

anniversary. It is an honor and a privilege to rise today on the floor of the United States Senate to recognize this institution's longevity and its role in preserving the history of Springfield and Greene County.

Some twenty-five years ago I was able to play a role in the founding of this museum while I was serving as Governor of Missouri. The Museum was then called the Bicentennial Historical Museum in honor of our Nation's 200th birthday. Over the years, the name has changed but the goal and purpose of the museum has remained the same, preserving the history and heritage of the city of Springfield and Greene County. History is our window to the past and helps us to remember just how far we have come as a nation and as a community. The museum contains permanent exhibits beginning with the earliest settlement in the region, continuing on through the Civil War, and into the twentieth century. The museum also changes exhibits throughout the year which examine other areas of Greene County's history.

The museum is a private, not-for-profit organization that is open to public at no charge. The museum is funded through private contributions, memberships, grants, and gift shop sales. The staff, management, and volunteers who operate this facility are to be congratulated for their tireless efforts and innovation which make the museum an important part of the community. The museum is an invaluable tool for students and teachers to learn the historical significance of the area.

The History Museum for Springfield-Greene County is a valuable asset to the Springfield area. I ask that the Members of the Senate join me in recognizing and honoring the twenty-fifth anniversary of the History Museum for Springfield-Greene County.●

NATIONAL ASSISTED LIVING WEEK

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I draw the Senate's attention to National Assisted Living Week. The National Center for Assisted Living is sponsoring National Assisted Living Week this week to highlight the significance of this service and the hope that it can provide seniors.

Assisted living is a long term care alternative for seniors who need more assistance than is available in retirement communities, but do not require the heavy medical and nursing care provided by nursing facilities. Approximately one million of our Nation's seniors have chosen the option of assisted living in this country. This demonstrates a tremendous desire by seniors and their families to have the kind of assistance that they need in bathing, taking medications or other activities of daily living in a setting that truly becomes their home.

This year's theme of National Assisted Living Week is "Sharing the Wisdom of Generations," and it is in-

tended to recognize the value of sharing insights and experiences between assisted living residents, their families, volunteers and assisted living staff. I think that it is appropriate because it highlights the variety of options assisted living can provide to meet different needs of patients.

Oregon has led our Nation in the concept of assisted living. My State spends more State health dollars to provide assisted living services than any other in our Nation. Assisted living has taken different directions in different States, and I believe offering these choices for consumers is important to provide security, dignity and independence for seniors.

Assisted living will become even more important for seniors and their families as our nation experiences the demographic tsunami of aging baby boomers. It is important for us to continue to support options that allow seniors and their families a choice of settings in order to assure that they get the level of care that they need.●

CONGRATULATING LT. STEVE YOUNG

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I am honored to stand before you today and congratulate Lieutenant Steve Young, his family and friends on his well-deserved nomination as President of the National Fraternal Order of Police, FOP. As you may know, the 86 year-old Fraternal Order of Police is the world's largest organization of sworn law enforcement officers, improving the working conditions and advocating the safety of its 298,000 members in over 2,000 local lodges throughout the United States.

I am confident that with his 25 years of membership in the FOP and his current position as a Lieutenant in the Marion Police Department in my State of Ohio, Lt. Young is an outstanding choice to lead the National Fraternal Order of Police. Prior to being named National President, Lt. Young has proudly and effectively served as both National Vice President and Ohio's State President.

Further, he has become something of an expert in helping to ensure police officers' pension plans throughout the country. He also helped to create the Ohio Labor Council to improve the effectiveness of negotiations between management and labor in police forces, a model that has since been utilized in 14 other States.

I know that Lt. Young will use his new position to further ensure fair and equal treatment to our nation's true heroes, police officers, on the job and to expand the FOP's involvement throughout the Nation. I wish Lt. Young the best of luck and extend my congratulations to him once again here before Congress. I know he will do an excellent job.●

THE HEART FAILURE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

● Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, the Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA) is a non-profit professional organization headquartered in St. Paul, MN, that represents the first organized effort by heart failure experts from the Americas to provide a forum for all those interested in heart failure research and patient care.

Today, the Heart Failure Society of America is convening here in our Nation's capital with over 2,000 cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, internists, family practitioners, research scientists, pharmacologists, nurses, pharmacists and other allied health care professionals who treat heart failure patients for the HFSA 5th Annual Scientific Meeting. At this forum, preeminent professionals will unveil and review the latest developments in heart failure research and clinical practice.

Heart failure is a progressive condition in which the heart muscle weakens and gradually loses its ability to pump enough blood to supply the body's needs and is frighteningly common but underrecognized. Heart failure affects nearly 5 million Americans. As more people survive heart attacks and are being left with weakened hearts, heart failure is the only major cardiovascular disorder on the rise. An estimated 400,000 to 700,000 new cases of heart failure are diagnosed each year. The number of deaths in the United States from this condition has more than doubled since 1979, averaging 250,000 annually. In comparison, the death rate from coronary heart disease has dramatically dropped statistically over a similar time period. An estimated \$8 to \$15 billion is spent each year on the costs of hospitalization due to heart failure, which is twice the amount spent for all forms of cancer. While there is currently no known cure for heart failure, new treatment approaches may help patients live more normal and fulfilling lives and benefit from a decreased risk of hospitalization.

The HFSA was founded in 1994 by a small, dedicated group of academic cardiologists who recognized that heart failure was on the rise, but that there was no venue for researchers, trainees and clinicians to share ideas about combating the disease. We owe them a debt of gratitude for providing the impetus for exploring further research and treatment which might not otherwise have occurred. The Heart Failure Society of America is seen by government, industry and the medical community as the authoritative organization on heart failure. The Senate first commended the HFSA and its work in the area of heart failure in February of last year, designating the week surrounding Valentine's Day each year as "National Heart Failure Awareness Week." These medical professionals are dedicated to enhancing the quality and duration of people's lives.