

## 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 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.