

Dennis Flannery, American Medical Response, CA.  
 Darlene Heitman, American Medical Response, CA.  
 Noella Lehman, American Medical Response, CA.  
 Brian Pounds, American Medical Response, CA.  
 Dennis G. Smith, American Medical Response, CA.  
 Sheri Burcham, American Medical Response, CO.  
 Michael Harvey, American Medical Response, CO.  
 Jeffery Adams, American Medical Response, CT.  
 Brooke Liddle, American Medical Response, FL.  
 Pagona Pratt, American Medical Response, FL.  
 Terri L. Brown, American Medical Response, GA.  
 Bradley A. Melone, Mid Georgia Ambulance, GA.  
 Lisa D. Scott, Rural/Metro Ambulance, GA.  
 Danny Sagadraca, American Medical Response, HI.  
 David Cole, Iowa EMS Association, IA.  
 Wendy L. Hackett, MEDIC EMS, IA.  
 Christine A. Hartley, Lee County EMS Ambulance, Inc., IA.  
 Sandy Neyen, Iowa EMS Association, IA.  
 Jim B. Steffen, Henry County Health Center EMS, IA.  
 Andrew D. Stevens, MEDIC EMS, IA.  
 Dan R. Walderbach, Henry County Health Center EMS, IA.  
 Darin E. Longanecker, American Medical Response, IL.  
 Daren T. Pfeifer, American Medical Response, KS.  
 Michael Moree, Acadian Ambulance & Air Med Services, LA.  
 Annette V. Mouton, Med Express Ambulance Service, Inc., LA.  
 Jamie L. Richaud, Med Express Ambulance Service, Inc., LA.  
 Joan Savoy, Priority Mobile Health, LA.  
 Mary Williams, Priority Mobile Health, LA.  
 Jamie J. Crawford, Lyons Ambulance Service, MA.  
 Robert McDevitt, Action Ambulance, MA.  
 Donna L. Moore, Lyons Ambulance Service, MA.  
 James Scolforo, American Medical Response, MA.  
 Alfred Theirrien, American Medical Response, MA.  
 Gary Wright, Action Ambulance, MA.  
 David L. Janey, Rural Metro Corporation, MD.  
 Cindy Walker, American Medical Response, ME.  
 Mandy Argue, American Medical Response, MI.  
 Bryan A. Fuller, American Medical Response, MI.  
 Steve Hazucka, Medstar Ambulance, MI.  
 Scott Hicks, Medstar Ambulance, MI.  
 Joseph Horvath, Huron Valley Ambulance, MI.  
 Robert Martin, American Medical Response, MI.  
 Wayne H. Mervau, North Flight, Inc., MI.  
 Judy Pearson, American Medical Response, MI.  
 Jack Taylor, Life EMS, MI.  
 Robert Atzenhoefer, Gold Cross Ambulance, MN.  
 Richard P. Humble, Metropolitan Ambulance Service Trust, MD.  
 Scott Wolf, Metropolitan Ambulance Service Trust, MD.  
 Jimmy H. Gill, American Medical Response, MS.  
 Martha A. Branden, Mecklenburg EMS Agency, NC.

Rolanda L. Collins, American Medical Response, NC.  
 Littlejohn Goodwin, Mecklenburg EMS Agency, NC.  
 Patricia Graham, Medical Transportation Specialists, Inc., NC.  
 John R. Tompkins, Mecklenburg EMS Agency, NC.  
 Lee M. Van Vleet, FirstHealth of the Carolinas, NC.  
 James G. White, FirstHealth of the Carolinas, NC.  
 Darin B. Haverland, F-M Ambulance Service, ND.  
 David Lacaillade, Rockingham Regional Ambulance, Inc., NH.  
 Sylvia Riley, Rockingham Regional Ambulance, Inc., NH.  
 Earl F. Gardner Jr., Med Alert Ambulance, Inc., NJ.  
 John E. Romano, Rural/Metro Ambulance, NJ.  
 Charlene Ortega, Living Cross Ambulance Service, Inc., NM.  
 Patricia Beckwith, American Medical Response, NV.  
 Robert E. Mann, Rural/Metro, NY.  
 James Poole, Mohawk Ambulance Service, NY.  
 Gaye Buckingham, Stofcheck Ambulance Service, OH.  
 Roger Meir, Rural metro Ambulance, OH.  
 Randy W. Benetti, Sr., Rural/Metro Fire Department, OR.  
 Brett Gnau, Pacific West Ambulance, OR.  
 Joseph D. Hyatt, Rural/Metro Fire Department, OR.  
 Kevin Lambert, Metro West Ambulance, OR.  
 Paul Martin, American Medical Response, OR.  
 Zane McKnight, Oregon State Ambulance Assn. & Medix Ambulance, OR.  
 Timothy Blackston, Cetronia Ambulance Corps., PA.  
 James Ralston, Rural/Metro Medical Services, PA.  
 Wonda C. Pickler, Rural/Metro—Mid South, TN.  
 Cheryl Barrett, Life Ambulance Services, Inc., TX.  
 Michael DeBerry, LifeNet EMS, TX.  
 Ben Kruse, American Medical Response, TX.  
 Paul M. Rogers, Rural/Metro—MedStar, TX.  
 Daniel L. Evans, Gold Cross Service, UT.  
 Ryan D. Pyle, Gold Cross Service, UT.  
 James D. Stevens, Gold Cross Service, UT.  
 Lauren C. Challis, American Medical Response, VA.  
 Colleen Gilman, Regional Ambulance Service, Inc., VT.  
 Bradley C. Derting, American Medical Response, WA.  
 Ron Stewart, Rural/Metro Ambulance, WA.  
 Laurie Whitfield, American Medical Response—Pathways, WI.●

