

## TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL LIFE

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an organization that has served the state of Vermont, and the nation, for 150 years. National Life has served the needs of millions of Americans during this time, starting with its first policy, issued in 1850, and continuing into the contemporary insurance business. As Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee, I can personally attest to how valuable their services have been and continue to be. However, National Life is more than just a business, it is an archetype of community relations and a leader in the promotion of ethical market conduct.

National Life was founded in 1848 by Dr. Julius Dewey as a mutual life insurance company. The first claim was paid to a policy owner who had traveled to California for the Gold Rush. From this beginning, National Life has expanded to include 800 career and general agents, and over 3,000 independent brokers. National Life has also grown to include some of the most prestigious services in America, including the Sentinel Fund—established in 1968, the American Guaranty and Trust—chartered in Delaware in 1914, and the national Retirement plan Advisors—founded in 1940.

In 1998, National Life joined the Insurance Marketplace Standards Association. This group promotes ethics in market conduct of the life insurance industry. Among the criteria that National Life had to meet were high standards of honesty in fairness to customers, fair competition, quick resolution of customer disputes and complaints, and customer-focused sales and service. Needless to say, National Life met the criteria in 1998, as they have throughout their long and prestigious history.

This 150th Anniversary also marks a rare meeting of past, present, and future, in 1960, the National Life building was opened. At the dedication ceremony, a time capsule was interred in the floor of the lobby. This time capsule will be opened on May 12, 2000, and we will be able to compare where we are today with where we thought we would be. The hopes and wishes of yesterday have evolved into today's reality, and the year 2000, once an incomprehensible milestone, is no longer the distant future.

While the past and present will merge at this ceremony, the anniversary also provides an opportunity to look forward. True to form, National Life again initiates a bond with the community; among the entries in the Year 2000 time capsule will be the predictions of children of Central Vermont. The hopes and wishes of these children for the future are significant, as they will be the ones living it. Recognizing this, National Life is also contributing money to each participating public elementary school. The students' whose predictions will be included in the time capsule, along

with their respective schools, will receive an additional contribution.

On this occasion of celebrating the venerable and storied past of National Life, let us pay tribute to their Vermont roots and their contributions to the Vermont economy during the past century and a half. Far from simply administering to their community, National Life is a part of it. National Life has realized from the start that the investment we make in the children of today will pay dividends in the leaders of tomorrow. For their continued commitment to the community and their customers, they should be commended.●

## A TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ALLIANCE

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) Alliance. This year the SDSMA Alliance will celebrate its 90th anniversary, making it the oldest continuous medical Alliance in the United States. For ninety years, this physicians' spouses organization has proudly been the volunteer hands and voices of the South Dakota State Medical Association.

Though their accomplishments may not be always easily enumerated or quantified, their impact has been felt across every mile of the state of South Dakota. The SDSMA Alliance has led or united with other organizations in an effort to insure that our communities are healthier and safer. Members of the SDSMA Alliance have always reached out to feed the hungry, give warmth to those who were cold, provide shelter and safety to the abused, and bring smiles and joy to children in need of books or toys. Health promotion and community projects are, indeed, the cornerstone of the Alliance.

Oftentimes, the mission statement of an organization tells us all we need to know about the character of the individuals who have joined together. In the case of the SDSMA Alliance, this statement holds true once again. Their mission to promote public health, create safer communities, protect the patient-physician relationship, and generate funds to help educate future physicians is a testament to their desire to positively impact every South Dakota community in which their work is done.

As just one example of the Alliance's hard work and dedication, last June they declared—not war—but peace on all school campuses throughout our state. Their focus was not just on guns and grenades, but bullying and fist fights, taunting and threats, intolerance and isolation, because that, as we all know, is where the problems usually begin.

To emphasize the need to provide our children and educators with a safe school environment, the SDSMA Alliance launched a campaign to provide K-3rd grade students with conflict res-

olution and self-esteem building activities. Thousands of "I Can Choose," "I Can Be Safe," "Hands Are Not For Hitting," and "Be A Winner" workbooks were distributed to schools and shelters throughout our state. Their goal was to arm children with self-esteem and to teach them how to make healthier and safer choices. It is efforts such as these that weave the fabric of our communities closer together and promote safe, learning environments for South Dakota's children.

Mr. President, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the South Dakota State Medical Association Alliance for ninety years of hard work and dedication to the health and safety of the people of South Dakota. I applaud the SDSMA Alliance's efforts to combat those forces in our society which would jeopardize the mental and physical wellness of any citizen. I sincerely thank the Alliance for their positive contributions to South Dakota's communities, and I hope that one day we can stand together and say, "Mission accomplished."●

## TRIBUTE TO STERLING EDWARDS RIVES, JR.

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a friend and patriot Sterling Edwards Rives, Jr. of Petersburg, Virginia who died on February 13, 2000, at the age of 78 years.

A native of Surry County, sterling served in the Army at the close of World War II and then spent a year building airfields in the Philippines. He returned to a position as an inspector with the U.S. Department of Agriculture traveling with his wife Virginia Anne and newborn son Sterling III throughout the Southeast grading peanuts, potatoes and produce. Two more sons Andrew II and Bailey were born as they moved to Petersburg where he began his 35-year career where he held leadership positions in the Christ and Grace Episcopal Church.

Sterling Rives served on the Virginia Republican State Central Committee, as a delegate to four national conventions, vice-chairman of the Petersburg Electoral Board, and as a delegate to the White House Council on Aging.

President Ronald Reagan once told me that "Politics is not a spectator sport."

No one took that more to heart than Sterling Rives who believed that it was his civic responsibility and patriotic duty to contribute freely his time and talents to elect those he supported to public office. I was privileged to be one of those public servants whom Sterling took by the hand and guided towards election day after election day.

Sterling Rives drove the original footings for the foundation of the Republican Party of Virginia. He and his family gave tirelessly in election after election.

Just last year Virginians elected a Republican Governor, Lt. Governor,