

a youth art program through which she and her students go to rural communities to help children with art lessons.

While these activities are important, her classroom work is what truly sets her apart. She has received many awards for this work in the past, including being named Mountain Home School District's teacher of the year in 1991, as well as receiving the 1992 USWest Outstanding Teacher Award, the 2000 Governor's Award in the Arts, the 2001 Idaho Art Teacher of the Year, and the 2001 Unsung Heroes Award.

Her students adore her and her peers respect her. This what every teacher strives for, and Nancy has earned this regard. As Marilyn Howard, the Idaho State Superintendent of Education, said, "Mrs. Williams stands out as one of those individuals who is a teacher in everything she does, not just in the classroom working with students, but also in her workplace and in her community. Her passion and dedication show in her accomplishments."

As you can see, Jennifer Williams is truly a treasure for her school, for Idaho, and indeed for the Nation in general. Teachers like Jennifer make education a rewarding experience for students and parents alike. I am proud that the State of Idaho chose her as its Teacher of the Year. She is a great example for the rest of the State and the Nation, and I hope this award gives her a platform so she can help other teachers to excel as she has.●

UNITED WAY OF CHITTENDEN COUNTY CELEBRATES ITS SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I rise today to recognize a group of Vermonters who have long served our state. It is with much pride and admiration that I congratulate the United Way of Chittenden County for 60 years of service in the greater Burlington area.

For the past 60 years, the United Way of Chittenden County has been providing relief and assistance to its community. In October of 1942, founders Henry Way, C.P. Hasbrook, and I. Munn Boardman started the Burlington Community Chest. The chest's first campaign raised over \$100,000 to help organizations like the Burlington Boys Club, the YMCA and the Salvation Army. Over the years, the chest evolved into the United Way of Chittenden County, one of Chittenden County's foremost benefactors, a community-based, problem-solving organization. This past year, the United Way of Chittenden County raised a record \$3.75 million to help its neighbors, both local and afar. This is a remarkable sum, and one that reflects the strong commitment of the United Way to support the welfare and growth of Vermont and her people.

The United Way of Chittenden County has become much more than a fund-raising organization. They now train volunteers and coordinate a vast num-

ber of mentoring opportunities in Chittenden County, working with both national programs, like America Reads and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, and local groups, including Vermont's many museums, schools, and conservation societies. The United Way works to make Chittenden County a stronger community, tending to those in need. The many people who work and volunteer for the United Way become community supporters and community leaders. After graduating from law school, I was recruited to do my part and volunteer for the United Way of Chittenden County. It was a meaningful experience and one that has remained in the front of my memory during my 27 years in the U.S. Senate. Just as impressive as the volunteers of the United Way are those who benefit from the United Way's programs. They too become active and contributing members and leaders of their communities.

The organization's actions following the unspeakable events of September 11, 2001, demonstrated the strength and commitment of the United Way of Chittenden County. The United Ways of Vermont contributed \$400,000 to the September 11th Fund, including over \$200,000 from the United Way of Chittenden County. At the same time, the United Way of Chittenden County still managed to raise more funds for Vermont's programs than any previous year. This accomplishment is due in no small part to Campaign Chair Lisa Ventriss, whose devotion ensured that the United Way will continue helping Vermonters, even while it contributes to a national cause of such gravity and importance. This feat is a testament to the generosity and dedication of the United Way of Chittenden County, and of all Vermonters.

I would like to thank Gretchen Morse, the executive director of the United Way of Chittenden County, for her commitment to this organization's success and Vermont's well-being. Her leadership has helped keep the United Way of Chittenden County one of the most cost-effective charities of its kind. Indeed, 85 cents of every dollar collected by the United Way of Chittenden County goes directly back to the community, a number well above the national average. Given this organization's unyielding support, it is no surprise that the United Way State of Caring Index now ranks Vermont as the fifth most caring State in the Union.

Sixty years after its founding, the United Way of Chittenden County remains a model for charitable organizations across the State and across the country. I join the people of Chittenden County, VT, and the entire Nation in thanking the United Way for six decades of community service.●

IN HONOR OF SUSAN S. BENJAMIN UPON BEING SELECTED AS THE 2002 NEW MEXICO TEACHER OF THE YEAR

● Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I rise today to honor Susan S. Benjamin of Los Alamos, NM, who is in the Nation's Capitol today to be recognized as the 2002 New Mexico Teacher of the Year. She was one of 57 teachers from across the country who were honored by President Bush in a White House ceremony today for excellence in their profession. I am honored to have the opportunity to make a few remarks.

For the past 32 years, Susan has been making a difference in children's lives. As an elementary school teacher, she has touched the hearts and minds of her students, while generating interest and enthusiasm in learning. Parents, colleagues, and students all reap praises upon her for the excitement she brings to the classroom.

Previously, Susan has been selected as the Los Alamos Public Schools Teacher of the Year. She also received the New Mexico State Award for Excellence in Math Teaching on two separate occasions.

Through her dedicated service, Susan has earned a national reputation as an outstanding teacher. She has participated in nationwide Activities Integrating Math and Science, AIMS, workshops, working with other teachers to demonstrate techniques for math and science education.

Her efforts to increase student awareness of the importance of science and math education complements many of the ideas expressed in the newly authorized No Child Left Behind Act. Our children need the tools necessary to compete in a marketplace dominated by computers and information technologies that demands a high level of proficiency in math and science. Dedicated teachers like Susan will now have more freedom to develop programs related to technology which will ultimately benefit her students.

Susan has helped set the bar for excellence in teacher quality. I am encouraged to know that a teacher of her caliber will now have greater flexibility in providing her students the skills necessary to succeed in tomorrow's marketplace.

I am proud to honor Susan Benjamin, our 2002 New Mexico Teacher of the Year. On behalf of the Senate and New Mexico, I thank this fellow New Mexican for making a difference in our children's lives.●

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS

● Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, for nearly a century, the Girl Scouts have provided girls with enriching, educational, and above-all fun activities that have helped to mold more than 50 million women. This tradition continues today.

This year the Girl Scouts are celebrating their 90th birthday. I commend