**RETIRING CLARK COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, on Friday, May 12, 2000, Nevadans will pause to honor the outstanding achievements and retirement of Clark County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Brian Cram. Throughout his 34 years as an educator, Dr. Cram has touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of youth in the Las Vegas Valley as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent, all within the Clark County School District. He is retiring after serving more

than eleven years as superintendent. The fact that his tenure has been approximately nine years longer than the average for a superintendent demonstrates his excellence and commitment to our community Southern Nevada.

Dr. Cram can be appreciated most for his outstanding management of the fastest growing school district in the country. During his tenure, the district has grown from 111,000 to more than 215,000 students, and is currently the eighth largest school district in the country. Dr. Cram is a self-proclaimed "poster boy for school bonds," having successfully secured billions of dollars for the construction of more than 100 new schools for the students, teachers and staff of the Clark County School District. He recently was successful in obtaining voter approval of school construction funding for the next ten years, a legacy that will carry on well beyond his tenure. This achievement takes on added significance when one considers that Nevada, as my Senate colleagues have heard me state on numerous occasions, must build approximately one school a month just to keep up with the unprecedented growth in the Silver State.

Although he spent many years in administration, Dr. Cram has always been happiest when working with children. He has never been one to sit behind a desk, preferring instead to be out working with children, families and staff. His tenure as superintendent will be characterized by strong personal relationships with the students, teachers, families and employees of the school district and the entire community.

Above all, Dr. Cram is a true believer in the value of education. He hails from a home which stressed the importance of sound learning and lifelong education, and he has been driven by a fundamental belief that education is the great equalizer and provider in life.

It is my distinct pleasure and honor to join all Nevadans in wishing Dr. Brian Cram all the best upon his retirement. His genuine commitment of the youth of Nevada will be appreciated for many generations to come.●

**TRIBUTE TO DANIEL AZZIZE SAMUEL**

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an outstanding young Virginian, Daniel Azzize Samuel, who has been selected to receive the 2000 American Automobile Association Lifesaving Medal. This award is the highest honor given to members of the school safety patrol.

Daniel is a member of the Kent Gardens School Safety Patrol in McLean, Virginia. On January 12th of this year, he was on his way to his post when he saw an eight-year-old student running back toward his departing bus. Quickly sizing up the danger, Daniel yelled at the student to stop. The bus driver also heard Daniel's yells and stopped the

bus, a mere three feet from the oncoming student who was approaching in the driver's blind spot.

I salute Daniel and the other young recipients of this year's award, Daniel Rogers of Maryland and Greg Lawson and Tasha Tanner of Ohio, for their lifesaving contributions to the safety of their fellow students. As members of their school safety patrols, these young people have made invaluable contributions to their schools and communities. I also commend the American Automobile Association for their sponsorship of this valuable program to keep our nation's young people safe on their trips to and from school.●

#### REBIRTH FOR RUTLAND'S PARAMOUNT THEATER

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on Saturday, March 18, the Paramount Theater opened its doors to the Rutland community for the first public performance on its stage in nearly 20 years. This was a memorable night for Vermonters who had the opportunity to see Arlo Guthrie perform with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. This grand reopening also marked the successful completion of an important and historic restoration project.

The Paramount Theater is a Vermont treasure that was an icon of downtown Rutland from the time it first opened its doors in 1914 to the day those doors closed in 1981. Founded by Rutland businessman George T. Chaffee, the Chaffee Playhouse served as a venue for the entertainers of the day, allowing Rutland area residents the opportunity to see the likes of Will Rogers, the Marx Brothers and Harry Houdini, among many others. As motion pictures moved into the spotlight in the 1930s, Chaffee's Playhouse was taken over by Paramount and became known as the Paramount Movie House.

