, our country—and to all of us.

Barbara and the entire Pryor family join me in wishing you the very best in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

DAVID PRYOR.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ARKANSAS,

Little Rock, AR, February 19, 1999.

Mr. HENRY WOODS,

Office of Senator Lincoln, Washington, DC.

DEAR HENRY: First let me add my congratulations to the many I know you are receiving from friends and colleagues on Cap-

itol Hill as you retire from 25 years of government service. I can't imagine the Arkansas delegation without Henry. You have done so much for so many (including myself) over the years, we cannot begin to properly thank you.

I remember one of my early campaigns for the Arkansas State Legislature. You took time off and came to Arkansas to help organize a "Get Out the Vote" effort. You and your army of "intern alumni" worked tirelessly to get me elected, and I will never forget it.

Henry, Capitol Hill will miss you—but not half as much as Arkansas will miss you!

I wish you all the best in your new life.

With warm regards,

MARK PRYOR.

LITTLE ROCK, AR, February 11, 1999.

Mr. HENRY WOODS,

Senator Blanche Lincoln's Office,
Washington, DC.

DEAR HENRY: I'm still in denial. I can't imagine Washington without you, and if I could change your mind, I would do so in a heartbeat.

But knowing that's not possible, let me just say that "friends are friends forever" and our friendship—which began at the University of Arkansas and continues through today—will always be special.

I thank you for being so responsive to so many. I thank you for designing and implementing the best intern program on Capitol Hill. I thank you for giving so many Arkansas young people the chance to participate.

In just a few weeks, we will dedicate the "Henry Woods Award" at the University of Arkansas. It has already been endowed by your many friends and will be presented annually to the outstanding student leader on the campus. From this day forward, the most honorable student leader at your alma mater will be recognized with an award bearing your name.

Now, I have a new project for you. Certainly a book about your experiences is in order. I hope you will consider it, and I look forward to talking with you—and the University of Arkansas Press—about it.

Billie is already making Key West family vacation plans. All the Rutherfords wish you much happiness and continued success.

Thank you for making Arkansas very proud.

Best Wishes,

SKIP RUTHERFORD.●

MENTAL RETARDATION AWARENESS MONTH

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to help increase the public's awareness of mental retardation as we focus on the needs and abilities of the nation's 7.2 million Americans with mental retardation. The Arc, the nation's largest organization of volunteer advocates for people with mental retardation, consists of more than 1,000 local and state chapters. For 21 years, the Arc has sponsored the recognition of March as National Mental Retardation Awareness Month.

The Arc began in 1950 as a small army of friends and parents in Minneapolis, Minnesota came together to create the National Association of Parents and Friends of Mentally Retarded Children. From this spark in 1950, Arc members have become advocates not only for their own children, but all children and other Americans denied