

children, adults, and seniors. Children are provided residential treatment, shelter, and foster care. Adult services include help filling housing needs and skills training for individuals with developmental disabilities. Senior services include home-delivered meals and home health care assistance.

None of this would be possible without the more than 11,000 employees and 300,000 volunteers who work with the Volunteers of America. Volunteers of America of Minnesota is home to more than 350 employees and over 1,000 volunteers. Volunteerism is a community necessity, and I extend my utmost thanks and appreciation to those who are providing our country and my state with such an invaluable resource through their participation in Volunteers of America.

I again applaud the Volunteers of America during this Founders' Week for its extraordinary record of service. For more than 100 years, Volunteers of America has been there for countless Minnesotans; given its good work and record of success, I am confident this vital organization will be with us for many years to come.●

MS. TINA NOBLE, WINNER OF THE "POWER OF ONE" AWARD

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I am delighted to recognize the extraordinary efforts of one of my constituents, Ms. Tina Noble, to help women in her community market themselves to potential employers through the 'Dress for Success' program. For her efforts, Tina Noble is one of the Washington Women 2000 "Power of One" Award recipients.

Dress for Success provides professional clothing for low-income women as they transition into the workplace. Many times these women are single mothers, trying to gain financial independence. Tina Noble, together with her small army of volunteers has helped over 500 women in the Seattle area get suited up for new jobs since she began the Seattle chapter of Dress for Success in 1998.

In addition to her community service, Tina is also a hero to her family as a wife and mother of three children. Tina is a wonderful example of the tremendous difference that one person can make in her community. I applaud Tina's efforts to help other women dress for and find success in the workplace. She is a most deserving recipient of the "Power of One" award.●

TIME HONORS DELAWAREAN

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to make special note of the national honor bestowed upon one of the leading citizens in the central part of my State, in historic Kent County, Delaware. At the very heart of this national recognition for his business excellence is the story of a strong, close family, which makes this award all the more special.

TIME Magazine has named John W. Whitby, Jr., President of Kent County

Motor Sales Company, as its recipient of the 2000 Quality Dealer Award. The competition was formidable—Whitby won over 63 other dealers nominated for the 31st annual award, from more than 20,500 auto dealers nationwide. And make no mistake—this is a coveted award for auto dealers. It's the equivalent of TIME's "Man of the Year" award for automobile dealers.

John operates Kent County Motor Sales in Dover, building on the successful business his dad, Jack Whitby founded. Upon accepting the award at the National Auto Dealers Association Convention, John readily gave credit to his father for the extensive training he received and to his employees and colleagues for their dedication and commitment to excellence.

American philosopher and poet, George Santayana, wrote that: "The family is one of nature's masterpieces." To extend that metaphor: The Whitby family is one of Kent County's masterpieces. Not only is John a top business owner, he is a community leader as well. John is a member of the Delaware Business Roundtable Greater Dover Committee; the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce; the Quarterback Club of Kent County; and, Friends of Capitol Theatre among many other civic contributions. John is continuing the strong Whitby family tradition. He lives in his native Dover, with his wife Diane and two children, Emily and Jay.

Mr. President, it is with great pride that I commend John Whitby, Jr. and his family for this outstanding national award.●

IDAHO TEACHER OF THE YEAR

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize teachers across America for the vital work they do. I come from a family of educators, so I have seen firsthand the impact teachers have on children. They do this because they care about each and every child they teach. These public servants deserve our gratitude and thanks.

While I believe this can be said of all teachers, I would like to recognize one particular teacher today who embodies this sentiment. She is Nancy Larsen, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and she was chosen by my state as Educator of the Year.

One look at her career shows why she was chosen as the Educator of the Year. She has dedicated eight years of her life to teaching the second grade, and these eight years have been full of innovation and a real love for education. Not only has she been busy in the classroom, she has also found time for activities which broaden her knowledge and make her a better teacher. For example, she has published articles in magazines such as *Learning and Portals: A Journal of the Idaho Council International Reading Association*. She has also designed and presented numerous workshops in the past five years, and participates in many professional

organizations, including serving as President of the Panhandle Reading Council.

While these activities are important, her classroom work is what truly sets her apart. For example, she actively seeks to involve parents in her students' education, realizing that parental involvement is key for scholastic success. Her weekly letters on students' activities, her project, "Family Math Night," are further examples of her commitment to parents as computer and classroom helpers. There have been many studies which show that parental involvement increases children's ability to learn. Nancy knows this from her first day on the job, and has worked to make this involvement a reality.

Her students adore her and her peers respect her. This is what every teacher strives for, and Nancy has earned this respect. As one of her students said, "I'm really glad to have such a nice teacher."

As you can see, Nancy Larsen is truly a treasure for her school, for Idaho, and indeed for the Nation in general. Teachers like Nancy make education a rewarding experience for students and parents alike. I am proud that the state of Idaho chose her as its Teacher of the Year. She is a great example for the rest of the state and the Nation, and I hope this award gives her a platform so she can help other teachers to have the same success she has.●

RECOGNIZING THE 44TH ANNIVERSARY OF TUNISIAN INDEPENDENCE

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of the 44th anniversary of Tunisian independence. On March 20, Tunisia—one of America's oldest allies—will mark its 44th year of independence, but our two nations have been sharing the ideals of freedom and democracy for a much longer time.

In 1797, our two nations signed a treaty calling for "perpetual and constant peace." Indeed, for the past 200 years, our two nations have enjoyed such a friendship. Whether protecting Mediterranean shipping lanes against Barbary pirates, opposing the Nazi war machine in North Africa, or supporting Western interests during the Cold War, the U.S. could count on Tunisia. More recently, Tunisia displayed great courage in urging other Arab nations to seek an accord with Israel. Tunisia has built on that pioneering stand by playing an important role as an honest and fair broker at delicate points in the Middle East peace process.

By adopting progressive social policies that feature tolerance for minorities, equal rights for women, universal education, a modern health system, and avoiding the pitfall of religious extremism that has tormented so many other developing countries, Tunisia has built a stable, middle-class society. In stark contrast to its two neighbors (Algeria, which has been racked by civil

war and persecution for many years, and Libya, whose dictator has supported the most nefarious and subversive kinds of terrorism), Tunisia has been a quiet and wonderful success. In fact, Tunisia became the first nation south of the Mediterranean to formally associate itself with the European Union.

Mr. President, Tunisia has been a model for developing countries. It has sustained remarkable economic growth, and undertaken reforms toward political pluralism. It has been a steadfast ally of the United States and has consistently fought for democratic goals and ideals. Tunisia has responded to President Dwight D. Eisenhower's request to consider the U.S. as "friends and partner" in the most effective way—by its actions.

In commemoration of 44 years of independence for Tunisia, I urge my colleagues to reflect on our strong commitment to Tunisian people, who are still our friends and partners in North Africa.●

VI HILBERT, WINNER OF THE "POWER OF ONE" AWARD

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, today I am delighted to honor the achievements of a remarkable Washingtonian for her work in preserving the culture and traditions of the Pacific Northwest. For all her efforts, Upper Skagit elder Vi Hilbert is one of the Washington Women 2000 "Power of One" Award recipients.

A native speaker of Lushootseed, Vi has worked tirelessly to preserve the indigenous language of the Puget Sound area as well as the stories and history of the Pacific Northwest tribes.

In 1983, Vi founded Lushootseed Research which is a non-profit organization to preserve the Lushootseed language through audio and printed materials as well as education. Vi taught Lushootseed language and literature classes at the University of Washington for 15 years.

In addition to preserving her own native tongue, Vi has served to preserve art, artifacts and cultural heritage of tribes from all of the Pacific Northwest. She serves on the advisory board for the Burke Museum and the Seattle Art Museum and is an active board member of United Indians of All Tribes and Tillicum Village.

On behalf of all of us who treasure the heritage of the Pacific Northwest, I thank Vi for all her efforts. She is a tremendous example of the "Power of One."●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

THE ANNUAL REPORT ON FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 92

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

As provided by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended (Public Law 92-463; 5 U.S.C., App. 2, 6(c)), I hereby submit the *Twenty-seventh Annual Report on Federal Advisory Committees*, covering fiscal year 1998.

In keeping with my commitment to create a more responsive government, the executive branch continues to implement my policy of maintaining the number of advisory committees within the ceiling of 534 required by Executive Order 12838 of February 10, 1993. Accordingly, the number of discretionary advisory committees (established under general congressional authorizations) was again held to substantially below that number. During fiscal year 1998, 460 discretionary committees advised executive branch officials. The number of discretionary committees supported represents a 43 percent reduction in the 801 in existence at the beginning of my Administration.

Through the planning process required by Executive Order 12838, the total number of advisory committees specified mandated by statute also continues to decline. The 388 such groups supported at the end of fiscal year 1998 represents a modest decrease from the 391 in existence at the end of fiscal year 1997. However, compared to the 439 advisory committees mandated by statute at the beginning of my Administration, the net total for fiscal year 1998 reflects nearly a 12 percent decrease since 1993.

The executive branch has worked jointly with the Congress to establish a partnership whereby all advisory committees that are required by statute are regularly reviewed through the legislative reauthorization process and that any such new committees proposed through legislation are closely linked to compelling national interests. Furthermore, my Administration will continue to direct the estimated costs to fund required statutory groups in fiscal year 1999, or \$45.8 million, toward supporting initiatives that reflect the highest priority public involvement efforts.

Combined savings achieved through actions taken during fiscal year 1998 to eliminate all advisory committees that are no longer needed, or that have com-

pleted their missions, totaled \$7.6 million. This reflects the termination of 47 committees, originally established under both congressional authorities or implemented by executive agency decisions. Agencies will continue to review and eliminate advisory committees that are obsolete, duplicative, or of a lesser priority than those that would serve a well-defined national interest. New committees will be established only when they are essential to the conduct of necessary business, are clearly in the public's best interests, and when they serve to enhance Federal decisionmaking through an open and collaborative process with the American people.

I urge the Congress to work closely with the General Services Administration and each department and agency to examine additional opportunities for strengthening the contributions made by Federal advisory committees.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 9, 2000.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:42 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 91. Concurrent resolution congratulating the Republic of Lithuania on the tenth anniversary of the establishment of its independence from the rule of the former Soviet Union.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1827. An act to improve the economy and efficiency of Government operations by requiring the use of recovery audits by Federal agencies.

H.R. 2952. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Orchard Park Drive in Greenville, South Carolina, as the "Keith D. Oglesby Station."

H.R. 3018. An act to designate the United States Post Office located at 557 East Bay Street in Charleston, South Carolina, as the "Marybelle H. Howe Post Office."

H.J. Res. 86. A joint resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Korean War and the service by members of the Armed Forces during such war, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills and joint resolution were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1827. An act to improve the economy and efficiency of Government operations by requiring the use of recovery audits by Federal agencies; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2952. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Orchard Park Drive in Greenville, South Carolina, as the "Keith D. Oglesby Station"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3018. An act to designate the United States Post Office located at 557 East Bay