

In the last 16 years, Knight's creation has been visited by thousands of people from all over the world, artists and art lovers, journalists, students on field trips, retirees, newlyweds and just plain curious people come by the mountain each day. The Folk Art Society of America has declared Salvation Mountain a national folk art shrine. The American Visionary Art Museum has embraced Leonard Knight and his mountain monument.

Salvation Mountain is the product of the vision and non-stop labor of one dedicated man. Leonard lives alone at the base of the mountain, sleeping in a converted school bus that is as colorful as his desert creation. He uses paint constantly supplied by visitors, local residents and others willing to be a part of this stunning work-in-progress. He figures that he has used close to 60,000 gallons of donated paint over the years.

American folk art is found in all corners of our nation. Perhaps one of the least likely locations would be the desert where Salvation Mountain is found. Leonard Knight's artwork is a national treasure, a singular sculpture wrought from the desert by a modest, single-minded man. It is a sculpture for the ages—profoundly strange and beautifully accessible, and worthy of the international acclaim it receives.●

HONORING KENTUCKY REFUGEE MINISTRIES

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the 23 members of Kentucky Refugees Ministries, Inc. (KRM) for all they have done to bring and welcome refugees to Kentucky.

Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Inc. is the refugee resettlement office in the Commonwealth of Kentucky for two national church-based programs: Church World Service and The Episcopal Migration Ministries. This group, which has offices in both Louisville and Lexington, is authorized by the U.S. Department of State to assist refugees legally admitted to the United States as victims of warfare, or other forms of persecution related to their religious or political beliefs. Since their inception in 1990, KRM has placed over 3,000 refugees representing 25 different nationalities and ethnic groups, in various communities throughout the Commonwealth. Once the refugees have been admitted, KRM provides them with housing, furnishings, food, and clothing. They also offer educational opportunities such as English and cultural orientation classes in order to help refugees adapt to their new life. In virtually every instance, these individuals have become productive and active citizens, willing to work their way up from the bottom in an effort to live the American dream.

One fact we as Americans must never forget is that our forefathers were also political and religious refugees in search of a better life. The system they established was specifically set up so

people could live their lives without fear of endless persecution. Late last year, President Bush signed the Presidential Determination authorizing the United States to admit 70,000 refugees in 2002. I applaud President Bush's efforts concerning refugees. Only 8,100 refugees, a quarter of the number admitted at the same time last year, have so far been admitted. This slowdown in admittance has obviously occurred because of security matters resulting from the September 11 tragedies. However, I hope that soon we can begin expediting refugee admittance again after we put the proper security and safety procedures in place. The principles of freedom and democracy our nation lives by must serve as our guide in this extremely important matter. If we let these individuals languish in deplorable conditions in refugee camps or hostile lands, we will be turning our backs on the principles we so cherish. We cannot let this happen.

Once again, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking and honoring KRM. I am grateful to know that Kentucky's adopted refugees and their families are being looked after in such a careful and caring manner.●

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY'S DEBATE TEAM

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask that the Senate join me in congratulating Michigan State University's Debate Team. These bright young men and women recently won this year's Cross Examination Debate Association Seasonal National Championship—the most prestigious national college debating title.

As I am sure many of my colleagues in this room can appreciate, debating is a skill that requires enormous preparation, great intelligence and the ability to think and speak quickly. Michigan State University's Debate Team has repeatedly excelled in these areas, establishing itself as one of the finest debate teams in the nation. In fact, since 1994 the team has finished no worse than fifth in the competition, and it recorded another first place finish in 1996. This is a spectacular record of achievement that is the source of great pride for the University and for the State of Michigan.

We often come to this floor to congratulate the hard work and dedication of the student athletes from our states who have won national championships on the basketball court or the football field, whose competitions are shown on television and whose victories are written about in newspapers. However, the young men and women who compete with their quick minds and sharp wit deserve just as much of an accolade as those who compete with quick legs or strong arms. The debate season lasts virtually the entire academic year. From August to April the team spends countless hours every week studying, analyzing, researching and practicing.

The commitment that these young people have shown to competition is unrivaled.

Director of Debate Jason Trice, Head Coach William Repko and Assistant Coaches Alison Woidan and Michael Eber did an excellent job of preparing this year's team. The full roster of that team is Anjali Vats, Geoff Lundeen, Maggie Ryan, Job Gillenwater, John Rood, Austin Carson, Calum Matheson, Greta Stahl, Suzanne Sobotka, John Groen, Gabe Murillo, Amber Watkins, Aaron Hardy and David Strauss. I can think of no better place for these young men and women to be congratulated than in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the U.S. Senate, an institution known for its history of great debaters.

I know that all these individuals, as well as their families and friends, are incredibly proud of their accomplishments. I also know that Michigan State University is thrilled to have this honor. In addition to adding my own congratulations I would also like to wish these young men and women the best of luck in defending their championship next year and extending the proud record of accomplishment for which this team has come to be known. I know that my Senate colleagues join me in congratulating Michigan State University's Debate Team for their victory as National Champions of the Cross Examination Debate Association.●

HONORING LTG THOMAS J. KECK

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a member of our military who has faithfully served the United States for over 30 years. LTG Thomas J. Keck is to retire this Friday and I think it is appropriate that we honor him here on the Senate floor today.

Lieutenant General Keck graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1969. After completing flight training, he was sent to Vietnam. While there, he flew B-52 missions over North Vietnam, and distinguished himself in combat numerous times. In recognition of his gallantry, Lieutenant General Keck was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal. The bravery he displayed in Vietnam is demonstrative of the characteristics that define the Air Force Officer's Core Values: Integrity first, Service Before Self, Excellence in all that is done. He has certainly displayed these values throughout his career.

After the War, Lieutenant General Keck came back to the U.S., and served in a variety of commands in the Air Force. Throughout his career, Lieutenant General Keck has flown twenty-two different planes in several different missions. He logged over 4,600 flying hours, 886 of which were in combat. He has certainly shown himself to be an able and adaptable pilot, perhaps one of the finest that the Air Force has produced.