

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

KLAMATH FOOD BANK

• Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam President, today I give tribute to some Oregon heroes. Over the past year, I have come to the Senate floor on several occasions to describe the tragic events in the Klamath Basin last year. Today, I wish to salute some of the heroes, who when watching their neighbors in need, responded with great compassion and service to their community.

In April of last year, the farm economy of Klamath Falls was sent into a tailspin when the decision was made to forego water deliveries to farmers in favor of protecting threatened and endangered fishes. Almost overnight, the devastating effects of the water shut-off began to be felt. In one month's time, the number of families seeking assistance from the local food bank jumped by seven hundred.

The response from the surrounding community was incredible. Farmers, car dealerships, coffee shops, gas stations, banks, schools, and countless others came together to lend their support to folks in the Klamath Basin. On June 15 of last year, Joe Gilliam, President of the Oregon Grocers Association, with the help of grocers from around the state, gathered 240,000 pounds of food. This food helped feed the community for nearly two months.

In August, Oregon Senator and farmer Gary George of Pendleton, Oregon decided that he too had to do something. He set out and, with the help of Oregonians In Action, raised \$30,000. Also in August, KDOV Radio, Perry Atkinson and his son Oregon Senator Jason Atkinson, and sixty churches in the Medford area, joined together in collecting 27,000 pounds of food. They delivered it in two twenty-four-foot Ryder trucks.

The examples of kindness go on and on. For as tragic as the situation last year in the Basin was, Oregonians from around the State responded with an equal level of benevolence. With the help of hundreds of community volunteers and under the direction of Niki Sampson, the Klamath Falls-Lake County Food Bank has distributed 830,000 of pounds of food and non-food products.

This has been a very emotional year, and as a United States Senator and as an Oregonian, I am very proud of how the people in my state have responded. The generosity shown by so many truly reaffirms one's faith in the goodness of people. In my mind, every single person who volunteered his or her time or resources is a hero. Today, I salute the workers, the volunteers, and all those who gave of themselves to help this community in need.●

CINCO DE MAYO

• Mrs. CARNAHAN. Madam President, I am proud to take this opportunity to recognize the Mexican holiday, Cinco de Mayo. This holiday is a day to celebrate and appreciate Mexican history

and culture. I would also urge all Americans to take this opportunity to learn more about the important contributions Mexicans and Mexican-Americans have made to the United States.

The Cinco de Mayo holiday dates back to the mid-19th century. In 1862, the democratic nation of Mexico found itself under invasion from the French, led by Napoleon III. On its march to conquer Mexico, the French army met the Mexican army in the city of Puebla, just 100 miles east of Mexico City. On May 5, 1862, the ill-equipped and outnumbered Mexican army under Texas-born General Ignacio Zaragoza, would defy all odds and defeat the superior French army at the Batalla de Puebla. This defeat of the French, one of the strongest militaries in the world, would become a symbol of the strength and determination of the Mexican people.

As immigration to the United States increased during the Mexican Revolution and in subsequent years, Mexicans and Mexican-Americans demonstrated these same qualities on the battlefield in defense of the American flag. They were among the first to volunteer for the U.S. armed forces during World War I and an estimated 375,000–500,000 Mexican-American soldiers served with honor during World War II. Jose P. Martinez of Colorado would become the first American and one of many Mexican-Americans to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism during World War II. Americans of Mexican descent would also serve in the wars in Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, and the Gulf War. They continue to enlist in high numbers and remain committed to military service in defense of the United States.

Military service is just one of countless contributions Mexicans and Mexican-Americans have made to the United States. Cesar Chavez's passion for justice and the right to organize resulted in improved living and working conditions for people in California and throughout the United States. Diego Rivera's artwork continues to inspire Latino artists as well as others to paint murals that beautify our cities and are available for the general public to appreciate. Missouri is also proud of one of its own, Hector Barreto, who currently serves as Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration. There are currently 13 Mexican-American members in the House of Representatives and I look forward to the day when I will have Mexican-American colleagues here in the U.S. Senate as well.

The same strength of character and determination that was displayed by the Mexican army at the Batalla de Puebla is evident in today's Mexican-American leaders in business, labor, not-for-profits, government, and in the arts. It is fitting that as we celebrate the Cinco de Mayo holiday, we also recognize the valuable cultural, social, and political contributions Mexicans and Mexican-Americans have made and continue to make in the United States.●

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

• Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, today we highlight the recent observance of April 28 as Workers Memorial Day. Workers Memorial Day recognizes workers who have been killed or injured in the workplace over the past year. The first Workers Memorial Day was observed in 1989. April 28 was chosen because it is the anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the day of a similar remembrance in Canada. Every year, many communities and businesses join together to recognize workers who have been killed or injured on the job.

