

Tom Menino, an honor shared by all the people of Boston who have benefited from Tom's remarkable leadership in our city. A reflection of all that he has accomplished and continues to achieve, Mayor Tom Menino ascends to the position of President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. I am proud to join his family, staff and colleagues across the country in congratulating him as he embarks on this new challenge.

Since his election as Mayor in 1993, Tom Menino has been tireless in his efforts to make the nation's greatest city even stronger. As he begins his term as President of the Conference, mayors from across the country will find in Tom a friend and a national trail blazer as the chief spokesperson and leader of their efforts.

Tom Menino's record of achievement already serves as a blueprint for our nation's cities; in 2001 he was recognized by *Governing Magazine* as "Public Official of the Year," dubbing him the "Main Streets Maestro." Mayors from cities from Houston, Detroit to Philadelphia have come to Boston to study Tom's approach to governing, and each has returned to their own city and implemented a piece of Boston's success story. After a recent Boston visit, Mayor O'Malley returned to Baltimore to open an Office of Neighborhoods, borrowing a page from the Menino play book.

But it is in the neighborhoods of Boston where the results of his hands-on management style are most visible. In places like Grove Hall and Jackson Square, new businesses are starting up, community development corporations are working hand-in-hand with the Mayor to jump start new developments and rehabilitate old buildings, and small, locally-owned businesses are flourishing in all corners of the city.

But do not take my word for it, just look at the statistics: Crime rates are dramatically lower than 10 years ago; the public school drop-out rate has been cut in half during Tom's time in office; and almost 70 percent of Boston's high school graduates continue on to college. Mayor Menino's work on behalf of the children of Boston reflects a long term commitment that reaches far into the future: He has almost doubled the number of immunized children; launched a youth literacy campaign that has been replicated in over 100 other U.S. cities; and Tom Menino is the first mayor of a major city to completely wire the school system to the Internet. Mayor Menino has partnered with the Ten Point Coalition and other violence prevention groups to create successful programs like Operation Ceasefire and "2 to 6", that target the city's at risk youth with activities and structure during those crucial after school hours.

I am proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Tom Menino as we move ahead and continue our work together on improving public schools, increasing the availability of affordable housing

and making our streets as safe as they can be. He is a dedicated and talented public servant, one whom I am fortunate to call a colleague and friend, and I join the whole Massachusetts delegation and mayors across the State in congratulating him on his Presidency of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.●

HONORING DR. FOREST F. SHELY

● Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, I have the distinct honor of rising today to recognize one of Kentucky's finest citizens, Dr. Forest F. Shely.

At the recently held 53rd Annual Awards Dinner of the Campbellsville/Taylor County Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Shely was named "Citizen of the Year." Dr. Shely was duly recognized for his unwavering commitment to family, church, career, and community. He has been a devoted and loving husband for 55 years. He raised five wonderful children of his own and is currently the proud grandfather of eight and great-grandfather of four. Dr. Shely has also been a key figure in his church for many years, serving as a Deacon, Sunday School teacher, and Gideon. Throughout his career in medicine, Dr. Shely has touched thousands of lives delivering babies, healing the sick, and comforting the dying. Finally, Dr. Shely serves on the university board of trustees, the Citizens Bank board, the library board, the Rotary Club and is the past president of the hospital medical staff.

To say that Dr. Forest F. Shely has lived life to the fullest would be a gross understatement. I am extremely honored to serve such an amazing husband, father, doctor, and community leader. I ask that my fellow colleagues join me in praising Dr. Shely for his dedication to Kentucky.●

IN MEMORY OF MSGR. GEORGE HIGGINS, AMERICA'S "LABOR PRIEST"

● Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, when I learned of the death of Msgr. George G. Higgins, I was saddened to lose a friend and one of the most passionate workers' advocates of our time.

For half a century, Msgr. Higgins was the workers' priest. He was a leading advocate of workers rights, but his interests went beyond labor to issues of justice and peace, human and civil rights, discrimination. Through his writings and teachings, he helped show the connections between these vital issues and his deep faith.

He left his mark on the lives of America's workers through his roles as writer, lecturer, lobbyist, negotiator, and leader. It is said that Msgr. Higgins never turned down an invitation to a labor meeting if he was able to be there. He was no stranger to picket lines, stopping by to lend an inspirational word to workers and to show his support.

Msgr. Higgins played a central role in the negotiations between grape grow-

ers and the newly unionized farm workers in the early 1970s. United Farm Workers leader Cesar Chavez said in 1980 that no one in the country did more for farm workers than Msgr. Higgins.

He played a key role as a liaison between the independent Polish labor union Solidarity and American unions at a time when Solidarity was struggling for its very survival in the early 1980s.

In 2000, President Clinton awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, for his commitment to workers' rights, civil rights and religious tolerance. Last year, he was conferred the University of Notre Dame's prestigious Laetare Medal.

Msgr. Higgins believed that unions are central to democracy and the improvement of the plight of workers. He insisted that Catholic institutions welcome unionization and negotiate in good faith with their employees.

AFL-CIO President John F. Sweeney said of Msgr. Higgins that, "He has been an irresistible force in bringing labor and church together. . . . We respect him for his strength, we revere him for his conscience, we stand in awe of his intellect and we thank him for his love."

My thoughts and wishes are with his sisters, Bridget Doonan and Ann Maronic, as well as his nephews, nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces. We will miss America's Labor Priest. As we continue to fight for America's workers, for justice and for peace, his memory will be with us—and with all workers around the globe.●

IN RECOGNITION OF LAKE FOREST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PREPARING FOR NATIONAL COMPETITION ON CONSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE

● Mr. CARPER. Madam President, this May, more than 1,200 students from across the United States will visit Washington, DC to compete in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. It is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

I am proud to announce that a class from Lake Forest High School from Felton will represent the State of Delaware in this national event. These students, with the leadership of their teacher Amy Reed-Moore, have worked diligently to reach the national finals. Through their experience they have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

This three-day national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. The hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges