

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