In honor of Workers Memorial Day, I want to relate a story about one person in Alabama that has truly made a difference in improving worker safety. Each year since 1995, the Fairhope, Alabama-based FIGHT Project, Families in Grief Hold Together, FIGHT, holds a memorial service on Workers Memorial Day for people who die in work-related accidents in south Alabama. The FIGHT Project is led by Mr. Ron Hayes. Mr. Hayes lost his 19-year-old son Patrick due to a workplace accident. Patrick was walking across a corn elevator filled with grain when he was pulled down into the grain and suffocated. Through his tireless efforts, Mr. Hayes, prompted the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, to revise its standard for protecting almost 250,000 workers at 24,000 grain elevators and mills. Mr. Hayes not only spent considerable time trying to determine the cause of his son's accident, but quit his job to become an advocate of workplace safety. He organized the non-profit organization, the FIGHT Project, to provide guidance to families who have lost a loved one in a workplace accident. Mr. Hayes has since become an expert on work-related deaths, illnesses and injuries. Mr. Hayes has spent countless hours trying to ensure safe working environments for America's workers. He has also assisted hundreds of families who have lost love ones, including working closely with the families of the 13 Jim Walters miners who were killed in Brookwood, AL, last year. He has been an invaluable resource to me as I serve on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, which oversees OSHA.

Mr. Hayes was recently appointed by Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao as a member of the National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health, NACOSH. NACOSH was established under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to advise the Secretaries of Labor and Health and Human Services on Occupational Safety and Health Programs and Policies. Mr. Hayes is working with OSHA and the rest of the Department of Labor to improve worker safety around that nation.

According to OSHA, there are a disproportionately high number of work-related deaths suffered by non-English speaking workers. On Workers Memorial Day, Mr. John Henshaw, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, announced that the agency will soon begin to collect data on country of origin and English language capability for all workers involved in fatality or other serious accident investigations. The agency will also for the first time begin to collect site-specific information on construction projects where many immigrants and other workers die every year. The new data collection will enable OSHA to analyze language and country of origin information to determine what role language barriers and other risk factors play in fatalities and other workplace accidents. The agency will then use this data to take steps to improve safety for these workers.

I want to point out that in commemoration of Worker Memorial Day, Mr. Henshaw also announced that, effective immediately, he will write personally to the families of workers killed on the job to express OSHA's sorrow for the loss. Working with Mr. Hayes over the last few years, I know how important it is to the victim's families that the Government is aware of the problem and working to do everything possible to prevent more workers from dying or being injured on the job. I would like to reiterate Mr. Hayes' recent statement about the importance of reducing the accident and injury rate to the point where this type of initiative is not needed at all. I believe Secretary Chao and Mr. Henshaw are committed to this goal and I stand ready to aid their efforts.

We know that many businesses are working hard and successfully to improve worker safety. Some Alabama companies have recently been recognized by OSHA as achieving successful results in reducing injuries. Since 1982, OSHA has been recognizing American work sites that have exemplary safety records and show continued commitment to workplace safety and health. Sites meeting the Voluntary Protection Program standards typically experience injury and illness rates 53 percent below the industry average. Three sites in Alabama: ATOFINA Chemicals Inc. in Axis, AL; Occidental Chemical Corporation in Mobile, AL; and United Space Alliance, LLC Huntsville Operations in Huntsville, AL, were recognized by OSHA as Star sites for their achievements in worker safety. These successes were achieved with voluntary programs, teamwork and determination.

Workers Memorial Day gives us the opportunity to remember the workers who have lost their lives and highlight these important worker safety issues. The more attention we give the subject and the more we work together the better chance we have to be successful in reducing and then eventually eliminating workplace injuries.●

DEDICATION OF SPARK MATSUNAGA ELEMENTARY AND LONGVIEW SCHOOL

● Mr. AKAKA. Madam President, on Sunday I had the privilege of attending the dedication ceremony for the Spark Matsunaga Elementary and Longview School in Germantown, Maryland. This exceptional state-of-the-art school facility houses a general education elementary school, Spark Matsunaga Elementary, and special education school for children with disabilities, Longview School.

It is appropriate that this new school honors the memory of a truly remarkable man and former colleague—Senator Spark Matsunaga. Over the course of a lifetime of service to the people of Hawaii and America, Spark exhibited fortitude, courage, and persistence in fighting for what was right and what was best.

