

new technologies and treatments to protect the public.

I am proud to recognize the insight that these researchers and VA have shown, and continue to show, in exploring cutting-edge research. This is yet another contribution that the VA health care system has made, not only to the health of our nation's veterans, but to our national safety and well-being.

CONFIRMATION OF MELANIE SABELHAUS

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I speak today to congratulate Melanie Sabelhaus, who was confirmed by the Senate last evening as the Deputy Administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship held a hearing on Mrs. Sabelhaus' nomination on February 27, 2002. On March 12, 2002, the Committee voted unanimously in support of her nomination and recommended her favorably to the full Senate, which approved her nomination by unanimous consent on April 8, 2002. I would like to thank the Senate floor staffs for their assistance in moving Mrs. Sabelhaus' nomination so quickly.

Mrs. Sabelhaus has had an excellent career that has provided her with both the necessary management and small business experience required of a Deputy Administrator at the SBA. Having chaired her nomination hearing and known her from her volunteer work with the Nantucket Historical Association, I can report that President Bush has made a qualified choice in selecting Mrs. Sabelhaus for the critical post of Deputy Administrator at the U.S. Small Business Administration.

I believe calling this position critical in no way overemphasizes its importance, for the Deputy Administrator has historically served as the day-to-day manager of the SBA in the Administrator's absence. In fact, the Deputy Administrator position was made subject to Senate confirmation a little over ten years ago, with the passage of the Small Business Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 1990, precisely because the Congress recognized its importance to the management of the Agency. During the nomination process, the Committee received assurances from Mrs. Sabelhaus and Administrator Barreto that one or both would be on hand to run the SBA on a daily basis, barring extraordinary circumstances.

The SBA's role is vital to our continuing economic well-being, especially now as we seek to improve our economy. Loan programs, technical assistance programs and contracting programs are just a few of the tools the SBA has to help small businesses—and a small sample of the issues Mrs. Sabelhaus will face on a daily basis as she seeks to aid the Administrator in implementing the President's policies

and congressional initiatives. It is my hope that as a former small business owner and innovative thinker Mrs. Sabelhaus will steer the agency toward our bipartisan goal: to cultivate the entrepreneurial spirit of this country and provide all—including women and minorities in the small business world with adequate and equal access to capital and opportunities and the resources and counseling that often determine a business's success or failure.

I look forward to working with Mrs. Sabelhaus, the new Deputy Administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration, as we seek to assist the small business community.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN CELEBRATION OF THE CITY OF SANTA CLARA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the City of Santa Clara in my home state of California.

As early as 4000 BC, Ohlone Indian settlements were found in the area. The City of Santa Clara began in 1852 as a small Spanish mission. After Santa Clara was incorporated as a city, the fertile valley became a magnet for farmers and Santa Clara was soon filled with bountiful orchards and farms. Today, Santa Clara is located in the heart of California's Silicon Valley, the technology capital of the world. From Indian settlement to Spanish mission, from orchard country to high tech mecca, Santa Clara has been part of the rich history of California.

Last year, the National Civic League bestowed the prestigious "All-America City" award on Santa Clara. Santa Clara was one of only 10 cities in the U.S. to be given this award for successful community collaboration. Santa Clara has also recently been given top marks as a "2001 Kid-Friendly City." I am delighted that Santa Clara is such an outstanding place for children and families. And Santa Clara's Code of Ethics and Values has been getting national attention as a model for using shared values to guide a city.

While Santa Clara receives national attention, a 2000 public opinion survey found that the residents of Santa Clara feel their city is one of the best places in America to live. This local pride is one of the things that makes this city such a California treasure.

Santa Clara is home to California's first school of higher learning, Santa Clara University, established in 1851. At the center of campus is the beautiful Mission Santa Clara de Asis, the eighth of the original 21 California missions.

I am thrilled that the City of Santa Clara, its local government and its residents maintain such a strong community spirit while its high-tech companies provide new products to change

the way we live. Santa Clara's sesqui-centennial slogan, "150 years of democracy, diversity, distinction," could not be more appropriate. I hope the people of Santa Clara enjoy this yearlong celebration and I wish them another 150 years of success.●

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

• Mr. BOND. Madam President, today I wish to congratulate the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, ESGR, its 4,200 volunteers and Department of Defense, DOD, staff, in celebrating 30 years of service to this Nation.

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve was established in 1972, the year the United States ended the Selective Service System and established an all-volunteer military force. DOD realized that support from employers and communities would be instrumental in maintaining Reserve component membership. ESGR was created to obtain employer and community support for the National Guard and Reserve and to promote the role of Reserve forces in the national defense.

ESGR has lived up to the task and accomplished much more. Since 1972, with the help of the Advertising Council, Inc., ESGR has benefitted from nearly \$1 billion in pro bono advertising reaching the six million employers with one or more employees in the United States.

Employers have, in turn, signed ESGR Statements of Support, publicly committing to support the National Guard and Reserve. The former Chairman of the Board and CEO of General Motors, Mr. James H. Roche signed the first Statement of Support in the Office of the Secretary of Defense on December 13, 1972. The next day, President Richard Nixon signed a Statement of Support covering all Federal civilian employees. Since the inception of this program, Presidents Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton and President George W. Bush have all signed Statements of Support, along with hundreds of thousands of employers, including Dell Computer Corporation, Xerox, the Society for Human Resource Management and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. To date, over 300,000 employers have signed statements of support. Additionally, the strategic alliance formed in 1998 between ESGR and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce resulted in more than 1,200 chambers of commerce nationwide signing a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve.

ESGR offers Ombudsman services designed to provide information to employers and Reservists regarding their rights and responsibilities under the law, and to resolve conflicts through informal mediation. These services operate in cooperation with the Department of Labor. ESGR volunteers in 54 U.S. States and territories contribute