

thousands of hours of effort representing millions of dollars of volunteer service in support of ESGR programs, its services, and the men and women of our nation's Reserve forces.

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is smart government in action. The small ESGR staff in Arlington, VA under the direction of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs provides guidance and support to a network of 4,200 volunteer business, civic, and community leaders.

ESGR educates employers on their rights and obligations under the law and recognize employers who actively support employee participation in the Guard and Reserve. ESGR also educates members of the National Guard and Reserve in regards to their rights and responsibilities to the value of their employers support. Committees can be found in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam.

With the end of the cold war, the Reserve components have been called with increasing frequency. During the Gulf War in 1990-1991, more than 250,000 Reserve component members were called to active duty to support military operations in the Persian Gulf. Since the start of Operation Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, more than 80,000 National Guard and Reserve troops have been activated and are playing a critical role.

Thousands of employers, local and State government officials, Active and Reserve component leaders, and military members from across the Nation and around the world request ESGR's employer support expertise on a daily basis. When Guardsmen and Reservists return home following mobilization, ESGR committee members are there to provide information and support services to those in need.

The U.S. Congress passed the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, USERRA, of 1994, and updated it in 1996. This law completely revised the Veterans Reemployment Rights Act of 1940. USERRA articulates the rights and responsibilities of Guard and Reserve members with regard to job protection and explains employer rights under Federal law. ESGR helps employers and Reservists understand this law and helps them informally resolve any employment conflicts that may arise.

Again, I want to congratulate ESGR and its 54 ESGR committees on their 30 years of service and commend this network of over 4,200 volunteer patriots for their time and talent. They are serving their country and maintaining the much needed support of our employers and communities for the Guard and Reserve. Through the efforts of agencies like ESGR, we can call on our Reserve forces to answer the Nation's call without the fear of job loss.

Thank you Madam President, and thank you ESGR.●

#### WE THE PEOPLE COMPETITION

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Madam President, I want to recognize the 20 students of Wilson High School in Florence, SC, who will be visiting the Capitol in early May to compete in the national finals of the "We The People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program. Right now the students are conducting research and preparing for the contest, which will test their knowledge of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights against 1,200 students from across the country. They have earned the trip by showing they were the best of the best in a statewide contest in February.

Obviously, I hope my fellow South Carolinians win it all, but whatever happens, we are all winners in this country. When young people, on their own, want to understand the fundamental principles and values of our democracy, they are more likely to vote. They are more likely to participate in political life. They are more likely to take serious the civic duties that this nation needs of our citizens in the new century.

I wish the very best to the Wilson Tigers: Jessica Anderson, Whitney Benjamin, Carol Chen, Cameron Coker, Katherine Collar, Joshua Croteau, Matthew Daniels, Leon Dock, Cara Dowling, Christine Gonzales, Latrese McElveen, Matthew Meggs, Philip Miller, Virginia Munson, Ashley Neel, Dacey Riley, Elinor Rooks, Gregory Schuetz, Priscilla Suggs, and Jingtian Yu.●

#### TRIBUTE TO RHONA CHARBONNEAU

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to Rhona Charbonneau, of Hudson, NH. Charbonneau has been named the Greater Hudson Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year for her outstanding devotion and positive influence to the community.

I commend her active role in both the local and State governments. By serving as Town Selectman, and as Selectmen's Representative to the planning Board, Charbonneau has been able to serve her community in many capacities. Aside from these positions, she currently serves as a member of the Board for the Salvation Army as well as the Advisory Board to the Community Council. Even more eager to serve the community of Hudson, she also works as a representative on the State level, serving on the Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners and the New Hampshire Finance Authority.

Aside from serving in advisory capacities for numerous organizations and boards, Charbonneau has worked hard to improve the Lion's Hall. Under her request, the Department of Corrections sent a community service group to paint and do repairs, leaving the Lion's Hall with a fresh face. Because of her creative thinking, other departments

came together to make considerable improvements to the facility.

Rhona Charbonneau has set a positive example for not only the community of Hudson, but for the entire Granite State. By consistently working to improve her community she has shown a tremendous dedication to the community in which she and her family have lived for more than 50 years. She has brought high profile political figures to the town, whereby she allowed a forum for candidates to share their beliefs as well as bringing the spotlight to the ever growing town of Hudson. I applaud her commitment and congratulate her on being named this year's Citizen of the Year. It is truly an honor to represent her in the U.S. Senate.●

#### THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAILY CARDINAL

● Mr. KOHL. Madam President, I am proud to rise today to honor the Daily Cardinal, one of the student newspapers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, on this the occasion of its 110th anniversary. For 110 years, Cardinal reporters, photographers, and editors have educated and entertained their peers. As one of the nation's oldest student-run papers, it is truly a treasure of the State and its university.

Since the newspaper's establishment in 1892 by a University of Wisconsin-Madison student, thousands of young journalists have covered some of the most important issues and events facing the university, the community, and the country. Cardinal contributors have simultaneously developed strong journalistic skills and informed their community by covering such important events as the United States' declaration of war in 1941 to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and most recently, the events and aftermath of September 11. Furthermore, the staffs of the Cardinal have served their journalistic role as public watchdog throughout its history, and have undoubtedly made their university, community, and State better for it.

As an alumni of the University of Wisconsin, it is my great honor to congratulate the Daily Cardinal for 110 years of dedicated and quality student journalism, and I wish them all the best as they extend this tradition.●

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FRANKLIN ELECTRIC PLANT BOARD

● Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I rise to congratulate the Franklin Electric Plant Board for winning the Public Power Association's 2001 Electric Utility Safety Award for safe operating practices. The Franklin Plant Board earned this top honor in the category for utilities with 25,000 worker-hours of annual worker exposure.

The Franklin Plant was one of more than 200 utilities to enter the contest,