As noted by Dr. Jerry Weast, superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools, this is the first public school in the nation named in honor of an Asian American. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, Representative CONNIE MORELLA, Hawaii State Senator Matt Matsunaga, and Keene Matsunaga were a few of the speakers who spoke of Senator Matsunaga's distinguished life and career. A children's chorus entertained and sang the school song. The "Home of the Geckos," Matsunaga Elementary has made a wonderful start with dedicated teachers and administrators and a diverse and involved community of students and parents.

Spark Matsunaga's commitment to justice and lifetime of service to America merits this singular recognition. Throughout his career, Sparky worked to ensure that all Americans enjoyed the fruits of liberty and understood our shared responsibilities for keeping our country free and strong.

Spark Matsunaga's legacy of public service, espousal of the art of peace-making, and commitment to justice is a wonderful example for the students and staff that proudly work and learn at Matsunaga Elementary School.

I know that Helene Matsunaga and the Matsunaga family are deeply appreciative of this unprecedented tribute, and the people of Hawaii take pride in Montgomery County bestowing this honor on Senator Matsunaga and his service to our great Nation.

Madam President, I ask that a copy of the commemorative biography of Spark Matsunaga distributed at the dedication be printed in the RECORD.

The biography follows:

SENATOR SPARK MASAYUKI MATSUNAGA, 1916–1990

Our school is proud to bear the name of this great American whose legacy will inspire our community forever. Senator Matsunaga's memory will serve to remind students and staff that public service, strong educational goals, patriotism and personal pride are qualities to live by. Senator Matsunaga will be remembered for all his work to teach the principles of peace yet value just

causes for humanity. He knew when to use his talents to inspire change and was never afraid to stand proudly to have his voice heard.

Spark Matsunaga, a war hero who became a United States Senator from Hawaii, dedicated his career to promoting peace and achieving justice. A Japanese-American, Matsunaga served with distinction in the 100th Infantry battalion, the first Japanese American unit formed during World War II, for which he received the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts. As a political leader, he was a champion of civil rights for all Americans regardless of race. As a member of the United States Senate, he worked to promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and he fought for the redress for survivors of the World War II internment camps.

Masayuki Matsunaga was born on the Island of Kauai, Hawaii, on October 8, 1916. His childhood friends nicknamed him Spark; he later legally adopted the name. Matsunaga attended the Kauai public schools before entering the University of Hawaii in 1937, majoring in education and serving in the Reserve Officer Training Corps. Upon graduation in June 1941, Matsunaga was commissioned in the Army and was serving on active duty on the island of Molokai when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Shortly afterward, he and other Japanese-Americans were relieved of their duties and shipped to a military facility, Camp McCoy, in Wisconsin, while the War Department in Washington decided whether they could fight for America. Matsunaga, along with the other soldiers, petitioned President Roosevelt for a chance to prove their loyalty.

In the Spring of 1942, President Roosevelt and other Washington leaders determined that Japanese-Americans in the army would be loyal to the country; Matsunaga and 1,500 other Japanese-Americans formed the 100th Infantry Battalion and trained for combat duty. In September 1943, the battalion was sent to Italy; Matsunaga was wounded twice in the same night while moving through a minefield. After recuperating, Matsunaga could not go back to combat but received two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star for his heroic acts, and was assigned to a replacement battalion.

Late in the war, he returned to the U.S. where he gave 800 speeches to help Japanese-Americans become integrated into the mainstream of American life after being released from the detention camps where they were kept during the war. The 100th Infantry Battalion eventually became a part of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team of Japanese-American soldiers, the most decorated unit in U.S. military history.

Matsunaga returned to Hawaii in 1946, worked in veterans affairs briefly, married, and then entered Harvard Law School in 1948. After graduation, he practiced law in Hawaii and began his political career, being elected to the Territorial Legislature in which was known as the "Democratic Revolution" of 1954 engineered by veterans of the 100th and 442nd to take control of the legislature for the first time. Matsunaga and other Japanese-Americans were among the leaders in Hawaii's bid for statehood, which passed in 1959.

In 1962, Matsunaga won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, making the rights of immigrants, the welfare of veterans, and the defense of Japanese-Americans and other minorities his hallmarks. In 1976, he was elected to the U.S. Senate, supporting legislation to establish a research organization called the United States Peace Institute and to authorize the post of Poet Laureate. As a Senator, he was also a major proponent of