Then times changed, and after years of screening movies for fewer and fewer patrons, the Paramount closed its doors to the public in 1981. The ornate theater that had once served as a centerpiece for the Rutland arts and social scenes had become only a fond memory for those whose lives it had affected.

Now times have changed again, and over the past several years, downtown Rutland has undergone remarkable growth and revitalization. As the downtown community began to bustle with more and more visitors, local residents and merchants felt the time had come to reopen the doors of the old Center Street theater.

Coming up with a good idea is often the easy part of a project. Finding a way to turn that idea into reality can be a much larger task. That was the case with the project to reopen the Paramount Theater, which required significant renovation and restoration. Through the tireless efforts of community leaders, a major fund raising effort was launched with contributions from individuals and local businesses, with grants also from the state and

federal governments. More than 1500 people made personal contributions toward the renovation project. My colleague, Senator JEFFORDS, took the lead in making the case for the federal contribution, and I was pleased to support that effort.

Nearly 20 years after it closed, and after more than \$3.5 million in construction and renovation, the Paramount Theater has been restored to the beauty and splendor enjoyed by those Vermonters who attended its original opening night on January 15, 1914. The reopening of the Paramount Theater now will serve the Rutland community's need for an arts center, and, for new generations of Vermonters, it will once again be a focal point for the social life of a vibrant community.●

#### TAIWANESE-AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, this month I join people in New Jersey and throughout the nation in celebrating Pacific-American Heritage Month. The Pacific-American community represents an important part of America's future and I applaud their proud celebration of heritage and community.

Taiwanese-American Heritage Week, from May 7 to May 14, celebrates the unique and diverse contributions of the more than 500,000 Taiwanese-Americans in the United States. These Americans have played a significant role in our nation's life and their countless accomplishments can be found in every facet of American society. For instance, Taiwanese-Americans have succeeded as notable artists, Nobel Laureate scientists, researchers, human rights activists, and business leaders.

In addition to recognizing these contributions, this is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the success of democracy on the island of Taiwan. Since 1987, the Taiwanese people have possessed the rights to select their own leaders, practice the religion of their choice, and express their thoughts openly and freely. Taiwan is a vibrant and democratic participant in the family of nations.

The election on March 18 of opposition leader Chen Shui-bian as president, and my friend Annette Lu as vice-president, represents the crowning achievement of the struggle of the people of Taiwan for full-fledged democracy and freedom. While Taiwan has established a model democracy, there remain political challenges. Gaining worldwide recognition of the legitimacy of Taiwan's government is paramount. With all that Taiwanese and Taiwanese-Americans have accomplished there is still more work to be done before Taiwan's status and global contributions are properly respected and appreciated.

Mr. President, Taiwanese-American Heritage Week recognizes the long-standing friendship between the United

States and Taiwan. I commend the great accomplishments and contributions of the Taiwanese-American community.●

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to praise the work of Minnesota's hospitals and those across America as we recognize National Hospital Week. This year's theme, "Touching The Future With Care," focuses on the heart of the hospital system: its people. For those Minnesota doctors, nurses, administrators, and volunteers who consistently provide the highest level of quality health care in America, I commend your selfless efforts. You are very deserving of our recognition here today.

Hospitals are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, providing their communities with around-the-clock health care services. In my own state of Minnesota, 142 hospitals and 22 different health care systems provide Minnesotans with one of the most efficient and effective health care systems in the United States. This is not a result of mere chance. Rather, it is the combined efforts of our health care professionals—those men and women who devote themselves to the delivery of timely, quality health care, when and where it is needed.

As we all know, American hospitals have faced severe challenges over the last several years due to rapidly declining reimbursement rates under Medicare. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 made dramatic changes to the payment rates to hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and individual providers. In fact, Medpac, Congress' Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, reported that profit margins for hospitals across the country dropped nearly 40 percent between 1998 and 1999. This is the lowest level in 20 years. And to add insult to injury, the Congressional Budget Office reported that Medicare payments, which serve as one of the largest revenue sources to hospitals, would realize a 62% decrease over the next five years. Clearly, in an industry that is already running on fumes, we cannot afford to cut deeper into the margins of hospitals and simply hope that they will be able to absorb the added losses and continue to provide the quality health care that we expect.

Last year, in an effort to reduce some of this burden, Congress attempted to address the problem with the 1999 Balanced Budget Refinement Act. This legislation restored some of the drastic cuts called for in 1997, and provided relief in payments for outpatient services. This effort has already made a measurable difference and has enabled many hospitals and other providers to remain in business. Yet, this is only half the problem.

The Balanced Budget Refinement Act addressed outpatient care provided by hospitals, and now, through legislation