

## MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, in celebration of the Memorial Day holiday, I would like to recognize the work of Gertrude Stephenson, whose dedication to the remembrance of veterans has led to deeper awareness and ongoing appreciation of fallen heroes in Washington County, IN. What began as a project of the Salem High School Class of 1965 to honor Jerry Sabens, killed in Vietnam, developed into a community-wide effort to acknowledge the sacrifices of all Washington County veterans who gave their lives in service to our country.

Thanks to Mrs. Stephenson's direction and the research assistance of Martha Bowers, more than 100 articles were printed in *The Salem Leader* detailing the stories of these veterans. With the help of Cecil Smith, former editor of *The Salem Leader*, and his staff, the stories have been compiled in a book, "Gone But Not Forgotten."

This labor of justice will greatly benefit the citizens of Washington County, IN, as families come together to share stories, photographs and personal information of the loved ones who died protecting our freedom. County youth will gain new understanding and appreciation of our American patriots of war.

I am personally grateful for all in Washington County who contributed to this project, including the Washington County Veterans Office, the County Extension Office, the Stevens Museum staff and so many others.●

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH M.  
BENNETT

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I take the opportunity to pay special tribute to a remarkable person, Elizabeth M. Bennett, of Wayzata, MN. Beth has led a life of extraordinary service to the communities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Most particularly, she has invested her energies with the goal of improving the quality of health care in the Twin Cities. Her activism was not limited to Minnesota, however; early on, she also made her presence felt in Northern California, where she lived for a time, and eventually on the national stage, as well.

The extensive list of her volunteer commitments spans six decades, beginning with her activism in high school, where she applied her special gifts for analysis and problem solving. Happily, these talents were also crowned by the ability to lead and inspire, for, in a demonstration of her early promise, she started a YWCA leadership group at West High School in Minneapolis. For this effort, she was awarded the Harry S Truman National Leadership Award in 1947. From there, Beth was well on her way.

As a young person, Beth dreamt of entering the medical profession, an ambition which was never realized. Instead, she directed her passion for bet-

ter health care into her volunteer work, serving as a board member for a variety of institutions. She volunteered to participate—early, effectively, and equipped always by mastery of the subject at hand—in the public discussion encompassing the community's broad health care agendas. Her interests have included the uninsured, and health care research for children and seniors, always staying current with the rapidly changing profile of health care needs and delivery systems in our society.

In addition to investing her time, heart, and mind, she raised many millions of dollars. For her extraordinary fund raising, she has not always received sufficient recognition. But I am pleased to say that in 1988, she was awarded the well-deserved National Association of Fundraisers Award. Beyond the tangible, however, Beth touches others with that indispensable, inimitable spirit of enthusiasm, encouraging them to become involved, too. Many have found exposure to Beth's zeal and breadth of knowledge about a cause to be irresistible and have been moved to strong support, sometimes for the first time.

Beth was instrumental in the creation of the new Children's Hospital in 1958, planning for community health care facilities and programs, consideration of issues in medical education, and the relationship between the University and private community entities and served on its Board for 35 years.

She served on the boards of Northwestern Hospital and Abbott Hospital in various capacities and was a major force in their merger in 1994, serving for over 40 years. She acted as a liaison between Abbott-Northwestern and Children's (now Allina Health System) during a crucial early period, planning for community health care facilities for adults as well as children.

Continuing her lifelong advocacy of quality health care for the citizens of the State of Minnesota, Beth has been a member since 1990 of the board of directors of the University of Minnesota's Children's Foundation (which supports pediatric research), recently as its Chair, and concurrently chairs the pediatric portion of Campaign Minnesota at the University of Minnesota.

In recognition of these numerous contributions she has made to health care, Beth was recently recognized with the University of Minnesota Dean of the Medical School Community Service Award.

While health care is closest to Beth's heart, she is also dedicated to higher education, having served on the boards of the University of Saint Thomas for the last 7 years and the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. In addition, she has served as a board member of WAMSO (Women's Association of Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra), the United Way, and The Bakken Library. Her love of the arts also inspired her to serve as a docent of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Long a member of the

Junior League of Minneapolis, she spent 15 years on its board of directors and also chaired its Prevention of Accidental Poisoning in Children Project. While residing in California in the 1950's, she belonged to the board of directors of the Children's Hospital of the East Bay in Oakland and volunteered at the Oakland Well Baby Clinic.

Those who are fortunate enough to know Beth called her a jewel. To legions, she has been a champion, having created a solid legacy of support for many institutions and their constituents. While I trust that Beth's vocation of service has truly been its own reward, I hope that my remarks today might reflect a small measure of the goodness, self-giving, and strength she has long brought to us Minnesotans.●

FLORIDA BOARD OF REGENTS

• Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the Florida Voters League for its efforts to save Florida's Board of Regents. Today, the Board of Regents meet for the last time as the chief governing body of our State university system. The individuals who have served our system through the years have been distinguished public servants. I want to recognize them and thank them for their tireless effort throughout the years to ensure our students receive a quality education.

Florida's system has faced many challenges over the years, but none have been as potentially destructive as abolishing the board. At a time when Florida faces increasing strains on colleges and universities, it is imperative that we maintain a system that ensures our higher educational institutions receive adequate resources and funding beyond politics. The Board of Regents was created for that very purpose. It has served our State well by ensuring no State university becomes too powerful at the expense of the others.

This new system ensures that politicians will govern education, instead of experts and independent voices. In the past, the word of the Board of Regents was respected by legislators and was further supported by the Governor. It was meant to be a nonpartisan governing board. The will of the Universities now, however, will be determined by local political boards and the will of the Legislature. We recently have seen programs granted to universities by legislators, despite the strong opposition of the Board of Regents largely because legislators wanted to bring home "the bacon" to their alma mater. It was best described by Dean Weisenfeld of Florida Atlantic University's College of Science when he stated, we need to let "universities be universities." Instead, the fate of our universities might now depend on the strength of their legislative delegations.

As my distinguished colleague, Senator BOB GRAHAM, has argued, elimination of the Board returns our State